

BOXING AND WRESTLING PROGRAM
MINUTES OF MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 2003

A meeting was held on Saturday, November 15, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 395 at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 3600 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. The following Task Force members were present:

W. B. Oscar Bryan, Citizen Member
Brian Crenshaw, Boxing Member
Wayne G. Peters, Boxing Member
Rhett Walker, Citizen Member

Eric C. Perkins, Wrestling Member was absent.

Also present were:

Karen W. O'Neal, Deputy Director for Regulatory Programs
Dave Holland, Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Several individuals provided comment on various aspects of the Wrestling program.

Richard O'Brien, promoter, expressed concern about over regulation, he indicated there were rumors regarding steroid testing. He was also concerned about fees.

Travis Bradshaw, promoter, DPOR has become more active, he appreciates having a better understanding of the rules. He understands the need for the fees to cover the cost of administering the program but does not want the fees to be prohibitive. There should be some focus on training for participants. He also expressed concern about the promoter's responsibilities for the conduct of the participants. He supports DPOR and the need for regulation.

Devon Leshon (sp?), manager, knows an individual who spent a considerable amount of money for training he didn't receive, believes there should be some oversight of schools if the regulations are evenly applied. Concerns would be the purpose of regulation, who is being protected, how is the program set up, who is enforcing. He supports regulation to a point, he believes that North Carolina is "a mess" because there is no regulation but that New York has gone too far.

Mr. Woody addressed concerns about the type of barriers used at events, there is a need for safety but the type of barrier required should not be too expensive. Guidelines need to be set for crowd control. He also believes that DPOR is not approachable but he wants DPOR at events.

Jack Hower indicated that the regulation of theatrics would be appreciated, they need more specific guidance but the regulation should not be the same as boxing because wrestling is entertainment, not a sport. The need for a rating system was discussed.

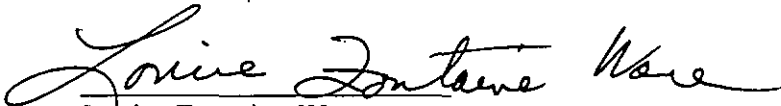
Kyle Leach agreed with the need for a rating system and some regulation for schools. He would also like regulations to govern the use of props.

Discussion was held about the need to establish an ending for the event so that all have a clear understanding of when the regulations apply. The event could end when all participants leave the building, when payment takes place, when the crowd leaves, when the ring is taken down, etc.

Patrick Lawson has been in wrestling for 14 years as a wrestler, referee and promoter. He indicated that DPOR is perceived as the "kiss of death" at shows and more time should be taken to communicate with participants, a more friendly approach should be taken. He indicated all regulators should police themselves better.

Prior to adjournment, an announcement was made that the Task Force would meet in January, 2004 to begin the regulatory review process. All attendees were given information on how to track meeting notices and regulatory actions on the DPOR website and the Regulatory Town Hall website.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.



Louise Fontaine Ware
Director

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