

BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS, AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
2nd Floor – Board Room 3

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
9960 Mayland Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23233

Mission: Our mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by licensing qualified individuals and businesses enforcing standards of professional conduct for professions and occupations as designated by statute.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- b. Determination of Quorum

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. BMAW Board Meeting, November 14, 2024
- b. BMAW Board Meeting, February 5, 2025

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. BMAW Board Meeting, October 12, 2023
- b. BMAW Board Meeting, November 14, 2024

IV. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ***FIVE MINUTE PUBLIC COMMENT, PER PERSON***

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Regulatory Update
 - i. Public Comment
 - ii. General Regulatory Review Update
- b. 2025 Meeting Dates

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. EpicX Update
- b. Event Update
- c. Bouts with Opposing Genders
- d. Transgender Fighters
- e. Election of Officers
- f. Financial Disclosure
- g. Licensed Population
- h. Board Member Training

VIII. COMPLETE CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM AND TRAVEL VOUCHER.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR **TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025**

- ❖ Agenda materials made available to the public do not include disciplinary case files or application files pursuant to §54.1-108 of the Code of Virginia.
- ❖ Five minute public comment, per person, with the exception of any open disciplinary or application file.
- ❖ Persons desiring to participate in the meeting and requiring special accommodations or interpretative services should contact the Department at (804) 367-2785 at least ten days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made for an appropriate accommodation. The Department fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

DRAFT AGENDA

Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion
And are not to be construed as regulation or official board position

DRAFT AGENDA

BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS, AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING ADVISORY BOARD

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Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
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Richmond, Virginia 23233

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II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. BMAW Board Meeting, October 12, 2023

IV. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND RESOLUTIONS

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ***FIVE MINUTE PUBLIC COMMENT, PER PERSON***

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- a. Regulatory Update
 - i. Public Comment
 - ii. General Regulatory Review Update
- b. 2025 Meeting Dates

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Board Member Training Conference Update
- b. EpicX Update
- c. Event Update
- d. Bouts with Opposing Genders
- e. Election of Officers
- f. Financial Disclosure
- g. Licensed Population
- h. Financial Statements

VIII. COMPLETE CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM AND TRAVEL VOUCHER.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

- ❖ Agenda materials made available to the public do not include disciplinary case files or application files pursuant to §54.1-108 of the Code of Virginia.
- ❖ Five minute public comment, per person, with the exception of any open disciplinary or application file.
- ❖ Persons desiring to participate in the meeting and requiring special accommodations or interpretative services should contact the Department at (804) 367-2785 at least ten days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made for an appropriate accommodation. The Department fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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**BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS, AND
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Boxing, Martial Arts, and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board (BMAW) met on October 12, 2023, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, with the following members present for all or part of the meeting:

Daniel Hardy, M.D. (Citizen)
Scott Howard (Martial Arts)
Eric Irizarry (Boxing)
Brandon Metheny (Wrestling)

Board members Leah Jackman (Martial Arts), Travis Lee, M.D. (Boxing) and Charles Pinto (Citizen) were not present for the meeting with regrets.

Staff present for all or part of the meeting was:

Kishore Thota, Director
Stephen Kirschner, LRPD Deputy Director
Tom Payne, CID Deputy Director
Kate Nusbisch, Executive Director
Bonnie Davis, Board Operations Administrator
Jermaine Gray, BMAW Board Administrator
Joe Haughwout, Regulatory Affairs Manager
Ecila Williams, Administrative Coordinator

Josh Laws, Assistant Attorney General was present from the Office of the Attorney General.

Members of the audience:

Johnny Davis- International Kickboxing Federation
Brad Kutner- Radio IQ

Dr. Hardy, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Call to Order

Ms. Nusbisch advised the Board of the emergency evacuation procedures.

**Emergency
Evacuation
Procedures**

Ms. Nusbisch introduced Mr. Thota, Director of DPOR, Mr. Gray, BMAW Board Administrator, Mr. Kirschner, LRPD Deputy Director, Ms. Williams, Administrative Coordinator, Mr. Irizarry, new board member representing Boxing, and Mr. Payne, CID Deputy Director.

Introductions

Mr. Metheny moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Howard seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Hardy, Howard, Irizzary, and Metheny.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Metheny moved to approve the minutes in block for the following dates:

Approval of Minutes

- i. BMAW Regulatory Review Meeting, February 15, 2023
- ii. BMAW Regulatory Review Meeting, March 16, 2023
- iii. BMAW Regulatory Review Meeting, April 20, 2023
- iv. BMAW Regulatory Review Meeting, April 27, 2023
- v. BMAW Regulatory Review Meeting, May 18, 2023
- vi. BMAW Regulatory Review Meeting, May 25, 2023
- vii. BMAW Regulatory Review Meeting, June 5, 2023
- viii. BMAW Regulatory Review Meeting, June 8, 2023
- ix. BMAW Regulatory Review Meeting, July 10, 2023

Mr. Howard seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Hardy, Howard, Irizzary, and Metheny.

Mr. Davis made a public comment regarding allowing IKF Semi-Contact Sparring Competition in the Commonwealth.

**Public Comment
Period**

Ms. Nosbisch introduced Mr. Kutner, Radio IQ, as a member of the audience.

Introduction

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Dr. Hardy read the following resolution for consideration by the Board:

Resolution for Delvis McCadden

Resolution for
Delvis O. McCadden

WHEREAS, Delvis O. McCadden, did faithfully and diligently serve as a member of the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board from 2015 to 2023;

WHEREAS, Delvis O. McCadden did devote generously of his time, talent and leadership to the Board;

WHEREAS, Delvis O. McCadden, did endeavor at all times to render decisions with fairness and good judgment in the best interest of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the profession; and

WHEREAS, the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board wishes to acknowledge its gratitude for devoted service of a person who is held in high esteem by the members of the Board and the citizens of the Commonwealth;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board this twelfth day of October 2023, that Delvis O. McCadden, be given all honors and respect due him for his outstanding service to the Commonwealth and its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be presented to him and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which he is held by this Board.

The Board members agreed to the resolution by consensus. Mr. McCadden was not present for his resolution with regrets.

The Board reviewed information regarding IKF Semi-Contact Sparring Competition and asked Mr. Davis questions regarding if the rules of the competition could be changed to align with the regulations and statutes of the Commonwealth.

Requested Review for IKF Semi-Contact Sparring Competition

After a long discussion, Mr. Thota informed Mr. Davis that if the IKF rules could not align with current regulations and statutes, his next course of action to have these events in the Commonwealth would be through legislation as the Board is bound by statutes.

Ms. Davis informed the Board that public comment for Periodic Regulatory Review started October 9, 2023, and ends October 30, 2023, and there were no comments at this time.

Regulatory Review Update

Proposed language to eliminate the second weigh in for boxing has been fast tracked and submitted to the Regulatory Affairs Manager.

Mr. Metheny moved to retain the current regulations as is. Mr. Howard seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Hardy, Howard, Irizzary, and Metheny.

The Board conducted a brief review of the Boxing, Martial Arts, and Wrestling regulations. A brief discussion took place regarding outstanding regulations and adding and removing verbiage from certain regulations.

Mr. Irizzary moved to approve the 2024 meeting dates:

2024 Meeting Dates

- i. February 1, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- ii. April 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- iii. July 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- iv. October 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Howard seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Hardy, Howard, Irizzary, and Metheny.

Mr. Thota exited the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Departure of DPOR Staff

Mr. Gray provided the Board with statistics for events for 2023.

Event Update

The Board took a recess from 11:42 a.m. to 11:56 a.m.

Recess

Board members were provided with the licensee counts as of October 1, 2023:

Licensed Population

- Temporary Boxers: 0
- Boxers: 91
- Boxing/Wrestling Promoters: 28
- Boxing/Wrestling Trainers, Seconds, Cutmen: 196
- Boxing/Wrestling Managers: 5
- Boxing/Wrestling Matchmakers: 30
- Boxing Events: 2
- Martial Artists: 61
- Temporary Wrestler: 2
- Wrestlers: 737
- Wrestling Events: 15

Mr. Payne exited the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Departure of DPOR Staff

Board members were provided financial statements for informational purposes.

Review of Financial Statements

Mr. Metheny informed the Board of future Wrestling events.

Other Business

Conflict of Interest and travel forms were completed by all board members present.

Conflict of Interest Forms and Travel Vouchers

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board how the election of officers has been completed previously for the Board, which would typically have the Vice Chair rotate to Chair.

Election of Officers

Ms. Nosbisch opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Ms. Metheny nominated Dr. Hardy as Board Chair. Mr. Howard seconded the motion. Dr. Hardy accepted the nomination. Ms. Nosbisch asked if there were any additional nominations for Board Chair. There being none, Ms. Nosbisch closed the floor for nominations. The motion was unanimously approved by: Hardy, Howard, Irizzary, and Metheny. By acclamation, Dr. Hardy was named Board Chair.

Ms. Nosbisch opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice Chair. Mr. Metheny nominated Mr. Howard as Board Vice Chair. Dr. Hardy seconded the motion. Mr. Howard accepted the nomination. Ms. Nosbisch asked if there were any additional nominations for Board Vice Chair. There being none, Ms. Nosbisch closed the floor for nominations. The motion was unanimously approved by Hardy, Howard, Irizzary, and Metheny. By acclamation, Mr. Howard was named Board Vice Chair.

Mr. Gray, Mr. Haughwout, Mr. Kirschner, and Mr. Laws exited the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Departure of DPOR Staff

All Board Members present attended the Conflict of Interest Act Training.

COIA Training

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Adjourn

Daniel Hardy, M.D. Chair

Kishore Thota, Secretary

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BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS, AND
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Boxing, Martial Arts, and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board (BMAW) met on November 14, 2024, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia.

Members present for all or part of the meeting:

Wrestling

Brandon Metheny

Martial Arts

Jerome Wilson

Citizen

Ellen Thacker

Members absent from the meeting with regrets:

Boxing

Eric Irizzary

Martial Arts

Leah Jackman

Citizen

Charles Pinto

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Brian Wolford, Director
Jeb Wilkinson, Chief Deputy Director
Stephen Martin, Senior Advisor
Kate Nosbisch, Executive Director
Ecila Williams, Licensing Operations Administrator
Jhustyna McBride-Dunn, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Vernon Porter, Deputy Commissioner
Khang Le, Licensing Specialist

Josh Laws, Assistant Attorney General with the Office of the Attorney General, was present.

Steve Kirschner, LRPD Deputy Director, and Jermaine Gray, Commissioner, were not present at the meeting with regrets.

Mr. Metheny, Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. No quorum was present to conduct official Board business.

Call to Order

Mr. Metheny and Ms. Nosbisch advised the Board of the emergency evacuation procedures.

**Emergency
Evacuation
Procedures**

Ms. Nosbisch welcomed Brian Wolford as Director, Jeb Wilkinson as the new Chief Deputy Director, Stephen Martin as the new Senior Advisor for the Agency, Jhustyna McBride-Dunn as the new Regulatory Operations Administrator, Ecila Williams as the new Licensing Operations Administrator, Grace Flores-Hughes, the new BPOR liaison for the Board, Ellen Thacker, new Citizen Member, and Jerome Wilson, new board member representing the sport of Martial Arts.

Welcome/Introductions

Mr. Metheny read the following resolution for consideration by the Board:

Resolution for Dr. Daniel M. Hardy

RESOLUTION TO
Dr. Daniel M. Hardy

WHEREAS, Dr. Daniel M. Hardy, did faithfully and diligently serve as a member of the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board from 2016 to 2024;

WHEREAS, Dr. Daniel M. Hardy, did devote generously of his time, talent and leadership to the Board;

WHEREAS, Dr. Daniel M. Hardy, did endeavor at all times to render decisions with fairness and good judgment in the best interest of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the profession; and

WHEREAS, the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board wishes to acknowledge its gratitude for devoted service of a person who is held in high esteem by the members of the Board and the citizens of the Commonwealth;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board this fourteenth day of November 2024, that Dr. Daniel M. Hardy, be given all honors and respect due him for his outstanding service to the Commonwealth and its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be presented to him and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which he is held by this Board.

RESOLUTION TO
Scott L. Howard

**Resolution for
Scott L. Howard**

WHEREAS, Scott L. Howard, did faithfully and diligently serve as a member of the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board from 2016 to 2024;

WHEREAS, Scott L. Howard, did devote generously of his time, talent and leadership to the Board;

WHEREAS, Scott L. Howard, did endeavor at all times to render decisions with fairness and good judgment in the best interest of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the profession; and

WHEREAS, the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board wishes to acknowledge its gratitude for devoted service of a person who is held in high esteem by the members of the Board and the citizens of the Commonwealth;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board this fourteenth day of November 2024, that Scott L. Howard, be given all honors and respect due him for his outstanding service to the Commonwealth and its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be presented to him and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which he is held by this Board.

There was no public comment.

**Public Comment
Period**

Ms. McBride-Dunn informed the Board that the General Review of Board for BMAW Regulations are in the NOIRA stage and was published in the Virginia Register Volume 40, Issue 21 on June 3, 2024. The 30-day public comment period closed on July 3, 2023, with no public comments received. Next steps will be to prepare the filing the package for the proposed stage to submit for executive review.

Regulatory Update

Public comment was received on October 23, 2023, during the Periodic Review and a response will be sent to Director Wolford for review.

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that EpicX is currently in development with a Wave 1 launch in March 2025.

EpicX Update

Meeting dates for 2025:

- Wednesday, February 5, 2025
- Tuesday, April 8, 2025
- Wednesday, July 30, 2025
- Wednesday, October 8, 2025

2025 Meeting Dates

Ms. Nosbisch provided an update on the Board Member Training Conference that occurred on October 10-11, 2024, for informational purpose.

**Board Member
Training
Conference Update**

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that EpicX is currently in development with a Wave 1 launch in March 2025.

EpicX Update

Mr. Porter provided the Board with event statistics for the calendar year, which to date included six Mixed Martial Arts events, eight Boxing events, and over and approximately 150 Wrestling events. There are two more Mixed Martial Arts events scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Event Update

Ms. Nosbisch addressed the Board regarding bouts with opposing genders. After a discussion, it was determined that bouts with opposing genders varies depending on the sport, and this matter will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

**Bouts with
Opposing Genders**

There was also discussion regarding transgender fighters participating in bouts with opposite gender and this matter will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

**Transgender
Fighters**

Ms. Nosbisch reminded the Board that Financial Disclosure statements are due on February 1, 2025.

**Financial
Disclosure**

The licensee counts as of October 1, 2024:

Temporary Boxing	0
Boxers	59
Boxing/Wrestling Promoters	29
Trainers, Seconds, Cutmen	137
Boxing/Wrestling Managers	2
Boxing/Wrestling Matchmakers	29

**Licensed and
Certified
Population**

Boxing Events	4
Martial Artists	52
Temporary Wrestler	1
Wrestlers	753
Wrestling Events	15

Ms. Nosebisch stated the financial statements were provided for informational purposes.

**Financial
Statements**

Conflict of Interest forms and Travel Vouchers were completed by all Board members present.

**Conflict of Interest
Forms / Travel
Vouchers**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Adjourn

Brandon Metheny, Acting Chair

Brain P. Wolford, Secretary

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Agency

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

Board

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

Chapter

Professional Boxing and Wrestling Event Regulations [18 VAC 120 - 40]

[Back to List of Comments](#)**Commenter:** Robert Hoffmann

10/23/23 8:55 am

DPOR regulation of pro wrestling

I realize that this will require statutory change. However, I feel this needs to be put on the record. Regulation of professional wrestling as though it were a legitimate sport is a waste of the Commonwealth's time and energy. We're out of the "kayfabe" era. Everyone, inside and outside the profession, acknowledges that professional wrestling is a fusion of improvised theatre and sport, leaning more towards improv. We don't regulate ComedySportz, the Coalition Theatre, or any other improv theatre or troupe in Virginia - why are we still regulating professional wrestling?

It remains my hope that, sooner rather than later, the annual deregulation bill will finally pass the General Assembly. In the interim, I can only request that DPOR remember what wrestling is, and isn't, and run its regulatory activities accordingly.

CommentID: **220442**

2025 Meeting Dates

BMAW ADVISORY BOARD

Wed, February 5, 2025	10:00 AM	BMAW	BR3
Tues, April 8, 2025	10:00 AM	BMAW	BR3
Wed, July 30, 2025	1:00 PM	BMAW	BR3
Wed, October 8, 2025	10:00 AM	BMAW	BR3

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
 PERIMETER CENTER, SUITE 400
 9960 MAYLAND DRIVE
 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23233

Phone: 804-367-8500
 Facsimile: 804-367-2475
 Complaints: 804-367-8504

E-Mail: dpor@dpor.virginia.gov
 Web: <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov>

TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025

Profession	1/1/2024	2/1/2024	3/1/2024	4/1/2024	5/1/2024	6/1/2024	7/1/2024	8/1/2024	9/9/2024	10/1/2024	11/1/2024	12/2/2024	1/1/2025
Temporary Boxers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Boxers	92	16	19	31	35	43	51	51	52	59	91	91	1
Boxing/Wrestling Promoters	29	14	17	18	20	24	25	27	28	29	31	31	6
Box/Wrest Trainers, Seconds, Cutmen	206	20	67	86	93	107	113	121	129	137	186	191	12
Boxing/Wrestling Managers	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	0
Boxing/Wrestling Matchmakers	31	15	18	20	21	24	24	27	28	29	31	31	5
Boxing Events	3	3	3	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	1
Martial Artists	70	0	30	32	32	33	36	39	51	52	52	52	16
Temporary Wrestler	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	2	0	0
Wrestlers	767	364	439	500	594	645	674	707	730	753	796	800	70
Wrestling Events	4	8	10	11	13	17	12	23	16	15	11	5	3

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