

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**

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Brandon Metheny, Acting Chair

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Brain P. Wolford, Secretary