

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

A regulatory review meeting was held on May 25, 2023, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, with the following members present:

Leah Jackman (Martial Arts)  
Brandon Metheny (Wrestling)

Demetrious J. Melis, Director, Steve Kirschner, LRPD Deputy Director, Board members, Daniel Hardy, M.D. (Citizen), Travis Lee, M.D. (Boxing), Delvis McCadden (Boxing), Scott Howard (Martial Arts), and Charles Pinto (Citizen), were not present for the meeting with regrets.

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Kishore Thota, Chief Deputy Director  
Kathleen R. (Kate) Nosbisch, Executive Director  
Joe Haughwout, Regulatory Affairs Manager  
Breanne Henshaw, Licensing Operations Administrator

Josh Laws, Assistant Attorney General from the Office of the Attorney General was not present for the meeting with regrets.

Members of the public included:

David Arvelo, Mixed Martial Arts promoter and matchmaker in Richmond and Miami

Ms. Jackman, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Call to Order**

Ms. Nobisch advised the Committee of the emergency evacuation procedures and 911 procedures.

**Emergency  
Evacuation  
Procedures**

Mr. Metheny moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Jackman seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Jackman and Metheny.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Arvelo attended the meeting and asked about second day weigh-ins in Virginia. Mr. Arvelo also inquired about having Virginia regulate amateur bouts as it would protect the public in terms of the people fighting and it would create revenue for Virginia.

**Public Comment  
Period**

Ms. Nosbisch informed Mr. Arvelo that the Board is in the process of proposing a regulatory change to do away with second day weigh-ins for boxing and upon counsel's advice, second day weigh-ins for mixed martial arts are not necessary.

Ms. Nosbisch indicated open cases cannot be discussed. At its last regulatory review meeting the Regulatory Review Committee proposed a change to the definition of exhibition which would address “smokers.” This change is being recommended to the Director as a suggestion for the 2024 legislative package.

**Smoker Update**

Tabled until next meeting.

**Weight Spread  
Difference Update**

The Committee began a line-by-line review of the mixed martial arts regulations using the Regulatory Review Matrix Flowchart in order to determine the relevance of each regulation. During the review, the Committee began with 18VAC120-42-130. A long discussion took place regarding transgender contestants and how the Board will address this matter in the future. Mr. Haughwout recommended the Board and staff to conduct research in order to better understand the matter along with better understanding how other states or sanctioning organizations have approached the topic. The key topic of discussion surrounded the health and safety of the public. Ms. Nosbisch indicated she will discuss the matter with Board counsel for further guidance.

**Regulatory Review**

The Committee took a recess from 11:13 a.m. to 11:23 a.m.

**Recess**

The Committee continued reviewing the mixed martial arts regulations. The Committee will confer with Dr. Lee and Dr. Hardy about the affects of multiple TKOs and KOs. The Committee also decided to separate the rules for kickboxing, Muay Thai, full contact kickboxing, glory rules, and other similar contests within the mixed martial arts regulations to provide clarity to the requirements for each. The Committee ended on 18VAC120-42-190. The Committee will begin on 18VAC120-42-200 at the next meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Regulatory Review  
Continued**

All Board members present completed conflict of Interest and travel forms present.

**Conflict of Interest  
Forms and Travel  
Vouchers**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

**Adjourn**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Daniel Hardy, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kishore Thota, Secretary

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

- 1. Name: Brandon Metheny
- 2. Title: Board Member
- 3. Agency: Boxing, Martial Arts & Wrestling Advisory Board
- 4. Meeting/IFF Date: Regulatory Review Meeting May 25, 2023

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

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Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

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I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:


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I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6.  I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

  
Signature

5/25/23  
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
for Officers and Employees of State Government

- 1. Name: Leah Jackman
- 2. Title: Board Member
- 3. Agency: Boxing, Martial Arts & Wrestling Advisory Board
- 4. Meeting/IFF Date: Regulatory Review Meeting May 25, 2023

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

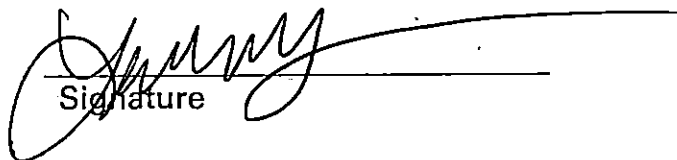
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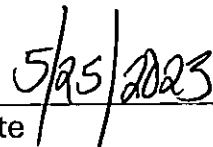
I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6.  I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date