**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 16, 2021**

**TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

**1) ATTENDEES:**
 BUDDY EMBANATO (B.E.)
 JAMES (JIMBO) STEVENSON (J.S.)

JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.) – VIA VIDEO
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.) – VIA VIDEO

HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.) – VIA VIDEO
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.) – VIA VIDEO

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER - VIA VIDEO

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER - VIA VIDEO

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) – ACCTG – VIA VIDEO

**2) MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

No meeting in February so no approval of minutes; Minutes from January teleconference and financial report reviewed/approved, all ayes.

**3) INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Charles Nicolosi, MS promoter: Wanted to apply for a LA promoter’s license but none are being issued until Covid restrictions are lifted. B.E. advises that he relay his contact information and we will let him know when he can apply; also reviews rules/responsibilities for promoter applications (bond, financial report, etc.)

Brittany Houghtlen w/Elev8: has been involved in TX shows as announcer & commentator since Covid and explained covid rules from TX; testing within 5 days of show providing proof of negative test results and no quarantine rules. Can we do the same here? B.E. explains past forging of HIV tests and common sense to have testing the day of the event w/quarantine. See below.

Michael Boudreaux – Class B wrestling promoter: Had an issue with filming a “promotional” video with announcer, refs, all dressed up that J.S. had shut down. See below.

Mike Beadle – Class B wrestling promoter: had a question as to whether the commission is now monitoring “training” now in reference to M. Boudreaux’s issue. No, commission is not. Also question about the grandfathering of licenses not used in 2020 due to Covid.

Matt Lancie – Wildkat Promotions: Also had question about license renewals and testing responsibilities and costs.

**4) NEW BUSINESS:**

Jimbo heard about an exhibition being planned by Mr. Boudreaux to be posted to social media and shut it down. The question as to whether this was a “training” video for promotional purposes was questionable due to the presence of an announcer, a referee and everyone dressed like it was a show or an exhibition. Mr. Boudreaux felt he should have been able to do this at a private residence. B.E. advised him to discuss with J.S. in the future.

**5) NEW EVENT GUIDELINES DURING COVID:**

 All events, including Class A and Class B wrestling will:

* Have all participants covid tested (fighters, corner men, announcers, refs, and anyone else in the safety zone) upon arrival at the event and immediately quarantined until their time in the ring.
* Have all covid tests administered and read by a health professional (RN, EMT, Dr). Vaccination cards will not be accepted as proof of negative covid.
* Above participants will have no physical contact with patrons when leaving the dressing rooms (no hi-5ing)
* Hire a deputy/police officer to enforce the wearing of masks by patrons when not eating or drinking
* Have reserved seating only; no general admission seating (see below)
* Get event approval from DHH and Fire Marshal Dept. for each event

On Testing: Ms. Bishop was able to get bulk tests at a good price for her show. Ricky Naquin can possibly get the name of her contact. We believe tests are from $15 to $35 each. The promoter will be responsible to cover these costs however they want to. Tests are to be administered & results read by a health professional. Testing will be done immediately prior to the event, not 5 days prior as in other states. Vaccine Cards will not be accepted as “proof” of immunity or to replace testing.

On Event Seating: Reserved tables spaced 6’ apart with 6 to 8 members of covid families or “pods” is acceptable. Mask wearing when not eating or drinking will be enforced. No general admission seating. Theatre style seating will be acceptable if roped off appropriately (6’ between persons) and sold reserved only. Event capacity must be to local parish/city guidelines. At present, events up to 50% capacity is acceptable by the state. Orleans parish is lower.

***THESE ABOVE RULES/GUIDELINES WILL BE IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE GOVERNOR IS TO ISSUE NEW GUIDELINES 3/31/21 AND WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING.***

**6) LICENSING:**

The Governor’s office has banned licensing until further notice; Chairman’s personal opinion is that licenses purchased in 2019 for 2020 year should be grandfathered in until the end of 2021 since there were no shows after March 2020 shutdown and none so far for 2021. B.E. will bring this up for discussion at next meeting with our full board.

**7) PAST SHOWS**:

Ms. Bishop’s first show was a disaster due to no fault of her own. Her second show, which was a televised event, was much more successful. No general admission; reserved seating only; testing provided by her and administered by ring doctor. Fighters were sequestered in their rooms until time for their rounds. One fighter, Mr. Holmes, broke quarantine, didn’t show the next day and will be suspended. J.S. will contact J.G. to subpoena him to present himself to the commission.

**8) UPCOMING SHOWS OR NEW EVENTS:**

Amber Bishop has requested a 4/23 show date for another televised event. J.S. moves to approve; J.B. seconds; event approved.

***Normal procedures will be followed for all future events (event date approval, reservation fees, etc.) with the addition of the Covid Rules outlined above.***

**9) ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:**

B.E. will advise via email of next meeting, either in person or teleconference soon and urges all promoters to follow above covid rules for new events as outlined above until Governor lifts restrictions. J.S. moves to adjourn; J.B. seconds; meeting adjourned.