

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR NANAIMO ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX
ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-JAN-26, COMMENCING AT 12:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner M. Unger, Chair

Members: Commissioner B. Avis
Commissioner B. Bestwick
Commissioner E. Garner
Commissioner L. Sherry
Commissioner W. Taylor

Absent: Commissioner B. Meunier

Staff: D. Osborne
H. Richardson, recording

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Nanaimo Athletic Commission was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- Delete item 6.(a) – Delegation -. Delete Keith Varga, Promoter, Quest for the Title VII, proposing a one bout world pro title event in the spring of 2011, as Mr. Varga's application for sanctioning was withdrawn.
- Add Item 6.(a) – Delegation – Mr. Darren Owen, Co-Promoter with Raiders Football Team.
- Amend Item 8. – Move to Item 5. for discussion before Reports of Advisory Bodies Delegations arrive.
- Delete Item 10.(a) – E-mail correspondence from Brent Correspondence – Meunier, as it pertains to the event promoted by Mr. Keith Varga that was cancelled.
- Canadian Boxing Federation – Ed Garner
- MMABC - Ed Garner

It was moved and seconded that the Late Agenda Items be received. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

- (a) Minutes of the Regular Nanaimo Athletic Commission (NAC) Meeting held Wednesday, 2010-NOV-24 at 12:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Bowen Park.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES

- (a) Security at Battlefield Fight League Events. Battlefield Fight League will be responsible for paying for three RCMP officers at their fight on 2011-MAR-26 at Frank Crane Arena. A meeting will be set up between the security supervisor for the event, Commissioner W. Taylor, and the facilities' manager, in this case D. Osborne, to finalize the security plan.

6. DELEGATIONS:

It was moved and seconded that Darren Owen, Owner, Armageddon Fighting Championships ("Armageddon"), be received as a late delegation. The motion carried unanimously.

- (a) Darren Owen, Promoter, Armageddon Fighting Championships, requesting consideration of an outdoor combative sports event at Caledonia Field in conjunction with a Raiders Football game in August 2011. Mr. Hadi Abassi, President of the Vancouver Island Raiders Football Club ("Raiders") approached Mr. Owen and proposed a joint event where a combative sports event would take place right after a Raiders football game at Caledonia Park. The event would be mainly professional, with the possibility of a few amateur bouts. If amateurs are fighting, they would follow Mixed Martial Arts of British Columbia ("MMABC") Rules. The cage for the event would be quickly erected after the football game on the field with the fights starting shortly thereafter.

Mr. Owen recently held an unsanctioned event at Bear Mountain Arena. The arena is on Society land that is owned by five municipalities in Victoria, none of which have an athletic commission. Mr. Owen was under the impression when he held the fight that he did not require sanctioning as the property was not on municipal land. The Nanaimo Athletic Commission "NAC" passed a motion to prohibit promoters from holding an event in their jurisdiction if the promoter has run an unsanctioned event previously. Suspensions were handed out to fighters who fought in that event.

- (b) Jay Golshani, Promoter of Battlefield Fight League requesting a date change of his previously sanctioned event from 2011-APR-02, to 2011-MAR-26. The Commission previously sanctioned Mr. Golshani's MMA event, which was to be held 2011-APR-02. Mr. Golshani has requested to change the date to 2011-MAR-26 due to a conflict with a mixed martial arts event being held in Victoria on the same date. There is availability at Frank Crane Arena on that date.

It was moved and seconded that the Battlefield Fight League event that was to be held at Frank Crane Arena on 2011-APR-02, be changed to 2011-MAR-26 at Frank Crane Arena. The motion carried unanimously.

16 security staff will be employed from Vancouver Island, with 10 additional Battlefield staff working at all entrances to the arena. Staff will contact Mr. Golshani to arrange a meeting between the security supervisor, Commissioner Taylor and the facility manager in early February. Staff will forward the name of a security company that has been used in the past for department events.

Weigh-in will be at 5:00 on Friday, 2011-MAR-25 with the venue yet to be determined. Commission suggested a location with access to office facilities. 600 will be travelling by bus to Nanaimo from Vancouver for the event. Mr. Golshani anticipated a crowd of 2,500. Mr. Golshani discussed the possibility of having Mr. Mahood of the Mixed Martial Arts Association of British Columbia ("MMABC") oversee the amateur portion of the fight card.

- (c) Jay Golshani, Promoter of Battlefield Fight League Request for Sanctioning for a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) event at Frank Crane Arena 2011-MAY-28. Upon arrival, Mr. Golshani informed the NAC that he wished to change the date of his event to 2011-JUN-04. This event will be 13 professional and three amateur bouts with no championship fights. The amateur events will be held at 5:00, with the main events being broadcast on CHEK TV and Fox Sports in the United States, beginning at 7:30. Tickets for the event will be from \$19.99 to \$179.99 and will be available at locations in Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo, as well as online at battlefieldfights.com. This matter will be referred back to staff to check on availability at Frank Crane Arena on 2011-JUN-04.

It was moved and seconded that the delegations be received. The motion carried unanimously.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT:

- (a) Appointment of Lloyd Sherry to Nanaimo Athletic Commission – M. Unger. Councillor Lloyd Sherry was appointed by City Council to sit on the Athletic Commission. Chair Unger welcomed Mr. Sherry.
- (b) Proposed Sanctioning of One Time Trial Event at Vancouver Island Conference Centre ("VICC") Where Food and Beverage (Liquor) Sales Are Permitted – M. Unger (UPDATE). No applications have been received to hold events at the VICC.

It was moved and seconded that the matter of serving alcohol at combative sports events be referred back to staff for consideration and that events be looked at on an event by event basis. The motion carried unanimously.

- (c) Amendment to NAC Policies 7.5 and 7.6 regarding the length of time between combative sports events sanctioned by the NAC. This policy was changed to protect promoters from different events being held too close together. Although there will be two Battlefield Fight League fights within 60 days of each other, there is no conflict as they are both put on by the same promoter.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Canadian Boxing Federation – Commissioner Garner. Mr. Garner feels the NAC should postpone renewing its CBF membership. A meeting is being proposed between athletic commissions from across Canada to discuss joining the Association of Boxing Commissions (“ABC”). The meeting is proposed for Vancouver and would be worthwhile for one or two NAC members to attend.

It was moved and seconded that one or two members of the Nanaimo Athletic, be appointed by the Chair to attend a meeting between members of Canadian Athletic Commissions, proposed for a future date in Vancouver, to discuss the possibility of joining the ABC. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Mixed Martial Arts Association of British Columbia – E. Garner. The MMAABC is trying to establish their group. Nanaimo is the only athletic commission that is an amateur regulatory body. The MMAABC is a good resource for amateur events.

It was moved and seconded that the NAC recognize the MMAABC as a legitimate regulatory body for amateur events and that NAC draw on the resources of the MMAABC when needed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Golshani requested that Mr. Mahood of the MMAABC oversee his amateur bouts at his 2011-MAR-28 MMA event. Commission agreed that Mr. Mahood could co-direct the amateur portion of the card.

- (c) Darren Owen, Promoter, Armageddon Fighting Championships, requesting consideration of an outdoor combative sports event at Caledonia Field in conjunction with a Raiders Football game in August 2011. Chair Unger requested that E. Garner look into the previous event held at Bear Mountain Arena by Armageddon Fighting Championships. Questions were raised as to how to look into the history of fighters if they are participating in unsanctioned events and there is no reporting required? How do fighters know if events are not sanctioned? With five communities being involved in Bear Mountain, why is there not an Athletic Commission that can sanction these events? Staff will draft a letter, to be approved by NAC, to the five communities involved in the Society that owns the lands that Bear Mountain is located on. The letter will inform those municipalities that promoters holding fights at Bear Mountain will not be considered for events in Nanaimo until a Commission is formed in their jurisdiction, and the events are sanctioned. The reason for sanctioning is for the health and safety of all fighters involved. Without sanctioning, there is no tracking system in place. A NAC commission member does background checks on all fighters before events to make sure they are not under suspension for any reason, or they are not fighting in amateur events if they have fought as a professional on a previous card. Consistency is key and terms of suspensions of fighters needs to be followed.

(d) Battlefield Mixed Martial Arts Event Officials.

It was moved and seconded that Ed Garner be appointed as the Fight Supervisor for the 2011-MAR-28 Battlefield Mixed Martial Arts Event, and Bruce Avis as Assistant Supervisor. The motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

10. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 1:30 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next Meeting of the Nanaimo Athletic Commission to be determined at a later date.

The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



M. Unger, Chair
Athletic Commission

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



R. Harding, Director