

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR NANAIMO ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN THE ROOM 7, OF THE BEBAN PARK RECREATION CENTRE
ON WEDNESDAY, 2009-NOV-18, COMMENCING AT 12:00 NOON**

PRESENT: Commissioner M. Unger, Chair

Members: Commissioner E. Garner
Commissioner B. Meunier
Commissioner B. Avis
Commissioner B. Bestwick

Staff: D. Osborne H. Richardson, Recording

ABSENT: Members: Commissioner L. McNabb
Mr. W. Taylor (Advisory Member)

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

(a) Minutes of the Regular Nanaimo Athletic Commission Meeting held Wednesday, 2009-OCT-07, at 12:00 noon, in Room 7 of the Beban Park Recreation Centre.

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

4. STAFF REPORTS:

(a) **Sanctioning of Mixed Martial Arts Events in Nanaimo**

Staff's Recommendation: That the Nanaimo Athletic Commission:

1. Recognize amateur Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) events and exhibitions such as the one titled "Amateur Combat Sports Commission's Western Canadian Championships", as promoted by Mr. Don Arnott, as coming within the jurisdiction of the Nanaimo Athletic Commission (NAC); and,
2. That any and all similar Mixed Martial Arts events and exhibitions promoted in Nanaimo be required to receive sanctioning by the NAC.

These recommendations are based on events within City boundaries and are not facility specific. Any amateur events that are governed by a national body (i.e. the Nanaimo Boxing Club who is governed by the Canadian Boxing Federation), or are considered an "Olympic" sport, are not required to apply for sanctioning of their event. Clear definitions of 'amateur' and 'professional' need to be written. There are serious liability issues with holding events that are not sanctioned and there is no accountability for promoters.

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

5. DELEGATIONS:

- (a) Mr. Don Arnott, 5304 Sherbourne Drive, Nanaimo BC V9T 2J8, Promoter, Amateur Combat Sports Commission, Western Canadian Championships, requested sanctioning for a 2010-FEB-05 Mixed Martial Arts event at the Port Theatre.

Mr. Arnott's event is an amateur event being held at the Port Theatre. Weigh-in will be held Thursday, 2010-FEB-04, the venue is yet to be determined. There will be six weight classes. Rules for this event include no knee/elbow strikes to the head, no heel hooks, no neck cranks, and the use of seven-ounce amateur gloves. Mr. Arnott has hired 10 security personnel as required by The Port Theatre, as well as 10 more. The Port Theatre will not allow the sale of alcohol during this event. The NAC will not sanction events that sell alcohol.

Keith Vargas, a kick boxer from Victoria who is turning professional in December, would like to fight in a special exhibition pro-bout against Mark Deluca from Vancouver. Mr. Arnott is seeking special permission to have one exhibition pro bout on his card.

Mr. Arnott will e-mail rules and a list of fight officials to D. Osborne for distribution to the NAC members for their review.

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

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) Fee Structure for Nanaimo Athletic Commission

A sub-committee comprised of Commissioners Unger, Garner, Meunier and D. Osborne, staff, reviewed the Fee Structure of NAC. Commission members reviewed the proposed changes. An addition to the first item, Event Permits, states,

"Unless all tickets have been sold by the City, attendance estimates will be determined by Commission Representatives."

It was moved and seconded that the Fee Structure for the Nanaimo Athletic Commission be adopted as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Mr. Don Arnott, Promoter, Amateur Combat Sports Commission, Western Canadian Championships, request for sanctioning for a 2010-FEB-05 Mixed Martial Arts event at the Port Theatre.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Arnott's 2010-FEB-05 Mixed Martial Arts event at the Port Theatre be sanctioned, subject to review and approval of the rules submitted by Mr. Arnott, and subject to Nanaimo Athletic Commission approval of the list of Officials for the event. The motion carried unanimously.

- (c) Fight Officials for Amateur Combat Sports Commission, Western Canadian Championships.

It was moved and seconded that Commissioners Garner and Meunier be appointed Fight Supervisors for the Amateur Combat Sports Commission, Western Canadian Championships, being held at the Port Theatre on 2010-FEB-05. The motion carried unanimously.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Letter to Attorney General from Nanaimo Athletic Commission re: Illegal Fights. If combative sports events are not sanctioned, they are illegal. Bear Mountain Arena has given a three-year contract to a single promoter to hold amateur mixed martial arts events that are illegal. A letter will be written to the Attorney General from the Nanaimo Athletic Commission stating that illegal events have serious liability issues. Copies will also be sent to other Commissions/Committees across BC.

Fighters that fought in the Bear Mountain Event in the summer have been suspended by Edmonton and cannot fight in any events until their suspension has been lifted. NAC recognizes all suspensions under the Canadian Combative Sports Federation ("CCSF").

It was moved and seconded that NAC recognize all suspensions under the CCSF. The motion carried unanimously.

The onus is on NAC to check the list of suspended fighters list when there is an impending event.

It was moved and seconded that a list of suspended fighters from the Bear Mountain Event, be obtained from Edmonton. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the list of suspended fighters from the Bear Mountain event be forwarded to John Cooper, and that he be notified that NAC will enforce suspensions of other Commissions throughout Canada. The motion carried unanimously.

7. 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 at the discretion of the Chair.

The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



M. Unger, Chair
Athletic Commission

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



R. Harding, Director