

Agenda

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting - January 17, 2020 – 8:30 AM

DoubleTree by Hilton Baltimore-BWI Airport 890 Elkridge Landing Rd. Linthicum, MD 21090

In Attendance:

Kathy Haney
John Hendriks
Leerie Jenkins
Lynda Mantler
Dirk Elber
Emma Mak
Dana Hanson
Steve Corona
Neil Flood – by Phone due to weather conditions in MN

Guest- Karen Oleson

Steve called the meeting to order at 8:40 am

Officers' Reports

Chair's Comments:

- Steve thanked the board members for coming and for taking time out of their schedules to attend.
- On behalf of the board, Steve thanks No Speed Limit and Scallywags for hosting the AGM.

Executive Director's Comments:

- Neil thanked Candice Amasalian for her service and work over the years as Region 16 RD.
 - Neil had multiple people offer to become the RD in Region 16. Neil asked the board to confirm Steve O'Donnell as the new Region 16 RD.

Kathy moved to accept Steve O'Donnell as Region 16 RD, John seconds. The motion passes with no opposition.

- Registrations for the World Cup are due in February. Clubs are making their travel plans and we are looking forward to having NAFA represented showing good sportsmanship and being competitive.

Neil requested the board move into executive session. Steve put the board into executive session at 8:45am.

The board exited executive session at 9:02am.

The board discussed ad hoc committees.

Treasurer's Report:

Dana highlighted changes in revenue and expenses.

The board broke at 10:00 am.

The board returned at 10:17am

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the August meeting have been approved and published.

Election Committee:

- Election Results
 - Board of Directors – Elected: Jonathon Bescher, Leerie Jenkins, Cindy Henderson
 - Executive Director – Neil Flood
 - Clyde Moore Hall Of Fame – Emma owned by Kate and Trey Corum, Chattanooga Chomp
 - Judge Of the Year – Paul Ferlitto
 - Delegate Questions
 - Jump heights – 6” lower 79.13% in favor
 - Minimum jump height set to 6” 57.45% in favor
 - MVPs – listed.

Leerie moves to ratify the results as presented by the election committee, Dana 2nds. Motion passes with no opposition.

- Steve moved the board into Executive session at 10:33am.
- Steve took the board out of executive session at 11:00 am
- The board ratified the election results and elected officers.

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee:

- Alena Tune, Martinsburg WV - New Novice
- Jordan Ullrich, Greensboro NC - New Novice
- Wendy Johnson, Parrish FL - New Novice
- Jeremiah Bolton - Hubert NC - New Apprentice
- Alex Zdanowski, Regina SK - Apprentice to Provisional
 - The Judges committee recommends advancing Alex from Apprentice to Provisional.

John moves to advance Alex from Apprentice to Provisional, Dirk seconds. The motion carries with no opposition.

- A few judges did not meet their minimum judging requirements in 2019. Steve suggested that we should look at reaching out to judges in June to remind them they are short on assignments.
- One judge requested an exception to judge for a single event at which she first judged.

John moves to allow Stephanie Doerr to complete a single assignment at the Bay Racers event February 29 and March 1, 2020 as a supervising judge, Dirk seconds. The motion passes with no opposition

The board took a brief break 11:10am-11:20am

The board reconvened at 11:23am

Rules Committee:

1. Review of whether break-out times should be used in determining best time.
 - Discussion revolved around if this would be any advantage to a club for regional or NAFA championships. It was discussed and there are no apparent advantages

John moves to record breakout times as fastest times in NAFA results, Kathy seconds. The motion passes with no opposition.

- Determination of Tiebreakers for divisional standings remains with the host club subject to RD approval.
2. Teams only warming-up but not racing during a tournament.

There was discussion in support of teams who might use warm-ups to practice dogs that might need extra time before competing in a race. It is not seen as a large amount of time that is added to racing as it takes place only during warm-up. Neil does not want the board to enact any rule change regarding this situation, however, is not supportive of it occurring in the Regular class.

There can be different reasons why a team does this, for instance, a team could be seeded in a faster division and lose a dog, finding the need to advance a green dog into position. The green dog might not do well at the event and might not be able to race. A team can still warm the dog up and get it acclimated to the tournament environment.

There was not agreement as to if there is any advantage or disadvantage to having this occur in the Regular class.

The board broke for lunch at 12:15pm

The board returned from break a 12:45pm

Finance:

- Review of P&L

Nominating Committee:

Nothing to report

Marketing Committee:

- MB awards to 50K (pins)
 - Continuation from last meeting
 - ROCC –
 - The Marketing Committee will decide what style plaque to use for ROCC

Disciplinary Committee:

- R.J. – CRN 110219 – Request to Expunge Aggression Excusal – Approved
 - The dog has completed the required number of events and time to have the excusal expunged.

John moves to expunge the aggression excusal for R.J., Dana seconds. The motion passes with no opposition.

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date(s)
Cash, 140545	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	04/25/2015
Tommie, 100016	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	06/08/2014
Taj, 090259	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	05/04/2014
Tux, 100191	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	10/29/2013
Roxie, 051102	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	8/22/2011
Gimli, 040608	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	11/17/2008
Marion Brinkman	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Mike Mattos	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Janet Nelson Morris	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Dave Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Cheryl Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Jennifer Nelson	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely

Review Panel:

- Gryffin – CRN 160679 - Aggression Excusal
- Chance – CRN 180123 – Aggression Excusal
- Magick – CRN 150449 – Aggression Excusal
- Raider – CRN 150150 – Aggression Excusal
- Ty – CRN 200117 – Aggression Excusal

After reaching out to the judges and getting additional information the following two appeals were upheld.

- Karma – CRN 170397 – Appeal of Excusal – Excusal upheld after review.
- Gryffin – CRN 160679 – Appeal of Excusal – Excusal upheld after review.

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee:

- Update on next generation EJS. – Steve
 - Dave is currently working on the poles.
 - The developers are looking into ways to make the sets affordable enough to eliminate the need to ship them, and lighter to ease transport in general
 - Leerie described the light pole design Dave is working on which would have three poles instead of four and would be considerably lighter

- Result of investigation into adding functionality for opting out of awards and potential next steps with website/database. – Emma
 - In the public part of the site, there are plans to link dogs by CRN and email/userid to allow owners to opt out of awards, and to provide the option to opt out/in during CRN purchase
 - Dirk mentions that we should give people the option of printing their own award certificates.
 - Emma would like suggestions from the board on an ongoing basis regarding useful upgrades to the data website.
 - Leerie would like to see the C.6 form online
 - Karen and Emma will discuss how best to do this
 - The multibreed points should be online very soon.

Communications Committee: No report

CanAm Steering Committee:

- Social Committee – Emma
 - Based on feedback from competitors, Emma suggests putting together a committee to develop some fun things for competitors to do at CanAm.
 - Another idea is to have a CanAm docent who will serve clubs new to CanAm.
- There was interest in buying out the fairground catering contract so that we can do whatever we want for food (food trucks, pot-luck etc.).

Ad hoc Committee regarding procedures for Unsportsmanlike Charges:

- No report.

Old Business:

3. Demonstration of pre-set wickets used for measuring. – Emma
 - Emma presented a set of three color coded pre-set wickets that could be used to determine a dog's maximum height at the withers.
 - Pros – The judge can focus on the stance rather than the wicket. The dogs are not frightened by the wicket which is moved from the back of the dog to the front.
 - The board reviewed video of the wickets in use.
 - The video shows 3 dogs being successfully measured some of whom had been very anxious about being measured with NAFA's current wicket.
 - The RD would be in charge of the wickets, the cost of each wicket is estimated at \$33 CDN.
 - Concerns- Level measuring surface (same as current wicket)
 - The feet changing the height of the bar if they are not perpendicular
 - The use of a table for measuring received support from multiple board members.

4. Updated on laser measuring device - John
 - John distributed measuring boards that could be used with the laser level and explained how they would be used to measure a dog's height at the withers.
 - Steve recognized Karen – Karen suggested each of the measuring devices (wickets and laser measure) to be demonstrated at the January 18 tournament. It would allow the board and public to see them in action and allow feedback from people outside of the development process.
5. Break to 2:30pm
6. Move to delegate vote and equipment change

New Business:

- Request from Dariusz Radomski for flyball clubs from Poland wanting to join NAFA.

Dariusz Radomski has requested NAFA to allow clubs in Poland join NAFA. Steve shared correspondence he has had with Dariusz.

The board discussed the growth opportunity of expanding to other countries as well as the difficulty in managing an overseas sport. It was noted that Dariusz has been very supportive of NAFA over the years and could provide a growth opportunity. The board would like to support Dariusz and help promoting flyball in Poland, however, the board cannot imagine how it would be able to logistically manage operations overseas.

Leerie reminded the board of an earlier proposal to create a world flyball organization under which NAFA could operate, however, this was never a case where NAFA would have international responsibility.

Steve will craft a response and send it out for review.

- Discussion from Kathy Haney regarding the Multibreed Class.

Kathy shared an idea which would allow Multibreed teams to run under Open class rules.

There was not support for allowing teams to run Multibreed under the Open class rules. The board discussed various options of increasing Multibreed participation and will continue to explore different options.

7. Determination of timing and equipment changes depending on result of delegate vote for height change.

A clear majority of delegates prefer a change from 5 to 6" for jump heights

Leerie moves to change "five inches lower" to "six inches lower" in section 8.2 (a) for the October 1, 2020 rule book, Dirk seconds.

There was a general desire to make the change effective earlier than 10-01-20. Discussion followed regarding how this could affect teams that may have already run their fastest time.

Leerie modified his motion to 'change "five inches lower than the height at the withers" to "six inches lower than the height at the withers" in section 8.2 (a)', Dirk accepted the modification.

The motion carried with no opposition.

Dirk moves to make the previously approved change in section 8.2(a) effective February 29, 2020, Leerie seconds.

The board considered sanctioned events that have already closed and closing dates of those which have not yet closed. It was also discussed how this could affect regional and overall championships. In general, the board felt that it would be best to implement the change sooner rather than later.

The motion carried with no opposition.

There was abundant discussion about how equipment changes could be made if the board were to lower the minimum jump height to 6". There were many ideas about how this could be implemented as to best keep from putting a financial strain on our host clubs. There was discussion as to whether it would be safe to have just the six-inch baseboard, with no slat board. Since the slat boards are currently required for safety, it was concluded that it was not acceptable to no longer require this only for those jumping 6". Ultimately the board was not in favor of lowering the minimum jump heights.

Using the 2/3 threshold for binding delegate votes as a guideline, and based on feedback from tournament hosts, the board did not change the minimum jump height at this time.

- Proposal from Steve Corona regarding [Candidate Chats](#).

Steve talked about how poorly the candidate chats are attended and presented his Candidate Chat proposal.

Dirk moves to forward the proposal to the election committee to be used as a guideline in future elections, Kathy seconds the motion.

There was discussion regarding the difficulty in getting participation in the chats.

The motion carried with no opposition.

Dirk moves to suspend the meeting John seconds. Motion passes with no opposition,

The meeting was suspended at 4:10pm Friday January 18, 2020.

Rules Committee Recommendations

1. Break out times being allowed to be a club's best time on the website report. – Neil Flood

"If a team's best time was part of a multiple breakout day, will that count for a best time?"

Canine Dirt Diggers ran a 15.86 (their best ever) at canal on Saturday. They were in like div 4. They broke out all day.

They want to know how we get the best club time updated."

The majority of the Rules Committee agreed that a team's best time should be allowed to count as a club's best time overall in the NAFA report on the website. The point was raised that the best time, if a break-out, should not be allowed to factor into Regional/NAFA champs (ROCC does not use times).

If the team breaks out three times (for a two-day) or two for a one-day tournament, they do not place (placement = 0) and the time will not appear in any of the Regional/NAFA champs calculations.

If they broke out under these thresholds, the time could be included. However, looking at the process for determining placements, it is very unlikely that a break out time would alter Regional/NAFA Champs winners (or runner up):

- Regional points are used first to determine placements
- Average times for four **best placements** (or the highest number of times available for the clubs in a tie) are used only for tie-breakers, or for NAFA Champs determination (average of 6 best placement times)
- Placements are relative to the division. So a team that places first in division 2, 3 or 4 has all the placements in the lower seeded divisions above them. For example a team placing 1st in division 2, where there are 4 teams in division 1, would have a placement for Regional and NAFA Champs of 5th.
- Teams that win Regional Champs are by in large division 1 teams. There is no break out in division 1. It's very unlikely that a placement in a lower division would count as a top 4 placement (for Regional) or top 6 placements (for NAFA Champs).

The RC's recommendation is to ensure that scoring programs are consistent in allowing break out times to be submitted as 'best time' for a team in scoring file.

2. A small number of clubs are entering tournaments and only using the warm up times and not actually racing. – Meagan Langs

The Rules Committee recognizes that a member of a club in the region in question proposed the idea of a new 'newbie class' last year as a way for dogs to be in the racing environment prior to actually racing head to head. This is likely another way of accomplishing the goal.

A majority had no objection to this being done – and is certainly preferable to pushing green dogs into racing when they're not ready. Some issues raised were: it would be important to inform teams at the captain's meeting and that this not be done at limited tournaments. There was discussion as to whether the team should be scored as NF, and the fees be paid to NAFA.

The consensus was that NAFA fees not be charged for teams that do not race as they are not scored.

Proposal for Future NAFA® Candidate Chats

Due to low voter participation and candidate availability constraints, I am proposing the following changes to the system currently in place.

1. A link from www.flyball.org leading to a web page containing the candidate's nomination, a bio written by the candidate to introduce themselves and a picture of the candidate.
2. The current format of scheduling 3 live candidate chats will be replaced by 2 designated time frames for submitting questions to the candidates to respond to off-line and one live chat.
3. NAFA® will designate a one week period for voters to submit questions to the candidates and allow one week for candidates to respond to those questions.

As an example:

October 1 – 7, Voters submit questions to the Election Committee at elections@flyball.org for review and reduction of duplicates.

October 8 – 14, All candidates will receive the same list of questions and provide their responses to the Election Committee.

October 15 – NAFA will post the questions and individual responses underneath each candidate's on-line bio.

November – Live chat scheduled using CBox (chat application) when most if not all candidates are available to attend via WhenIsGood.

December 1 – 7, Voters submit questions to NAFA® at elections@flyball.org for review and reduction of duplicates.

December 8 – 14, All candidates will receive the same list of questions and provide their responses to NAFA.

December 15 – NAFA will post the questions and individual responses underneath each candidate's on-line bio.

The 3 events occur over a 3-month period, one per month. The order can be flexible (i.e. 2 Q&A and 1 live chat, 1 live chat and 2 Q&A, etc.)