

## NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

August 25, 2018 8:00 AM

La Quinta Inns & Suites, 6801 Tower Road Denver, CO 80249

Attending: Steve Corona, Kim Davis, Dirk Elber, Dana Hanson, John Hendriks, Leerie Jenkins, Emma Mak, Lynda Mantler, Aaron Robbins and Neil Flood.

### **Officers' Reports**

#### Chair's Comments:

Steve called the meeting to order at 8:08 am.

Steve welcomed our guests, Katie Altholz and Karen Oleson.

We're looking at the west coast for the AGM. There is a tourney in Oregon state. We haven't had any meetings up there in a while. The date would be determined by the timing of the tournament.

Just an announcement. We have added Kelly Price and Greg Stopay to Technology Committee. Kelly is the EJS coordinator. She and Greg bring a wealth of knowledge to the committee.

Iron Dog Exception Request from Joy Adiletta – Curzon CRN 041249

The exception request was discussed at length.

John motioned to deny their request. Dana seconded. Motion carried. A letter will go out to Curzon's owner.

Steve requested to enter executive session.

Exited executive session.

The board discussed potential alternate measuring devices and methods and expressed support in moving forward with a data collection project to be initiated at CanAm 2018.

#### Executive Director's Comments:

FCI Update - We've met with the World Cup Planning Committee. Congratulations to Fur Fun and their accomplishment in winning. We are looking to build on that relationship. We do want to send NAFA teams and be supportive; the next event will be in Belgium in two years. The committee is planning on having both US and CA teams being there.

The committee discussed how to pick the clubs to go. The committee will create an application for clubs to apply for the chance to go. There will be a submission period, and then the committee will analyze the applications.

We settled on how to select this committee, by identifying four senior RDs and last two judges of the year, to help in the selection. They would make suggestions, but the board would approve which clubs compete.

Application timing would probably need at least an eight-month lead time. Based on the current timing for the FCI, there would be an open period after CanAm, closing would be January 1<sup>st</sup>, to give the application committee time to go over the applications for announcement at the AGM. This would be changed should the FCI change the timing and schedule the World Cup for May and adjust accordingly.

Leerie and Fur Fun could help establish timelines for the trip for people to start working on for CA and US.

Neil presented the proposal/mission statement of this committee, regarding what they are looking for in the clubs desiring to compete. Neil went on to cover items for consideration for the applications.

See attachment ProposalforNAFAParticipationatFutureFlyballOpenWorldCupEvents.pdf

The FCI would like to see additional teams from all countries. Is there consideration for additional teams from the same club? Would a draw be necessary if multiple apply? Additional information for clubs interested to know how much it's going to cost them is needed. Discussed how much fundraising clubs would need to do.

Dirk motioned to move forward with the FCI committee and recommended proposal for 2020. John seconded. Motion carried.

Neil wanted to thank the special committee members; Steve Corona, Dana Hanson, Leerie Jenkins, Tammy Frank, Sharon Anderson, Greg Stopay and Sam Ford.

Neil requested to enter executive session.

Exited executive session.

The board was advised of several regional and disciplinary issues.

#### Finance/Treasurer's Report:

Dana presented the income statement. We do have a surplus before CanAm currently. Revenues are exceeding expenses to date. Registrations and applications are down a bit from the previous year. The shipping costs seem to have trued up however, and Dana will be checking the expenses with UPS. Dana also went over travel expenses for the board members.

Leerie commented that our recording fees are not covering our expenses. Dana commented that there were some timing differences, with some revenue not having come in yet.

The finance committee was asked to review the currency exchange rate and possibly setting a rate at the beginning of the race year.

#### Secretary's Report:

Judges Advancement August 7<sup>th</sup> – Ian Cuthbertson was advanced from Provisional to Approved

Teleconference July 30<sup>th</sup> – Trademark and Patent discussion. Attachment BODTeleconferenceJuly302018.pdf

Teleconference July 6<sup>th</sup> – FCI Discussion. Attachment NAFABoD-FCI-Teleconference-070618.pdf

Election Committee: Nominations are coming in.

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## **Standing Committee Reports**

### Judges Committee:

- Mike Forsythe, Riverview NB, New Novice
- Stephen Miller, Monroe WA - Novice to Apprentice Exception

- Jeff Wright, Tucson AZ - Apprentice to Provisional – The judges committee unanimously recommended to advance Jeff to Provisional. Dirk motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Steve seconded. Motion carried.
- Katie Altholz, Westminster CO - Provisional to Approved – The judges committee unanimously recommended to advance Katie to Approved. Dirk motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Kim seconded. Motion carried.
- Gwen Albrecht, Phoenix AZ - Apprentice to Provisional - The judges committee unanimously recommended to advance Gwen to Provisional. Kim motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.

Additional discussion included getting feedback from tournament directors on their judges at their tournaments.

Possibly task the judges committee quarterly to suggest teaching opportunities that have arisen in their regions that the committee can review.

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Rules Committee:

**1. New, additional type of Regional Champs**

**2. Adding Illegal Training Infractions to rule book**

**3. Rule book changes resulting from delegate vote results covering Open class jump heights, practice starts, no false starts in all classes.**

**4. Raising the minimum age that a dog can compete to 15 months – Clara Theiss**

**5. Lessening the penalty for ineligible dogs running (Section 7.6). – Mike Smith**

**6. Addressing the inconsistencies with NAFA breeds (varieties should not be listed as breeds)**

**7. Rule book clean-up:**

- a. **Add to Section 6.3 - Format & Schedule - Each time through a round-robin the lanes should be flipped.**
- b. **Change C.16 Novice review Form: add certified measuring judge to the form as possible supervisor for final assignment.**

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**1. Creating a new (additional) type of Regional Champs – Neil Flood**

*NAFA's current Regional Championships/NAFA Championships are geared towards clubs that participate in division one. The goal is to introduce a new, additional kind of regional championship that provides incentive for participation in the Regular classes for all clubs, across all divisions.*

**Recommendations:**

- Proposed name is Regional Overall Club Championship (ROCC) New section of Rulebook to be reviewed: Section 8.9 Regional Overall Club (ROC) Champions)
- The Rules Committee considered the proposal that bonus dog points be awarded for first place placement in divisions that qualify for RCO Championships, and recommends that 20% of points earned in the division be awarded to all dogs listed for the winning team

*Discussion surrounded where certain sections would possibly need to be moved/added to additional pages in the rule book.*

*Aaron motioned to accept the rules committee recommendations. John seconded. Motion carried.*

## **2. Adding Illegal Training Infractions to Rule book**

The board and Rules Committee have been working to clarify what constitutes illegal training in the ring. The Rules Committee was tasked with defining one or more infractions to be added to the rule book.

### **Recommendations:**

- Add to glossary:  
Training Free Runback Zone: That area of the runback which begins at the start/finish line, spans across the width of the ring and extends to the first 20 feet of the length of the runback.
- Add to Section 8.3 The Heat.

*(i) Infractions that require the rerunning of a dog to be rerun after the initial four dogs in the order they initially ran.*

*(a) Early passes will be indicated by the EJS and the line judge and/or the head judge. When running without an EJS system, the line judge will indicate an infraction;*

*(b) Missed jumps;*

*(c) Not carrying the ball over each jump in succession;*

*(d) Does not trigger the box;*

*(e) Dog takes the ball from the cup without first triggering the box;*

*(f) Does not carry the ball over the start/finish line;*

*(g) Inappropriately assisted by the box loader, spectator or handler;*

*(h) A handler or their object crosses the start/finish line during the dog's run (with the exception of resetting knocked down jump(s) or retrieving loose ball(s)).*

*(i) Any part of the dog's body, whether in the air or on the ground, or any part of the handler's body or their objects passing the start/finish line before the timing of the heat begins.*

*(ii) Infractions which first offense shall receive a warning; a second offense and any offense thereafter during racing will result in the loss of the heat.*

*{a) Distractions. Team members shall not distract the opposing team by any means, nor throw any object for their dogs (i.e. balls, toys, Frisbees, dummies, gloves, or treats). Team members are required to pick up any loose balls.*

*(b) More than one handler is present in the Initial Runback Zone and is seen to be guiding the dog or aiding as a marker for the dog.*

*Leerie noted the artwork for the racing lane will need some adjustments, based on the new definitions.*

*Dirk motioned to accept the rules committee recommendations. Kim seconded. Initial runback zone motion carried.*

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**3. Rule book changes resulting from delegate vote results covering Open class jump heights, practice starts, no false starts in all classes.**

**Recommendations:**

- Review several small rule book changes wherever jump heights, practice starts, false starts appear in rule book.
- Note: at the previous meeting, the following recommendation was made and accepted by the board.

*The following change to the rule book is recommended by the Rules Committee:*

*Chapter 7 Warm-Ups: Remove 7 b) There shall be no practice or training in the ring for the duration of the racing day, except for the warm-up as permitted prior to each race. Training in the ring during the competition will mean a forfeit of the heat.*

*Move this to CHAPTER 8 - RULES OF RACING Section 8.3 - The Heat (after (l) Intervention, and before (m) The Finish). m) Training in the Ring. Training in the ring will mean a forfeit of the heat.*

The latest recommendation will be overriding the previously suggested addition to Section 8.3.

- From last meeting, Jayne McQuillen's question regarding whether props are allowed in practice start was answered (yes, they are permitted) to be added to the rule book:  
Propose that the following be added to the new Chapter 7 – WARM-UPS 7(b) Practice Start:  
...  
(vii) Props are permitted during practice start.

*Kim motioned to accept the rules committee recommendation. Lynda seconded. Motion carried.*

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**4. Raising the minimum age that a dog can compete to 15 months – Clara Theiss**

*From Clara's email:*

"dogs that are able to run at 1 year of age have had a heck of a lot of work before then. I suggested this to the NAFA rule committee in the fall of 2012... "

"The rule committee's response was 'The committee agrees that the proposal has some merit and that if the implementation it would be a major change to the sport.'

Even a small adjustment to 15 months instead of 12 months would be a step in the right direction."

**Recommendations:**

- RC discussed the best age to make this and looked at other dog sports/flyball organizations as well as charts of growth plate closures, and averages. The final decision for a recommendation was to make it 15 months, and to do a staggered roll out to give people preparation time. It was felt that any raise in age is a benefit and that having it be 15 months would be less dissuasive to new people joining the sport.

Board decided on the following change to rule book:

Section 5.1 – Code of Ethics

(c) Abuse or severe disciplining of a dog is not in the best interest of flyball. No dog under the age of one (1) year may be listed on a time sheet in a sanctioned event. After April 01, 2019 no dog under the age of fifteen (15) months may be listed on a time sheet in a sanctioned event. Any dog born on or before March 31st, 2018 is exempt from the 15 month requirement.

*Dirk motioned to accept the rules committee recommendations. Leerie seconded. Motion carried.*

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**5. Lessening the penalty for ineligible dogs running (Section 7.6 – Penalties for Ineligible Dogs Running) – Mike Smith**

*From Mike's email:*

*"I would like to propose the following rule change to rule*

*Section 7.6 – Penalties for Ineligible Dogs Running*

*" Any dog(s) listed on a time sheet in violation of Chapters 3 and 7(d) of the Rules of Racing, sections 6.2(g) and (h) and 7.5 of the Corporate Policies and Procedures and any appendices pertaining to eligibility will cause forfeiture of all NAFA® points earned during the tournament for all dogs on the team(s) on whose time sheet(s) the ineligible dog(s) appear. Team(s) with dog(s) violating these rule(s) will also forfeit any tournament placements. Failure to record a jump height on a C.2 form alone does not trigger the penalties specified in this section and does not require the forfeiting of heats."*

*"When a violation is discovered during a tournament, the offending team will be deemed to have declared itself For Exhibition Only from that point forward. Races completed before the violation is discovered will not be rescored, but all future races will be scored as losses. "*

*Being in flyball for so many years, I can count as many as 25 people who have had to forfeit the entire day (or weekend - in a 2 day tournament) if they accidentally brought out the wrong dog and ran him/her for the first race or accidentally double listed a dog on a time sheet.*

*Many of us who have traveled and spent hundreds of dollars in the event to play flyball have had to forfeit the entire day or weekend because of the penalty in violating the rule. I completely understand the need to check the dogs listed on the sheets and to make sure the right dogs are brought out and raced, but because of 1 person accidentally making a mistake in the beginning of the day, I feel, is much too harsh a penalty to forfeit the entire rest of the day in racing and points for every dog on the team.*

*I would like to propose that if the violation is made during the race in progress and ones that have already finished for the day are forfeited. Placements can still be forfeited for the entire day, but dogs and their handlers, in my opinion, should still be allowed to compete and get tournament points and individual points for the remainder of the tournament.*

*Especially those who have traveled so far to play and then have 1 person accidentally make an honest mistake and have the entire team forfeit is just too harsh. In every experience that I have either personally been a part of or witness to, the mistake is simply that, with no intention of trying to gain an advantage by cheating. I understand that it is a team's responsibility to have everything organized, but the penalty is just too harsh.*

*Much like the original penalty for breaking out of one's division was to forfeit all NAFA points for the dogs involved, this too was deemed as too harsh a penalty and was later changed to allow dogs to still accumulate NAFA points and play the game.*

*I hope you will all consider this change and perhaps lesson the penalty for this violation.*

*Thanks,*

Mike Smith

Regional Director #5

**Recommendations:**

- The Rules Committee read the proposal and agrees that the penalty is too harsh. The recommendation is that when such violation occurs, any in-progress race, and the ones that have already finished will be forfeited, but once the correction has been made, the dog and handler can continue to compete and gain tournament and individual points for the remainder of the tournament.

Section 7.6 – Penalties for Ineligible Dogs Running

1. Any dog(s) listed on a time sheet in violation of Chapters 3, 7(d) of the Rules of Racing, sections 6.2(g), (h), 7.5 of the Corporate Policies and Procedures, or any appendices pertaining to eligibility will cause team(s) with dog(s) violating these rule(s) to:
  - a. Be ineligible for placement(s).
  - b. Forfeit all NAFA points earned prior to the discovery of the violation. Note: after the violation is corrected, affected team(s) are eligible to earn NAFA points.

CHAPTER 7 - WARM-UPS

- (d) Only dogs listed on the team's time sheet are allowed to warm up. Each dog must have a valid CRN and be eligible to compete. Any dog(s) that warm up in violation of this rule will cause:
- (i) Forfeiture of the race.
  - (ii) Forfeiture of the next race for any team(s) on which the dog is listed.

*Dirk motioned to accept the rules committee recommendations. Leerie seconded. Motion carried.*

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**6. NAFA listings of breeds vs. varieties is inconsistent (varieties listed as breeds)**

Prompted by the following request (NAFA often receives these types of request): *Emily Garland that the Miniature Australian Cattle Dog be recognized as a breed in the NAFA database...*

From Section 3.1 – Dog Registration (CRNs)

(b) .... If a breed is claimed, it must be a breed recognized by one or more of the following kennel clubs: American Kennel Club (including Foundation Stock Service), Canadian Kennel Club, United Kennel Club, Mexican Kennel Club, American Rare Breed Association, or American Herding Breed Association.

Recommendation:

- NAFA quite often receives requests to recognize varieties of breeds as separate breeds. The current rule book does not allow this. There are, however, some existing breeds in the database that are considered varieties in the current versions of the breed standards NAFA references in Section 3.1. It is the Rules Committee's recommendation that these breeds remain in the database as grandfathered
- Further, the Rules Committee recommends a note be added to the rule book which specifically states which 'breeds' are actually 'varieties' and are grandfathered, or is a general statement covering the inconsistencies

*Aaron motioned to accept the wording put forth by Karen Oleson (in blue).*

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**"BREEDS**

## CHAPTER 3 – DOGS, TEAMS AND TIME SHEETS Section 3.1 – Dog Registration (CRNs)

(b) The CRN shall identify the breed of the dog or declare the dog a mixed breed. If a breed is claimed, it must be a breed recognized by one or more of the following kennel clubs: American Kennel Club (including Foundation Stock Service), Canadian Kennel Club, United Kennel Club, Mexican Kennel Club, American Rare Breed Association, or American Herding Breed Association. *Varieties listed in the NAFA database as of August 25, 2018 will continue to be recognized as separate breeds. New varieties will not be listed as breeds.* A dog's breed is subject to challenge as provided in section 7.7 of the Corporate Policies and Procedures. A dog's breed designation may be changed at the owner's request once in the lifetime of the dog unless the breed designation has already been changed as a result of a breed challenge."

*Lynda seconded to accept the wording as proposed. Motion carried.*

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### 7. Rule book clean-up:

- a. **Add to Section 6.3 - Format & Schedule - Each time through a round-robin the lanes should be flipped.**  
– Daniel Kirkpatrick (Region 10 RD)

*From Daniel's email: "Quick question for you Neil. I had a club captain contact me and the TD for our regions upcoming tournament. She is questioning the tournament schedule. It's a three-team triple round robin. Each team has three races in the left lane and three races in the right lane. However, when teams race each other the 3 times it's always in the same lane. She is suggesting that it should switch so that one race would be in the opposite lane. I don't see anything in the rulebook stating where lanes need to be changed. I just wanted to confirm with you before I responded back to the club captain and the TD. I do think it would be an easy change in the schedule if it would make everyone happy. "*

*Neil's response: "Great quest Daniel. So, by convention, each time through a round robin the lanes should get flipped.*

*There isn't actually a documented rule on it though. It sounds like the followed the rulebook format, and just repeated it 3 times, which is of course logical.*

*If they can update the schedule, it would be strongly preferred to promote fairness.*

*I am going to take this to the rules committee to get something to added as well."*

#### **Recommendation:**

- The Rules Committee did not come to a majority decision regarding whether this should be added to Section 6.3 – Format & Schedule.

*John motioned to accept the following wording:*

#### **ROUND ROBINS - ALTERNATING LANE ASSIGNMENTS**

##### **Section 6.3 – Format & Schedule**

**c** When running more than one (1) round robin in a division, lane assignments should be reversed for each subsequent round robin

To appear in Appendix B

When running more than one (1) round robin in a division, lane assignments should be reversed for each subsequent round robin.

Aaron seconded. Motioned carried.

**b. Change C.16 Novice review Form: add certified measuring judge to the form as possible supervisor for final assignment. – John Forseth**

*From John's email: With the change in how height cards are measured through an official measuring judge could we include that in the final step of novice measuring.*

*"Final measurement assignment to be completed with a supervisor judge and/or a certified measuring judge."*

**Recommendation:**

- Form C.16 Novice Review Form:  
Change:  
Measuring Training (assignment 3 - must be completed with supervising judge)  
to:  
Measuring Training (assignment 3 - must be completed with supervising judge **or certified measuring judge**)

*Dirk motioned to accept the rules committee recommendations. Emma seconded. Motion carried.*

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**8. Break outs**

Change the breakout rule.

*Dana motioned to accept the following wording.*

**BREAKOUT RULE**

CHAPTER 8 - RULES OF RACING Section 8.1 -

*(i) A team that breaks out two (2) times in a tournament class spanning one (1) day is ineligible for any tournament placement; NAFA® points are still awarded for completed heats;*

*(ii) A team that breaks out three (3) times in a tournament class spanning two (2) days is ineligible for any tournament placement; NAFA® points are still awarded for completed heats;*

*Dirk seconded. Motion carried.*

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Nominating Committee: N/A

Marketing Committee:

- CanAm X T-shirt Design Contest – The board voted on which design would be on this year's CanAm t-shirt. Ashton Norris, with RUSH! in Region 5, was selected as designer. The board thanks all the other designers that entered their submissions.
- 2019 Junior Handler Pin Contest – The junior pin design was selected from one of the t-shirt entries. Emily Weinberg, with Barkaholics in Region 11, was selected as the designer.

Disciplinary Committee:

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
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:

- Diesel – CRN 140788 - Aggression Excusal
- Breaker – CRN 160006 – Aggression Excusal
- Rosie – CRN 180550 – Aggression Excusal

#### **Special Committee Reports**

##### Technology Committee:

- EJS Update: The EJS cases seem to be our largest issue and shipping them across country. Neil has approved the purchase of new cases, hopefully ready for CanAm. Dale Smith and Dave Thomas have had conversations with FarmTek. NAFA EJS are not a profitable item for FarmTek. The current EJS have been around for about 15 years. Components are becoming hard to find and some won't be able to find. And that some will no longer be available. Dave will help with the development of these. FarmTek is willing to work with us and share source code. They own the protocols and communication of the EJS, but they are willing to share the information. But NAFA will need to find someone to build the components. We will have some breathing room once we have a prototype. A remote version of FlyballGeek may also be available to use on the TVs in case there was no WiFi available. There will also still be issues for shipping; presently we have the large cases which run up costs. FarmTek still makes the systems for agility and changing up the pole lengths but won't really affect our dogs. The next step will be creating a road map.
- flyball.org Domain Admin: Schedule discussions with Dale on access to the domain.
- Tournament Scheduling: Schedule discussions with Dale concerning access to the optimizer.

Communications Committee: Communications to be posted via the NAFA website, as well as the NAFA social media presence and NAFANews.

CanAm Steering Committee: Divisions to be published soon. Prizes and awards are being selected. Will be looking for ways to cover line and box judging. Additional discussions included replacements for tournament items. Also ordering additional mats. We should also inventory uprights and slats.

During the NRG Lone Star Ruffnecks July tournament in Houston, Tx, the AKC interviewed several team members. They were very interested in possibly filming at CanAm or carrying the livestream feed on AKC.tv.

Old Business:

New Business:

*John motioned to close the meeting. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.*

Meeting ended at 5:17 pm.