

Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, January 15, 2021

Held via Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 Travel Restrictions

Attendees:

Board Members:
Jonathan Bescher
Steve Corona
Kathy Haney
Dana Hansen
Cindy Henderson
Kurt Johnson
Emma Mak
Lynda Mantler

Leerie Jenkins was unable to attend

Neil Flood Executive Director

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 pm CST

Officers' Reports

Chair's Comments:

Steve welcomed the board members to the meeting.

Executive Director's Comments:

1. NAFA Tournament Timetable for FY 2021.
2. ESPN/AKC TV Update.

There was an announcement a month or so ago that created some confusion. The event posted by ESPN/AKC was in fact NAFA's CanAm event. The name on that announcement was simply an error on ESPN's behalf. They weren't aware of who NAFA is, as they've coordinated a lot of work through AKC and AKC TV. It will be corrected.

We will be working with AKC TV throughout the year, and plan to have a few regular NAFA events livestreamed on their site. They are also planning to livestream the normal racing on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. ESPN is looking to broadcast the NAFA Championship races - recorded Sunday, then packaged to broadcast within a couple days. This may take place in the Indiana Farmers Coliseum next to the West Pavilion where CanAm is held.

There are a lot of logistics we are actively working on, but it's a great opportunity for us to showcase NAFA Flyball.

3. CanAm Update: In the spring or early summer, a survey will be sent to clubs to help determine potential attendance.
4. The specialized measuring ruler being used with the laser will be produced in red as the laser shows up much better on red than white.
5. NAFA tournament timetable.

A key point to remember through this, is that we know not all regions will have the same COVID conditions and restrictions. There can be policies in place that will not apply to others. Many items we have will be recommendations, and they may flex and change across and within regions over the summer.

Jon moved that flyball opens April 1. Lynda seconded. Motion carried.

6. The board went over the document; "Recommendations Document for Phase 1 Opening". Highlights of this document will be shared at the AGM.

Treasurer's Report:

To be covered under the Finance Committee Report

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the December 19, BoD Directors Meeting require one more approval and then are ready to be published.

Karen Oleson joined the meeting as a guest.

Election Committee:

1. Election Results.

Board of Directors:

Emma Mak
Lynda Mantler
Jayne McQuillen

2021 NAFA Officers:

Chairman – Steve Corona
Vice Chairman – Emma Mak
Secretary – Lynda Mantler
Treasurer – Dana Hanson

Clyde Moore Memorial Hall of Fame:

Chaos, Region 7, owned by Stephen McComb, Stumptown Racers
Jack-Jack, Region 2, owned by Gord and Emma Mak, Spring Loaded

Judge of the Year:

Anthony Pirnat

REGIONAL MVPs:

(There were no nominees in Regions 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22)
Regional MVP, Region 4
Shay
Regional MVP, Region 5
Red

Regional MVP, Region 6
Zip
Regional MVP, Region 7
Sonic
Regional MVP, Region 9
Jackson
Regional MVP, Region 11
Blast
Regional MVP, Region 12
Dusty
Regional MVP, Region 14
Joly
Regional MVP, Region 16
Cannon
Regional MVP, Region 18
Kilo
Regional MVP, Region 19
Wink

Steve took the board into an executive session at 6:10 pm.

- Steve took the board out of executive session at 6:22 pm
- The board ratified the election results and elected officers.

The board recessed for a break at 6:22 pm

The board reconvened at 6:35 pm

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee:

1. Extending Apprentice and Provisional Judges' time to complete their assignments.

Jon moved to allow apprentice judges 12 months, and provisional judges 18 months from the date NAFA flyball resumes without restrictions, to complete their assignments. Dana seconded.

During the transitional period novice judges could do table work.

The motion carried without opposition.

Rules Committee:

1. Recommendation for handling Reserved Weekends after reopening.

Emma moved to add the following wording to the rule book. Jon seconded.

- a. *Weekend(s) for which NAFA denies or revokes sanctioning due to reasons outside of a host club's control, not covered in NAFA(r) Rules of Racing and Corporate Policies and Procedures, will be disregarded when calculating two consecutive years.*

This wording will appear under the requirements for establishing and retaining a Reserved Weekend.

Motion carried without opposition.

2. Iron Dog exception for FY 2021.

Jon moved to extend the iron dog exception for 2021. Dana seconded.

The Iron Dog requirement for a dog to earn a point was waived for 2020. With this motion Iron Dog requirements will be waived for 2021 as well.

Motion carried.

Finance Committee:

Dana presented Financial statements and an update of expenditures during the shutdown.

Nominating Committee:

Nothing to report.

Thank you to Curtis Smith and Terry McLean for their assistance during the election cycle.

Marketing Committee:

CanAm Shirt sales:

Lynda provided the number of items and orders that were placed. There were more sales than originally expected and MyLogoShop is working to resolve any ongoing issues with orders shipping to Canada.

Disciplinary Committee:

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date
Bonnie Szoka	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	05/01/2020
Grizzly, 160097	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Preacher, 140875	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Snickers, 150646	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Strut, 110221	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Whisper, 110704	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Prank, 140408	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Ripple, 120746	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Daisy, 120612	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Envy, 120477	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Scout, 110222	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Torch, 100047	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Zonda, 090536	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Style, 090142	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Tonka, 080349	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020

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	1998
Dave Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	1998
Cheryl Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	1998
Jennifer Nelson	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	1998

Review Panel:

No excusals submitted for review.

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee:

Nothing to report.

Communications Committee:

Nothing to report.

CanAm Steering Committee:

Covered earlier in meeting, nothing additional to report.

Ad hoc Committee regarding procedures for Unsportsmanlike Charges:

Lynda presented recommendations from the committee.

The board reviewed recommendations presented by the committee.

Highlights of the recommendations include:

- a. Offer an informal resolution.
- b. Timelines to speed up the entire process.
- c. More transparency so that both parties see and hear what transpires.
- d. Minimize need for in-person hearing.

The board asked questions and made suggestions to the committee. The committee will work on the revisions and present back to the board.

The board recessed at 8:10 pm

The board reconvened at 8:27 pm

Special Measuring Committee:

Cindy presented recommendations from the committee.

Three goals of New Measuring Plan

1. Make measuring easier for competitors, RDs and judges.
2. Make measuring consistent.
3. Ensure fair checks and balances in the overall process.

High Level Summary of Recommendations

1. Change device from wicket to laser and ruler.
2. Create measuring training videos for competitors, judges, and regional directors.
3. Implement a measuring certification program for all judges.
4. Regional directors to be trained and play a larger role in measuring, and work as a team with judges to minimize conflict of interest concerns.
5. Implement mandatory measuring.
 - a. Permanent Measurement obtained after the age of two (2) with 2 matching measurements and is good for the life of the dog.
 - b. On implementation dogs over ten (10) years of age are exempt from mandatory measuring requirements
6. Eliminate the Certified Measuring Judge position/program.
7. Eliminate challenges from competitors and judges.
8. Implement Owner-Initiated Remeasure process.
9. Eliminate need to measure for World Record (assumes the height dog has a permanent measurement).

1. Measuring Equipment

NAFA's official measuring device will be the combination of laser level and specialized ruler.

Competitors should have the option to have measuring done on a suitable table with non-slip surface or on the floor

2. Training videos for Competitors and Judges

- i. NAFA to produce and release videos on four topics:
- ii. Video 1: Explanation of laser level and specialized ruler measuring system to competitors.
- iii. Video 2: Training for competitors on presenting their dog for measuring and the proper stance. Include training tips/advice for teaching your dog a stand
- iv. Video 3: Training for judges on measuring with the new device as well as the proper stand
- v. Video 4: Training for supervising judges on how to teach measuring to other judges.

- i. RDs – Neil had a meeting with the RDs and there were no objections to the RDs having an increased role in measuring. They will need to go through some sort of measuring training – this needs to be refined.
 - 1. Steve – do we feel that RDs and measuring officials will go through the same process? No, because the RD is not going to measure. The supervising judge will train the RD.
 - 2. Emma – Need to have the RD go through this before we can allow judges to measure toward permanent measurement, unless another judge is standing in.
 - a. If an RD is not trained, an acceptable substitute for observing would be a measuring judge or measuring official.
- 3. Mandatory Measuring.
 - i. Board needs to decide if a dog can get two measurements for a permanent measurement in one weekend. Jon and Neil supported that idea. There was no vocal opposition.
- 4. Owner Initiated Remeasure:
 - i. Board supports both measures to take place on the same weekend.
 - ii. The board was in favor of allowing the measuring to be done by the same judge as the original permanent measurement.
 - iii. Once initiated, the OIR must be completed.
 - iv. How often? Consensus is once in the life of the dog.
- 5. Training – for all judges
 - i. Videos – Jon feels we need to have a video of the judge setting up the measuring device.
 - ii. Jon feels once supervising judges are certified, they should be able to certify a judge at a tournament (they would not need to submit video).

Requirements

- i. Will eventually run out of dogs to measure once all height dogs have been measured.
- ii. Perhaps add a provision that states a dog is being measured for certification purposes, not for the database.
- iii. Jon moved to change the requirement from 5 different dogs to 3 different dogs per year. Cindy seconded. Discussion:
 - 1. Steve – Not usually an issue in his region to get multiple dogs to measure.
 - 2. Jon – there will be less people bringing their dogs to measure once dogs have received their permanent measurement. People with height dogs may be reluctant to bring them for measuring after their permanent measurement has been obtained.
 - 3. Steve – Agrees with that for dogs setting the height, but probably not so much with the taller dogs.
 - 4. Emma – 5 in a year doesn't seem like a lot.

Jon withdrew his motion.

New Judges

- i. Will train on the new laser device only.

6. World Records

If the height dog has a permanent measurement at the time the world record is achieved, they do not need to remeasure.

7. Timeline

- i. There will be a one year "training period" for dogs and people and it will start from the time that NAFA racing is back to normal.
- ii. April 1, 2021 - racing resumes and judge certification begins.
- iii. October 1, 2021 - competitors can start getting permanent measurements
- iv. October 1, 2022 - the first possible date that mandatory measuring comes into effect is 12 months after transitional period is over.
 1. Back to normal is when
 - a. All regions are allowed to play
 - b. Borders are open
 - c. No restrictions on large gatherings.

8. Measuring Official

- i. Discussion about if we do or do not need this.
- ii. Kurt - Measuring official should be approved by the board. The board should consider how many judges are in the area.

Jon moved to change the measuring device to the laser level. Cindy seconded.

Jon moved to change the official measuring device effective October 1, 2022 and the new device can be used from October 1, 2021 in lieu of the wicket. Cindy seconded.

Jon withdrew his motions.

Jon moved to accept the recommendations of the special measuring committee. Kurt seconded.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Steve has referred the wording of the special measuring committee recommendations to the rules committee.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Addition of 7th dog slot to C.2 Time Sheet.

Neil presented an idea from a competitor to add a 7th dog to the time sheet during the transitional period from April 1 to October 1, 2021. The dog will only be allowed to warm up. The board could investigate the level of effort required to have that dog allowed to race.

Cindy moved to add a 7th dog to the timesheet. Lynda seconded.

Discussion:

There will be large database ramifications if a 7th dog is recorded in the database. The goal would be to allow more dogs to warm-up. Discussion resulted in a general opinion that the 7th dog could be allowed to warm-up, however, could not participate in a heat and would be required to have a valid CRN. A consensus was not reached.

Cindy withdrew the motion.

Steve: The idea of adding a seventh dog to the C.2 Time Sheet will be deferred to the Rules Committee for further discussion.

Annual General Meeting questions which have been received were discussed.

Neil discussed what he will cover during the AGM portion of the meeting. Board members offered to be available at noon central to help.

Cindy moved to suspend the meeting Jon seconded. Motion passed with no opposition.

The meeting was suspended at 11.13 pm Friday January 15, 2021.