

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, May 2, 2020

Meeting held via Teleconference due to COVID-19 Travel Restrictions

In Attendance:

Jonathan Bescher
Kathy Haney
Cindy Henderson
Leerie Jenkins
Kurt Johnson
Lynda Mantler
Emma Mak
Dana Hanson
Steve Corona

ED Neil Flood
Guest- Karen Oleson

Officers' Reports

Chair's Comments:

- Steve welcomed the board and called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

Executive Director's Comments:

- NAFA Tournament Timetable

Neil presented information showing different areas and their dates of easing restrictions due to COVID-19.

Currently, the board as a whole feels NAFA sanctioning should resume at the same time in all areas.

Many considerations were discussed extensively including, but not limited to:

Regions that span the USA/Canada border.

The lack of ability to practice social distancing due to the nature of our sport.

Clubs that have opted into adjoining regions.

People can get together to play flyball if they wish, they just will not have sanctioning.

While not ideal, revisiting sanctioning month-by-month seems to be the best way to continue.

Cindy moved to suspend sanctioning events to be held through July 31, 2020, Kurt seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

The board will revisit sanctioning in June. Sanctioning remains open for dates in August and beyond.

- RDs

Mike Smith stepped down as Region 5 RD earlier this year, Neil thanked Mike for his service as he has done a tremendous amount of work for the region, NAFA and CanAm.

Neil asked the board to approve Terry Mclean as RD in region 5.

Leerie moved, Dana seconded to approve Terry Mclean as Region 5 RD. The motion passed with no opposition.

Neil acknowledged Terry Mclean's work in Region 19 over many years even after moving out of the region. Terry's appointment to RD in Region 5 left Region 19 without a co-RD. Linda May currently serves as co-RD in Region 19. Dana Nichols has stepped up to co-RD with Linda.

Cindy moved to approve Dana Nichols as co-RD in Region 19, Kathy seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

World Cup –

The 2020 World Cup has been postponed to May 2021.

The board doesn't know yet if all the clubs planning on attending in 2020 are able to attend in 2021.

CanAm –

Neil gave an update on CanAm 2020. Currently there is uncertainty regarding the ability of clubs to participate due to the unknown socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. Neil asked for assistance in reviewing new documents and agreements the State Fair Commission has asked NAFA to sign.

Leerie asked about fixed costs associated with CanAm.

Other than FERN storage costs, there are no fixed costs.

Cindy offered to review the agreements sent by the State Fair Commission.

The board discussed when we need to review CanAm 2020.

Steve suggested surveying club captains to find out if they anticipate being able to travel to CanAm.

The board will meet again in June to review CanAm 2020.

Neil requested the board enter Executive Session 9:25am.

Steve moved the board into executive session at 9:25am.

The board exited executive session at 9:44am.

Bonnie Szoka has been suspended from NAFA for conduct prejudicial to the sport of flyball effective May 1st, 2020. She is eligible to apply for reinstatement after 12 months.

Treasurer's Report: -

Report to be covered during the Finance Committee report.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the 2020 Annual General Meeting and the January 17, 2020 board meeting have been published.

Election Committee:

Terry McClean chairs this committee. There is currently nothing to report.

The board recessed 10:26am.

The meeting resumed at 10:42am

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee: - Jonathan

- Bruce Boulanger – Novice to Apprentice
- Jeremiah Bolton – Apprentice to Provisional – Unanimous approval

Leerie moved to advance Jeremiah from Apprentice to Provisional, Steve seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

- John Fisher – Provisional to Approved
Judges committee – John has not completed his assignments in the recommended amount of time and is currently suspended from judging since his provisional status has expired. The judges committee recommends John be changed to Apprentice and given credit for one assignment completed.
Emma moved to move John to Apprentice status with credit for one assignment completed, Leerie seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.
- Paula Johnson - Provisional to Approved
The Judges committee recommends promotion.
Emma moved to advance Paula from Provisional to Approved, Leerie seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.
- Amy Brubaker Stewart – Recommendation to promote from Approved to Supervising (Requires Board Vote)

Leerie moved to approve Amy as a Supervising Judge, Lynda seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

1. Granting exceptions to judging assignments on a case-by-case basis as a result of tournament cancellations due to COVID-19.

The Judges committee has been granting exceptions to judging assignments on a case by case basis since events have been cancelled.

There was discussion regarding the situation our judges are currently facing as they are not able to get in the ring.

Cindy moved to waive the minimum requirements for keeping judging status for Approved and Supervising judges in NAFA FY 2020, Kurt seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

2. Extension of Apprentice and Provisional assignments also due to COVID-19 tournament cancellations.

Jonathan expressed the committees concern with Apprentice and Provisional judges being able to complete their assignments within the current limits. Discussion followed.

Kurt moved to extend the apprentice and provisional assignments for 12 months, Dana seconded.

Discussion: Leerie noted the board doesn't know when tournament will resume so it's fine to add a year now and revisit if needed.

Motion carried with no opposition.

3. Continuing Education for Judges.

The committee noted that in regions where judges travel, we have a better representation of what NAFA wants. In more isolated areas there are more questions about how some racing situations are handled. NAFA needs to have more meetings with groups of judges to get acknowledgement that the judges are aware of the new rules and provide some background as to why rules were changed and what NAFA expects of the judges. The committee would like to have some type of continuing education.

The board discussed different ways of offering continuing education for judges.

In the past there were judges' chats.

Steve has a continuing education program that he presented to the board. He will provide that to the judges committee for a few ideas.

Jon shared that all judges should at least respond that they acknowledge they have read the (new) rules. This can be done via a google form or other way of keeping track. Cindy, Steve and Leerie voiced their support of this idea.

Ideas for continuing education included, but were not limited to, a quiz, continuing education credits, requiring attendance at a minimum number of chats.

Jonathan moved to have judges take a 10-question quiz at the beginning of each fiscal year. Discussion:

The board discussed ideas to keep judges sharp, included, and engaged.
The judges committee will continue work on a continuing education program.

Jonathan withdrew his motion.

Rules Committee:

1. Box Size Change Proposal.

[A box size proposal was submitted by Jayne McQuillen.](#)

The rules committee is in favor of considering a change to current box dimensions.

There was concern about the need to be specific in dimensions as NAFA doesn't want to see people developing boxes outside of what we want. Thoughts behind the recommendation for eliminating height and depth requirements were shared. There was extended discussion about the ability to house and move boxes that may be very large. A safety concern was expressed about the shape of the pedal if limits were removed.

Cindy moved to change box dimensions to a maximum 36" wide, 24" high and 36" deep, the platform upon which the box loader stands may exceed 36", Leerie seconded.

(e) Boxes:

(i) Shall not exceed 36 inches in width, 24 inches in height from the bottom surface of the box excluding mat grabbing devices/materials and outdoor staking devices;

(ii) The body of the box shall not exceed 36 inches in depth;

(iii) The base of the box upon which the box loader stands may exceed 36 inches in depth;

There was discussion about when the dimensions should become effective as well as some nuances of wording. Leerie strongly recommended the rule be effective as of 10/01/2020.

Cindy amended the motion to include an effective date of 10/01/2020, Leerie accepted the amendment.

The motion carried with no opposition.

2. EJS Use at Events and Fee Proposal.

The rules committee reviewed the proposal John Hendricks submitted and no objections were raised.

The board discussed when these rules are used and the longevity of the proposal as they are based on dollars rather than the number of teams competing. Initially the rule addressed teams and was changed to dollars.

The threshold numbers were discussed as well as how the format affects the length of the racing day, as well as the number of clubs involved in the tournament.

Cindy moved to accept the numbers presented. \$360 for one EJS; \$1080 for two EJS; and \$1980 for three EJS and make it clear those are minimum amounts you will pay for one, two and three EJS, Leerie seconded.

Section 6.5 Electronic Judging Systems

(b) If NAFA® owned EJS are not available, NAFA® will pay up to \$250.00 USD to rent a privately owned EJS, if applicable. NAFA® will repair any damage to the EJS incurred during the actual tournament for which the EJS was rented by NAFA®. Damage reports are to be written by the regional director, and forwarded to the executive director.

(c) NAFA® owned EJS may be rented from NAFA® for \$250.00 USD (provided they are not required at a NAFA® Sanctioned tournament), plus the cost of shipping one way. Clubs using NAFA®'s EJS for demos are liable for all damages that occur during the demo and the shipping from the demo.

(e) Tournaments that generate less than \$360.00 USD in NAFA® fees will pay NAFA® \$360.00 USD to cover shipping costs. Tournaments that generate \$360.00 USD or more in NAFA® fees will receive one set of EJS lights at no additional charge. Tournaments that generate \$1080.00 USD or more in NAFA® fees are eligible to receive two sets of EJS lights at no additional charge. Tournaments that generate \$1980.00 USD or more in NAFA® fees may be eligible to receive three sets of EJS lights.

Emma noted the wording presented includes a reference to CAD in (b). There was discussion in favor of removing the reference to CAD.

Cindy wished to amend her motion to include the removal of the reference to CAD in (b), Leerie accepted the amendment.

The rules committee will work on wording to clarify that clubs will pay the minimum amounts listed in (e) for events that generate less than the required NAFA fees for the number of EJS used.

Motion carried.

The board recessed for a break at 12:35pm

The board reconvened at 12:45pm

3. How to deal with Iron Dog Award because of FY2020 cancellations.

The committee was in favor of waiving the point requirement to all dogs active in FY 2019 and all dogs eligible to race in FY 2020. The committee did not commit to making the decision at this time.

The board discussed how this would work for dogs that are not yet racing and dogs that raced in FY 2019. Kathy suggested adding wording to the rules stating that in FY 2020 each dog eligible to race will receive credit for the year.

Kurt moved to exempt FY 2020 from Iron Dog requirements. Dana seconded.

Leerie asked for clarification of the motion as it pertains to wording that may be added to the rulebook.

Motion Carried

More details about the implementation of waiving of Iron Dog point requirement for qualified dogs for FY2020 will be communicated before the end of the flyball year. Aside from adding a note to the rule book, the board discussed possibilities such as a note on the website's dog points page, adaptation of the iron dog calculator.

4. How to deal with Regional/NAFA/ROC Championship determination because of FY2020 cancellations.

The rules committee was split as to what should be done.

The board discussed at length how best to treat all participants fairly noting that regions hold the bulk of their events at different times during the year.

There was discussion about relaxing the eligibility requirements. The point was raised that changing the eligibility requirements after results are already in would not be best practice.

Leerie moved to cancel NAFA Championships and Regional Championships. Kurt seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.

There was extended discussion and many ideas regarding how to handle FY 2020 Championships.

A straw poll indicates the board unanimously agrees that a NAFA Champion should not be awarded in FY 2020.

Regional Champions

Cindy moved to cancel Regional championships for 2020, Dana seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.

Dana moved to cancel the ROCC championships for 2020 Jon seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.

5. Impact of Cancellations on Election / Delegate Votes.

Jon moved to give approved, provisional and newly approved judges a vote, waiving additional requirements, Cindy seconded. The motion carried with no objections.

Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding how service votes for Judges, Board Members and Regional Directors are awarded. Judges receive a service vote based on their status (good standing) on September 30th.

Delegate Votes – Clubs

Leerie moved to calculate club delegate votes in FY 2020 to be equal to the greater of what they earned last year and this year, Jon seconded. Discussion:

The board discussed the pros and cons of using last year's delegate vote calculation to determine delegate votes for this year.

Motion carried with no opposition.

The board recessed for lunch at 1:55pm

The board reconvened at 3:00pm

6. Measuring Update

Update on new tools for measuring at the withers.

- Measuring boards that can be used with a laser level have been demonstrated at tournaments in several regions. This was well received with many dogs from various clubs being measured. Comments from dog owners were that the measurements obtained were exactly what they measured in conformation under the wicket.
- Measuring on a sturdy table made it easy to manage and the measurement was able to be viewed by spectators without difficulty.
- Steve informed the board of another laser device used to measure horses from the withers. A sample has been ordered for testing, however the supplier has run into procurement issues and it appears that we are still a month or two away from getting a device.
- Do we still need CMJs? Can this be disbanded?

The board discussed the current situation with CMJs and height cards.

There is no change to the Rule Book at this time. This will be reviewed in conjunction with the new measuring device.

- Mandatory Measuring.

There was general agreement from the board that a new measuring device needs to be vetted and in place and people given reasonable time to become accustomed to it, before Mandatory Measuring is implemented.

Finance:

1. Review of Profit and Loss statement.

Dana reported that we have received a proper extension for filing the 990 and presented P & L information comparing FY 2019 to FY 2020.

EJS shipping costs were discussed overall and on a per-shipment basis. There are inconsistencies in weights reported by UPS.

Postage is up due to accounting for awards shipping costs.

Dana expressed the need for a different US bank as the current bank no longer allows us to deposit monies drawn on Canadian banks.

Leerie moved to allow the finance committee to find a new banking institution, Cindy seconded. The motion passed.

The board recessed at 4:13pm for a short break.

The board reconvened at 4:32pm

2. EJS Use at Events and Fee Proposal.
Covered in Rules.

Nominating Committee: - Nothing to report

Marketing Committee:

1. Awards impacted by COVID-19. i.e. Iron Dog

The committee is in favor of waiving Iron Dog requirements for FY 2020

The subject was addressed under Rules

2. T-Shirt (CanAm) and Jr. Handler Pin Contests

We are expecting additional monies from 2019 CanAm apparel sales.

- i. We will get an additional \$3000 minus judge/volunteer shirts so we'll be getting about \$2400

Jr. Handler Pin Contest –

A new pin design is developed every year so the contest will be held.

T-Shirt Design Contest –

The decision as to whether to hold the T-Shirt design contest will be made at the next board meeting in conjunction with the CanAm scheduling discussion.

Leerie posed the idea of having the CanAm T-shirt contest and t-shirts even if CanAm is not held. The Logo Shop needs the t-shirt design by July 1 in order to produce the shirts for CanAm. There was a generally positive attitude toward the idea.

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
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

Gimli will be removed from the list due to the age of the dog.

Review Panel:

1. Xaris – CRN 190232 - Aggression Excusal
No appeal
2. Francesca – CRN 170749 – Aggression Excusal
No appeal
3. Raider – CRN 150150 – Appeal of Excusal – Excusal expunged.
Steve recused himself from the excusal and appeal process. After review and talking to the judge, the excusal was expunged.

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee:

1. Update on next generation EJS.

- a. Steve reported the latest update is on the passing trees, start/finish poles. Dave Thomas has the start/finish poles pared down to a single pole on each side. It opens up the vision of the lanes and continues to be very cost effective, light in weight and easier to ship.
 - b. Jon reported Dave is working on reducing the amount of hardware required for the EJS and the setup will be much easier.
 - c. The new light trees have been very well received in R3
2. Website improvements.

Cindy brought to the board's attention some website pages that seem abandoned and out of date.

There was discussion about removing pages that are no longer active, however, it was pointed out that some of the information on these pages is historic and used for reference.

Minor changes can be made to the website when NAFA is informed of the changes needed. To control costs, major changes are not being made at this time.

Communications Committee: - Emma

Emma updated the board on development of ideas for the Blog.

CanAm Steering Committee:

Covered earlier.

Ad hoc Committee regarding procedures for Unsportsmanlike Charges:

Lynda pointed out three items that need to be addressed in the procedures.

- 1) Timelines for the entire process.
- 2) Transparency for all parties, including the complainant.
- 3) The ability to appeal.

Lynda is working with section 5 of the rulebook and has added items to it. She will share this document with Steve and Leerie for review and input.

Old Business: - None to report

New Business:

1. The "right" to reserved dates now that hosts are missing their tournaments. There may be some tournament hosts that didn't even try to sanction events this year.

Steve recognized Karen. Karen explained a club must fail to host an event in two consecutive years before they lose a reserved date. NAFA accepts sanctioning applications up to two years in advance of the tournament date. If a club missed their event in 2020, there is nothing to keep them from submitting sanctioning for 2021 and sometimes 2022 so there should be no concern about losing their reserved weekend.

Karen feels clubs may refrain from submitting sanctioning forms well in advance of their event as there is a requirement to list a head judge.

The board discussed the advantages to naming a head judge while noting that the judge on the sanctioning form is not required to judge the event.

Jonathon moved to add TBD (To Be Determined) to the judges portion of the online sanctioning application. Lynda seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

2. Junior Handler Recognition Program. – Steve
Steve shared ideas and concepts for developing a more extensive Junior Handler Recognition Program.

Neil asked Steve to take the board into executive session.
The board entered executive session at 5:36pm.

The board left executive session at 5:57pm

The board discussed RD procedures.

Next meeting date will be discussed moving forward. We'll start planning for September.

There will be a Zoom meeting in June.

Steve ended the meeting at 6:02pm