

Agenda

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting – September 7, 2019 – 8:00 AM

La Quinta Downtown North 2610 Westinghouse Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27604

Present: Steve Corona
Dirk Elber
Kathy Haney
Dana Hanson (via phone)
John Hendriks
Leerie Jenkins
Emma Mak
Lynda Mantler
Aaron Robbins
Neil Flood

In Attendance: Karen Oleson
Dave Thomas joined the meeting at 10:50 am

Officers' Reports

Steve called the meeting to order at 8:44 am.

Chair's Comments:

- Welcome
 - o Steve welcomed the board and thanked them for taking time to travel to the meeting. Dave Thomas will join us later to give us an update on the new EJS.
- Moment of silence for Geoff Brown
 - o The board held a moment of silence in remembrance of Supervising Judge Geoff Brown from Region 9 who passed away recently.

Executive Director's Comments:

- RD Updates (Neil)
 - o Jane Kline recently notified Neil that she is interested in resigning as region 14 RD.
 - o Daniel Kirkpatrick is interested in stepping down from **his** RD position in region 10. **He** has been looking for a replacement and has found a few people in the region that might be willing to Co-RD.
 - o Linda May has been appointed temporary Co-RD in R19, Neil asked for the board to approve Linda as a permanent Co-RD.

John moves to approve Linda May as Co-RD for R19. Leerie seconds the motion.
The motion carries with no opposition.

- o Courtney Voth has been appointed temporary Co-RD in R8. Neil asked for the board to approve Courtney as a permanent Co-RD.

John moves to approve Courtney as Co-RD in R8. Leerie seconds the motion.
The motion carries with no opposition.

- Emma Mak has been appointed as a temporary Co-RD in R2. Neil asked the board to approve Emma as a permanent Co-RD.

John moves to approve Emma as Co-RD in R2. Leerie seconds the motion.

Aaron asked which Co-RD they should go to with questions or issues during tournaments. Neil explained that Emma will take on duties such as seeding and schedule review while Suzanne will take on RD duties at tournaments. In regions with Co-RD's only one person will have official RD capacity and make final decisions at tournaments.

The motion carries with no opposition.

- FCI World Cup
 - Approval for FCI World Cup entry was sent to seven clubs, unfortunately one club is unable to attend. Four clubs from the USA and one club from Canada will compete at the event in addition to Fur Fun who earned an automatic entry to the event as defending champions. Spring Loaded (Canada) may send two teams.
 - Neil will price jerseys for the competitors from NAFA.
- Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge
 - Purina is reinstating flyball to the Incredible Dog Challenge. They will feature the top 2 clubs from 2018 NAFA CanAm and top two U-Fli clubs from their championships.
 - NAFA will supply lights for the flyball portion of the challenge. Races will run under NAFA's false start rules and U-Fli's jump height rules. The flyball portion is scheduled to be run outdoors, however, accommodations have been made to move flyball indoors in the event conditions are not safe to run outdoors. Neil will check on insurance for the EJS at a board members request.
 - Steve Corona will be the NAFA liaison at the event in St. Louis on Sept. 27-28, 2019
- Request for Multibreed Point Report
 - Neil received a request for a Multibreed Point Report. Emma indicated it will be quite easy to create. The report should be active sometime soon and feature individual dog rankings of Multibreed points overall and by year.
- AKC TV opportunities & ESPN/AKC follow up
 - NAFA was approached by AKC in June for the opportunity to record a tournament. AKC recorded and broadcast the July Houston event and it went very well. In conjunction with the broadcast of the July event, a live demo was broadcast as part of ESPN's Dog Day event. Special thanks to Cindy Henderson and her club who performed the demo in Bristol. They were the closest club to the venue.
 - It was noted that the announcers really didn't understand flyball.
 - Cindy and Neil were later approached by AKC to livestream more flyball events over the next 12 months and have requested leadership members to travel to New York to discuss the possibility. Sharon Anderson also volunteered to attend as she has an excellent knowledge of the AKC organization.
 - Neil is researching which US events are the largest and well-spaced throughout the year. Events in Canada may prove to be difficult to livestream due to labor restraints and regulations.
- Other
 - Annie will purchase a new NAFA printer for awards. The current printer was purchased in 2013 and is failing.
 - Measuring Information from RDs

- Neil asked RDs to gather opinions from competitors in their regions regarding the current measuring and expected changes to measuring.
 - Neil expressed his appreciation for the work the RDs did in gathering and submitting feedback and discussed the summarized information with the board. General trends were noted and discussed.
- Measuring Videos – (Dave Thomas in attendance)
- John demonstrated how a laser level could be used in conjunction with a “measuring card” to measure dogs and presented video of dogs being measured with a level and card.
 - Dave showed an example of a digital readout (DRO) device that could be used in conjunction with the level instead of a card.
 - John reports that sample dogs he worked with seemed relaxed when measured
 - The board was supportive in pursuing this method of measurement.
 - Emma presented a stationary wicket to show the board as a potential measuring device.
 - Emma presented video of a small dog being measured with the wicket which is currently used in Whippet racing.
 - The board discussed the possibility of pursuing this method and felt it was a simple device that is worth looking into as a possible alternative to the current wicket.

Treasurer’s Report: (Dana)

- Dana presented the Profit and Loss statement.
- Current CRN registration numbers follow last year’s numbers.
- Shipping costs continue to increase.
 - UPS and Purolator have increased their shipping rates each year.
 - Shippers have missed shipments, costing NAFA extra shipping to rush EJS to events. NAFA could request refunds for those shipments.
 - One suggestion is to review the criteria for receiving a 2nd set of lights. It is noted that the current threshold in criteria was not changed when NAFA fees changed. Neil suggested sending this review to the finance committee.
- Participant award costs have risen
 - NAFA could save some cost by allowing participants to opt-out from receiving awards for their dogs as some participants are not interested in receiving them.

John moves to allow people to opt-out of receiving pins/plaques/certificates, Dana seconds.

- Emma will check the database to see how much is involved in allowing dog owners to opt-in or opt-out of receiving awards. Emma will research how difficult it will be to set up the database so participants can opt-in or opt-out of awards when registering new CRNs and change that later.

Motion passes with no opposition.

- Bad Debt is an NSF check that was replaced.
- CanAm numbers were explained as the income and expenses straddle our fiscal years.
- Without CanAm, it is advisable to revisit fees which have remained static though other costs continue to increase. Discussion to revisit fees was moved to Finance.

Secretary’s Report:

- Minutes from the April meeting and three conference calls were approved and published since the April meeting.

Election Committee:

- Update on current election nominees.
 - o Currently have one HOF nominee and six MVP nominations.
 - o No nominations have been received for the board.
 - o No Judge of Year nominations have been received as of this report.
 - o Nominations close September 30th.
 - o Reminder posts on Facebook and NAFANews have been regularly scheduled to increase nominations.

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee:

Bruce Boulanger, Houston TX - New Novice
 Lana Luhring, Center Point IA - New Novice
 Chris Derby, Riverview FL - New Novice

Alex Zdanowski, Regina SK – Novice to Apprentice

Paula Johnson, Hamilton ON - Apprentice to Provisional
 Dirk moves, Aaron 2nd to advance Paula to Provisional judge. Motion passes with no opposition.

Kalip Fraser, Lunenburg NS - Apprentice to Provisional
 Dirk moves, Aaron 2nd to advance Kalip to Provisional judge. Motion passes with no opposition.

Bryan Roper, Sandston VA - Provisional to Approved
 Dirk moves, Leerie 2nd to advance Bryan to Approved judge. Motion passes with no opposition.

Jeff Wright, Tucson AZ - Provisional to Approved
 Kathy moves, Leerie 2ⁿ to advance Jeff to Approved judge. Motion passes with no opposition.

Gwen Ahlbrecht, Phoenix AZ - Provisional to Approved
 Dirk moves, Aaron 2nd to advance Gwen to Approved judge. Motion passes with no opposition.

Mary McElligott, Fairport NY - Provisional to Approved
 Emma moves, Dirk 2nd to advance Mary to Approved judge. Motion passes with no opposition.

- Requested Judging Exceptions
 - o The Judges Committee received two requests for exceptions to the minimum judging requirements. The Judging Committee unanimously recommends granting each exception.
 - Exception One: A request to grant an exception to the minimum judging requirements in 2019 due to extended hospitalization.

John moves, Dirk 2nd to grant Geoff Brown an exception to the 2019 minimum judging requirements. Motion passed with no opposition

- Exception Two: A request to grant a two-week extension to meet the 2019 minimum judging requirements. Exception is requested due to a missed judging assignment caused by unexpected work travel.

Dirk moves, John 2nd to grant Dale Smith a two-week extension to meet the 2019 minimum judging requirements. Motion passes with no opposition.

Rules Committee:

- Request for clarification of rules regarding a dog carrying a tug across the start line – Steve Miller, Region 7

Rules Committee Recommendation:

This rule applies only to the handler (i.e., when the handler swings/drops the tug over the start/finish line). It doesn't apply to the dog carrying the tug. This is consistent with the situation where a dog reruns carrying a ball down the course, drops the ball on the course, but retrieves the correct ball from the box. Both are legal runs.

A majority of the the Rules Committee thought this rule, as written, was clear. Some felt it could be clarified with judges and RDs. The RC recommendation is to leave the rule unchanged at this time.

Leerie moves to accept rules committee recommendation. Dirk seconds the motion.

There were questions about the wording of (h), stating the word "their" could be unclear. John suggests the rules committee work on rewording (h) to clarify the wording and communicate the intent to the RD's and judges. Discussion followed regarding how the word "their" is construed in different circumstances.

Motion carries with no opposition.

John moves to send this to rules to revisit the wording for section (h), Lynda seconds the motion.

The Regional Directors and judges will be advised of the intent of the rule to be as recommended by the Rules Committee.

Motion carries with no opposition.

Steve welcomed Dave Thomas to the meeting at 10:52 am.

- Proposal for changes to the Multibreed Class – Lyndsy Dvorak, Region 21

Rules Committee Recommendation:

The BOD has considered both suggestions before.

1. Bonus points for Multibreed: Multibreed currently has an additional titling program, so effectively all Multibreed runs are getting double points (the are earning regular points for titles, plus the same points count for Multibreed titles). The Open Class has the benefit of picking a height, so the Regular Class was targeted for receiving bonus points, to bring its appeal in line with the other classes.

2. Expanding titles for Multibreed beyond 30K: the board is very conscious of not encouraging dogs to keep running flyball when it is no longer safe to do so. Typically, dogs do not get as many opportunities to run the Multibreed class as much as Regular, so to set titles at higher amounts may be encouraging dogs to be raced when they should be retired.

The Rules Committee/BOD continues to appreciate suggestions of how to encourage participation in the Multibreed class. A reminder that, starting in the new fiscal year, the requirement for Regional Points to be awarded for a class will move from four teams to three teams. This will hopefully encourage more Regional Championships participation for Multibreed. The board will also consider a proposal to expand the reports for Multibreed points.

Aaron moves to increase multibreed titles to 50,000 points. Kathy seconds the motion.

Aaron suggests awarding pins at 30,000, 40,000 and 50,000 points without awarding plaques. Award pins instead.

The motion passes with Aaron, Kathy, Dirk and Lynda in favor, John, Leerie, Dana and Emma voting against. Steve voted in favor to break the tie vote.

The Marketing Committee is tasked with looking into what specific awards will be created.

- Request for recognition of Miniature Australian Shepherds as a separate breed from Miniatures American Shepherds – Dianna Jaynes, Region 20

Rules Committee Recommendation:

Currently there is a breed listing in the NAFA database for 'Miniature American/Australian Shepherd'. This was changed from 'Mini Australian/North American/Mini Am Shepherd' at the January 2019 board meeting, as the 'Miniature North American Shepherd' breed name no longer exists. 'Miniature American Shepherd' and 'Miniature Australian Shepherd' are currently different names for the same breed, but are recognized by different kennel clubs.

Currently the Rule Book states:

"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."

The AKC recognizes only 'Miniature American Shepherd'. Currently pups from the same litter may declare themselves as either 'Miniature American Shepherd' or 'Miniature Australian Shepherd'. If they wish to register with AKC, it must be as a Miniature American Shepherd. The only kennel club listed that recognizes both is ARBA (American Rare Breed Association). Karen Oleson spoke with Robert Slack, the Director of ARBA, and he was in agreement that they are different names for the same dog. Both names are listed as different breeds with ARBA so that folks who own the dog and have it registered as AKC as a Miniature American Shepherd can also be registered as Miniature Australian Shepherds with ARBA.

The Rules Committee recommends that the breed listing not be divided into two separate breeds at this time. The breed listing recognizes both names and can be read as 'Miniature American Shepherd OR Miniature Australian Shepherd', and so therefore is not forcing a competitor to compete under a different name from that of the kennel club they have chosen to register with. It's NAFA's policy that dogs from the same litter not be classified as separate breeds (apart from the varieties grandfathered as of August 25, 2018).

Leerie moves to accept the Rules Committee recommendation to keep the breed names together. Aaron seconds. The motion carries with no opposition.

Finance:

- Review of current financial statements.
 - o Dana presented a report which showed what revenues and expenses would be for the current year if fees were different for CRN's and NAFA fees, and without a few other non-reoccurring expenses.
 - o The report indicates raising registration fees may be a good way to reduce losses as it is a one-time fee that people pay.
 - o Dana does not anticipate changes next year that will reduce losses next year.
 - o It is also suggested that there may be ways to reduce expenses instead of raising fees.
 - Kathy mentions that all regions don't know that they can carry lights outside of the large shipping crates.

Leerie moves to raise NAFA recording fees and registration fees \$5. Motion dies for lack of a second.

Dana moves to increase CRN fees and club registration fees to \$40 as of 10/1/2019. Dirk seconds. Motion passes with no opposition.

Dana moves to increase NAFA recording fees for 2-day events to \$36 and 1-day events to \$24 and \$12 to be effective 01/01/2020. John seconds the motion.

- Emma notes the rate is a return to prior fee rates.
- Continued increases in shipping costs and increases in the costs of awards.

The motion carries with no opposition.

Nominating Committee:

Nothing to report.

Marketing Committee:

- CanAm T-shirt design winner.
 - o Merilee Payne, region 5, submitted the winning design.
- Junior Handler Pin winner.
 - o Elizabeth Olson submitted the winning design.

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
-----------------	------------	--	--------------

Review Panel:

- Jet – CRN 160704 - Aggression Excusal
- Karma – CRN 170397 – Aggression Excusal – currently under appeal
- Gordie – CRN 170591 – 2nd Aggression Excusal
- Lwaxana – CRN 170596 – Aggression Excusal
 - o Follow-up with Lwaxana’s owner will occur as discipline committee members were on holiday when the excusal was submitted.
- Tilt – CRN 140879 – Aggression Excusal

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee:

- Presentation by Dave Thomas- Next Generation EJS
 - o Light Trees
 - Background: Farmtek is not interested in manufacturing NAFA EJS due to the low volume and availability of parts.
 - Dave volunteered to create a prototype at no cost (excluding parts).
 - Started with a vertical tree (left/right) which didn't work well, so switched to a horizontal presentation (left/right)
 - Uses a battery readily available for purchase
 - The tree uses the low-cost raspberry PI/Linux (Stretch)
 - Three prototypes were built.
 - Dave demonstrated the final result side by side with the current EJS light tree.
 - There is great flexibility in how to program the lights themselves and how they will look.
 - There will be ways of securing the light tubes onto the square bars.
 - The trees have been tested at multiple events in the east and Midwest.
 - Dave will make the cases for the five trees he is building. They will be used to replace Farmtek trees as they fail.
 - o Next Generation EJS.
 - Ideas include
 - Line Judges entering information on a tablet instead of on paper
 - Real time scoring posted to a website and the elimination of needing people at the head table.
 - The parts of our current systems that allow the level of timing accuracy are no longer manufactured. Dave continues to look for solutions to this.
 - o The board thanked Dave for his hard work and research.
- Update on progress of online sanctioning and expanding those who can run the NAFA optimizer
 - o Emma had hoped to have it finished by this meeting and expects it to be complete by November 1. The first step of simplifying data entry for online sanctioning by removing unnecessary information (such as street addresses) from public reports has been completed.
 - o Gord and Emma will work with Karen to get Karen access to the optimizer program in the upcoming week.

Communications Committee:

- [NAFABlog](https://nafaflyball.com/NAFABlog/) - Presentation of process for publishing articles of interest to the NAFA community
 - o Emma reports Clubs Recruiting or Offering Lessons' profiles on the NAFABlog have been very well received.

CanAm Steering Committee:

Neil received a request from Sam Ford to recognize Geoff Brown at CanAm by making the Pit area the Geoff Brown Racing Center this year. Amanda Brown liked the idea and a banner will be made in the DogGoneFast club colors.

T-Shirt store – trying to get that online

Entries are down as expected after last years 10th anniversary. We have fewer rings to set up. The awards budget is reflective of what it was the two years prior to 2018.

Livestreaming – We will not pursue a livestream vendor at this late date.

Box Judges – The team that is leaving the ring will be asked to box judge the next race. This single item will save several thousand dollars in cost. NAFA appreciates the cooperation of all participants in understanding and helping as this event is for all NAFA competitors to enjoy.

New tape to cover all rings was purchased this year. To save storage costs, we eliminated our conditioned storage. Tape from last year was stored with our other unconditioned storage items. .

No mats were ordered for this year.

All processes (volunteers, vendors etc.) need to be documented. There is good documentation of ring setup available to multiple people.

Payments – We expect to have payments entered into Quickbooks before the event so that checks(chèques) can be written and distributed quickly at the event.

Ad hoc Committee regarding procedures for Unsportsmanlike Charges:

- Rewrite of Sections 5.2 – 5.5 of the rulebook - Aaron
 - o Aaron would like feedback and direction from the board in further developing this section. He would like to create a way to keep complaints from being competitor on competitor.
 - Competitor could approach the tournament RD first.
 - Possibly handle complaints at the tournament and not have to go to the board.
 - Steve entered the board into Executive Session at 11:30am Dave excused himself from the room.
 - o The board left executive session at 1:01pm
 - o The board discussed the nuances of section 5.2-5.6 in executive session.

Old Business:

- Discussion regarding mandatory measuring.
 - o Steve gave the floor to Neil for comment
 - o Neil indicated as mentioned in comments from the RD's reviewed earlier, it is prudent to put mandatory measuring on hold at this time.

Dirk moves to put mandatory measurement on hold, John seconds.

The board will continue to look at other options for measuring and will not move toward mandatory measuring until those options are explored.

Motion carries.

- o The board reviewed the communication document presented.

Emma moves to put to delegate vote lowering the jump height minimum to 6" and the jump heights to -6", Lynda seconds.

- o These will be two separate questions.
- o The timing of implementation was discussed. Would the new heights become effective mid-year or 10/01/2020 as changing the heights mid-year could affect Regional Championships?

- It was agreed that the delegate question should be kept very simple.
 - Should the minimum jump height be lowered from 7" to 6"?
 - Should the jump heights be set at a minimum of 6 inches lower than the height at the withers of the smallest dog on the team?

Motion carries.

- Micromelic Achondroplasia breed dogs
 - The board received a request to create an award recognizing micromelic achondroplasia breed dogs.
 - Discussion followed.
 - The board feels it is a subject that requires additional investigation and input from veterinary professionals before making any decisions

New Business:

- Lynda Mantler – Invitations for CanAm Competitors
 - Lynda presented an idea to create a flyer for CanAm to be emailed to NAFA clubs. This idea was well received and the board looks forward to seeing a Save the Date and flyer in January 2020.
- Lynda Mantler – Sanctioning Activities at NAFA Events
 - Lynda mentions that when information is obtained by groups at NAFA sanctioned events (such as university studies and filming documentaries) it could be a good idea for NAFA to know what information is being obtained and how it is being used. Would it be a good idea for NAFA to oversee this? There isn't much of this happening now but it could be beneficial to hear back from groups after information is taken. There was not substantial support to pursue this and it was noted we currently have little oversight to what is happening in the building that the host club rents.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm

DavCommunications Committee: NAFABlog
www.nafaflyball.com/NAFABlog

Purpose: Develop a blog featuring regularly published articles of interest to the NAFA Community. New article(s) (three or four at a time) to be published at least quarterly and publicized through NAFA's social media, NAFANews and website

Main Writers: Dede Crough, Jayne McQuillen, guest bloggers

Main Editors: Dede Crough, Jayne McQuillen, Emma Mak

Blog Webmaster: Emma Mak (Kim Davis also has access)

Possible Topics:

- NAFA Specific
 - Regional Champ Profiles
 - Profile on Annie Taylor as well as other board members/employees of NAFA.
 - Measuring Tips from a CMJ – would be willing to write something that makes suggestions to handlers for measuring their dog
 - Tactics that clubs are using to successfully get people into the sport

This category of topic is where we need to be careful as we need to be sure it is in line with what the board is working on
- Tips for New Flyballers / Tournament Tips
 - What to expect at your first tournament
 - Travel tips
 - Things I wish I knew before my first tournament
 - Recipes for tournament food
 - Traveling to a tournament – tips
- Other
 - Clubs Recruiting of Offering Lessons – profile of the club and what they are looking for
 - Health, fitness, rehab

Current Status: The NAFABlog is live and currently features a small article by Paula Johnson – ‘What is Flyball?’ A Category has been created called ‘Clubs Recruiting of Offering Lessons’ which features profiles of 18 clubs (currently) that are willing to bring new people into NAFA flyball, divided by region.

Request for clubs to volunteer to be featured have been published on NAFANews and NAFA FB page with good response. There is a google form that clubs can fill out, or they can submit their write up to CC@flyball.org.

Still need clubs from Region 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18. Possibly a request directly to RDs from the ED for help getting clubs from these regions featured could help.

Process for Publishing Articles on NAFABlog:

The Communications Committee (CC) will form a 4 person ‘NAFABlog Group’ (suggest Dede Crough, Cindy Henderson, Jayne McQuillen, Emma Mak). The NAFABlog Group shall:

1. START OF QUARTER: Coordinate quarterly to compile (or update) a ranked list of timely topics based on NAFA's overall promotions and calendar (may seek input from CC and/or NAFA flyball community – perhaps through a Facebook poll).
2. Submit the ranked list to be approved by the CC (which includes ED and Chair of BOD).
3. From that list, assign authors from within the CC (or seek out possible authors within the flyball community and/or experts in the topic field).
4. WEEK BEFORE DEADLINE: Review any articles & accompanying materials and determine whether BOD approval and/or ED approval is needed for NAFA specific topics.
6. BY DEADLINE: Approved article(s) will be posted by the Blog webmaster. Notification will be sent to the NAFA webmaster for promotion on www.flyball.org, NAFA webpage, NAFANews, Twitter.

Requirements from BOD:

1. Approve the above process.
2. Determine preferred dates for publication/first deadline.

Rules Committee:

- Request for clarification of rules regarding a dog carrying a tug across the start line – Steve Miller, Region 7

"I would like to request clarification/tightening the wording of the rule 8.3.h-h which says, "(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))."

At the Region 7 tournament this past weekend this came up when a dog went to rerun and carried its tug across the start line. The dog then dropped the tug before the first jump and continued on and completed a clean rerun. I, as the head judge, did not flag the dog's run. I handler then questioned why I did not flag them dog and my reply was that the dog didn't violate any rules carrying the tug across the line. Later in the day our RD pulled me aside and explained that the above mentioned rule also applied to a dog carrying a tug across the line. Another head judge in our region has interpreted this rule to pertain to a dog also. I would like to request clarification to specify if this rule pertains to dogs also or if it only pertains to a handler.

*Thank you!
Steve Miller
Region 7"*

- Proposal for changes to the Multibreed Class – Lyndsy Dvorak, Region 21

“I would like to propose a change to the Multi class points. Currently, only the regular class receives the bonus points for winning the division, I would like to propose that the bonus points extend to the multibreed division as well.

Also, currently the multi titles run out at 30k, I would like to propose to extend the multi points titles mimic the current award structure through 100k in the multibreed class, including plaque and pin. We have an 11.5 year old lab on our team that is only 900 points from her 40k multi point and we believe she deserves it.

Thank you for your consideration!

--

*Lyndsy Dvorak
On The Flipside Flyball Team”*

- Request for recognition of Miniature Australian Shepherds as a separate breed from Miniatures American Shepherds – Dianna Jaynes, Region 20

“NAFA Board Presentation

Miniature Australian Shepherd

versus

Miniature American Shepherd.

I am requesting that these two breeds be seperated in your NAFA listing on the NAFA data base. Please take the time to go through this information I am providing with regards to the above breeds. I do completely understand it is not an easy undertaking in seperating these two breeds. Over the years there are many dogs that are registered with NAFA for competition. Although this change will not effect many, for others it is detrimental to the breed as well as our breeding programs by combining these two breeds. Although NAFA does not go into the politics behind the scenes I will do my best to explain this position for better understanding in this request.

There are many breeds currently listed with NAFA that are not recognized by AKC or CKC.

I have included breed standards for numerous organizations that register and except Miniature Australian Shepherds and Miniature American sheperds. Most of my comparisons will be made between MASCA and AKC as these are the two that I do know the best.

I will list them below so you better understand what goes where when reviewing these pages.

The biggest registeries and most commonly used registries for Miniature Australian Shepherds to date are:

- 1. MASCA (Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America)*
- 2. IMASC (International Miniature Australian Shepherd Club)*
- 3. ASDR (American Stock Dog Registry)*
- 4. NSDR (National Stock Dog Registry, which is the oldest and the founding registry for all Australian Shepherd varieties)*

The biggest registries for Miniature American Shepherds are:

- 1. NAMASCUSA (parent club for and no longer registering dogs)*

2. AKC (American Kennel Club – recognized new breed))

3. CKC (Canadian Kennel Club – still a listed new breed)

4. UKC (United Kennel Club)

Number one thing to point out is that the Miniature American Shepherd when excepted by AKC but had to change there name and also gave up most of there heritage as well. This was as per AKC and USASA as well as the Australian Shepherd breeders influences to ensure that they had a new name and a new heritage and could not be linked together with the Australian Shepherd in any way. One of the arguments made was that USASA held the rights to the Australian name and that no one else was able to use this name. However when challenged the claim was unfounded. NAMASCUSA then did a vote of the members of what the new name should be so they could be recognized as a NEW BREED with a NEW NAME. I emphasize this.

I have included the breed standards for Both breeds in folder 1 for each breed. I seperated them for easier reference of designation of breed.

I present a couple variences within the two breeds. There are many to point our but these are the main ones.

Miniature American Shepherds have a top end and a bottom end DQ (Dsqualification) for height for males and females both.

Miniature Australian Shepherds DO NOT have a DQ at the top end. Measurements should be faulted to the degree of variance, however, quality is not to be sacrificed in favor of size

There are characteristics that are listed fairly similar and others that are compete worlds apart when you are going through these breed standards.

As listed within NAFA rule book Miniature Australian Shepherd is an exceptable Breeds by ARBA as well as ABHA. Please see links below for verification as well as attached photo that seperates the breed with ARBA and AHBA doesn't even list Miniature American Shepherd.

<http://www.ahba-herding.org/MainPage.php?AreaName=BreedList>

Miniature American isn't even listed on this one

<https://www.arba.org/Pages/gallery-group-1-breeds.htm>

You will have to scroll down but they are listed separately

If you want to compare These breeds to other breeds you also have currently listed within NAFA setting the history for this to be done. Belgian Shepherds. In Canada they are listed all as one breed under Belgian Shepherds. Within the US are all seperated.

1. Belgian Shepherds,

2. Belgian Laekenois,

3. Belgian Malinois,

4. Belgian Shepherds (groenendael)

Someone has taken the time within NAFA to sperate these breeds in the past in the current database. With that being said someone could also take a litter and seperate this litter into 4 different categories and compete in open with 4 litter mates. This was brought to my attention as a concern.

The breeds again that you have listed that would be most like what we are currently going through with our breed split would be :

1. Norfolk Terrier

2. Norwich Terrier

These are listed as separate breeds. Same breeds and genetic gene pool in this case are the same but split because one has drop ears and the other prick ears. They are also separated within NAFA data base. Someone could take litter mates and list them as two separate breeds.

Another breed designation that isn't very clear and could be listed in 4 categories based on handlers discretion is

1. Parson Russel Terrier

2. Jack Russel Terrier

3. Jack/Parson Russel/Terrier

4. Jack/Russel/Terrier

In this example as well one litter could be listed in at least three if not 4 different categories.

NAFA also has rare breeds listed and recognized even though they are not recognized by AKC or CKC few examples are listed below:

1. Alaskan Klei Kai

2. American Pit Bull Terrier

3. English Bulldog

4. Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog

5. Shiloh Shepherd

6. White Shepherd etc.

My daughter and I have personally competed against all of these dogs as a Miniature Australian Shepherd in Rare Breed.

Miniature Australian Shepherds are still classified as a rare breed and are NOT recognized by CKC, AKC or UKC. Three of your biggest known registries of all dog breeds.

Miniature American Shepherds are recognized by all four of these organization MASCA, IMASC, ASDR or NSDR. Which are the breed registries for Miniature Australian Shepherds. One of the key points however that I want to point out is that MASCA, IMASC and ASDR all do not recognize Miniature American Shepherds. Why am I so admit about point this out. It means a great deal to myself as well as many other breeders/handlers and owners that do compete and have dogs listed with NAFA.

I will not have you turn to the code of ethics we all had to agree and abide by for each of our registries when we registered our dogs. In these code of ethics and bylaws we are not aloud to compete under any other name other than an Australian Shepherd variety. If we CHOOSE to compete or register our dogs as Miniature American Shepherds, our papers will be

pulled. They cannot physically take our papers away however it means anything any of my dogs produce with these dogs listed and competing with NAFA cannot be registered as Miniature Australian Shepherds. In esence my hand is being forced into registering my dogs as Miniature American Shepherds and my rights and priveliges of these registries will be taken away. This is a great hit and an econimcal loss of income and value of my dogs. Just by changing the name as it has been done. It is detrimental to the breed itself. It limits the gene poll and this is being done without consent or knowledge of this. I have never been contacted of the change and only stumbled upon it when at a tournament. I asked for my dogs name to be

changed to Miniature Australian Shepherd at the tournament and the request was denied. I was told by someone with the host club that there was no other way to list the dog. However I also know many people do not list their breed designation on the sheets so it could have been taken off completely. This alone is enough to have my dogs papers pulled. The boards that hold the power over this know that I am also taking this letter to the board to better understand the situation that we have been put in without knowledge of this being done.

I will have you look at the listing for DJS Frozen In Time Jan 2019. This was submitted to one of our host clubs for junior awards for my daughter. She is the one that runs this dog. It says Mini/AustralianNorthAmerican/Mini there is no reference in this picture to a Miniature Australian Shepherd. I will also add and am very proud of her that she was the #1 junior in performance with MASCA and this dog and she also made the top ten list in performance against the adults with this dog.

This year however if you look at the DJS Frozen In Time April 8 2019 she cannot send in to earn awards on this dog and there efforts as it would pull this dogs papers. Her points and her efforts for this breed become void. It now says Miniature American/Australian Shepherd. In fact she was the one that noticed it on the time sheets and pointed it out to me in Syracuse as she knows that we cannot list our dogs under any other breed or we lose our breeding privileges. This is when I originally contacted the board to see if this could be corrected. I was asked to write a letter providing evidence for what I was saying and trying desperately to point out.

Now I will also turn you to Stoverlys I Got It From My Momma folder. This is a dog that competes within Nafa. You will notice that she is registered CKC as an Australian Shepherd. She is also dually registered with MASCA, IMASC as a Miniature Australian Shepherd and also listed with NAMASCA as a North American Shepherd (prior to the breed split). Like the Belgians listed above Miniature Australian Shepherds can be listed as any one of the three listings. They cannot be listed as a Miniature American Shepherd. You will also notice my original NAFA listing number card for this girl. It says she is a Mini Australian/N American. (Miniature Australian Shepherd and North American Shepherd) which are stated on all of her papers and correct.

I have also included letters from the Miniature Australian Shepherd registries showing their stance on Miniature American Shepherd versus Miniature Australian Shepherd. It has been brought up already that NAFA could provide a letter to present to the registry boards that my dog is listed as a Miniature Australian Shepherd. However as listed currently the dogs are also listed as Miniature American Shepherds. Please see folder 4 Board of directors and their letters.

In closing I am willing to help with these changes and transition (currently 444 dogs listed) if it means that the breeds get listed as the breeders/handlers/owners see fit and is appropriate to their breed designation as they see fit. This is the only solution to this matter to keep all three breeds properly represented and not have anyone's papers pulled and upsetting other breeds in switching to them to be able to preserve the Miniature Australian Shepherd and its name and heritage.

I did pose a question on my facebook page about this. To see how many were aware of the change and to see if any breeders that I know are Miniature Australian Shepherd breeders were aware of the change as well and how this could affect them. I did not tell them why I was asking for this information. The reason I was asking is to see numbers of which breeders could be affected by this decision. On my page alone and that is a very small area there were 5 breeders. That is a lot of loss all the way around if this goes through as currently written. As a Breeder that shows in Conformation I am pretty much the only breeder that competes in Conformation and Flyball alike. Performance and Conformation are two different worlds and yet they are also so needed for one another to succeed.

If you have any questions or need clarification on anything I welcome questions or a conference call to go through things where you can ask questions and get the answers directly. Thank you for going through all this information. I tried to compact it as best as possible given this has been years in the making.

Best Regards

Dianna Jaynes

NAFA Competitor, Former NAFA Judge, MASCA Secretary, CMASA Secretary."