

NAFA's Requirements/Recommendations for Host Clubs for Phase 1 (Transitional Flyball)

As of April 1, 2021*, NAFA is in Phase 1 of Re-opening. Since COVID rates will likely continue to vary over time and across regions, where local laws and regulations allow, NAFA is implementing "Transitional Flyball". This period is planned to last until September 30, 2021*. Transitional Flyball means there will be no NAFA, Regional, or ROC Championships. Also, hosts must follow "Section 1: Phase 1 Requirements" of this document, and should consider "Section 2: Phase 1 Recommendations" when planning events.

Section 1: Phase 1 Requirements

1. Local and state/provincial guidelines must be followed at all times, including mandates applicable to individuals travelling for a tournament (for example, regarding quarantining requirements upon returning home).
2. If local or state/provincial guidelines do not require masks, the host club may still require them, and competitors must comply. Any medical exemptions must be presented to the Tournament Director on clinic letterhead, and signed by a doctor.
3. Box and line judges are not required, and must not be used for indoor events. For outdoor events, they may be used to help judges with calls, but line judges will not complete C.2 forms. See recommendations for submitting lineups for each heat in Section 2.2.7 of this document.
4. A seventh (7th) dog, with a CRN, may be listed on the C.2 form for warm-ups ONLY; the dog cannot run in a heat. Any dog in violation of this requirement will cause loss of heat and no NAFA points will be awarded for the heat.

Section 2: Phase 1 Recommendations

Venues, climate, and the way events are run vary widely across NAFA's regions. NAFA encourages hosts to use these recommendations as a basis to design their events to prioritize health and safety of competitors during the pandemic.

Section 2.1: Planning

1. Consider ventilation when selecting a venue. For example, look to maximize ventilation by opening windows or access doors, as weather and safety of dogs permits. Outdoor tournaments are encouraged. If you would like advice on how to adapt to an outdoor event, please contact NAFA.
2. Consider limiting entries based on the ability to maximize social distancing within the venue.
3. Plan out crating areas in order to minimize indoor gathering. Take into consideration that people will be removing masks when eating meals.

Section 2.2: Paperwork/Communication to Competitors

Consider the following:

1. Providing link(s) to the latest COVID regulations for the event's area.
2. Requiring completion of COVID waivers by competitors. NAFA can provide a template form for this upon request.
3. Documenting all attendees for potential contact tracing.
4. Asking attendees to perform a self-screening each morning of the event before entering the venue and giving strict instructions that competitors not attend if feeling unwell.

5. Planning and documenting the flow of traffic through the venue (i.e., one way in, another way out), and posting this in the welcome letter. NAFA strongly recommends having different points of entry/exit for teams entering/leaving the ring. For example, enter from the box or line judge area and leave from the runback area.
6. Requiring clubs to submit line-ups electronically prior to the tournament.
7. Recommendations for options for submitting lineups for each heat:
 - Text to head table;
 - Submit Google form;
 - Highly visible paper armbands that competitors wear, indicating their number on the C.2 form lineup (1, 2, 3...). Head table can look to the floor for each heat to get the lineups.
 - White board for each lane that is clearly visible to head table, where each team can write the lineups, with hand sanitizer right beside;
 - Hand signals to head table indicating lineup.
8. Clearly informing competitors of safety modifications ahead of time, so they know what to expect when they arrive. For example, posting a video on social media or doing a live session (such as Facebook Live) to explain modifications.
9. Requesting that attendees maintain good social distancing practices outside the venue.
10. NAFA strongly recommends closing the event to spectators unless public access falls outside of the host's control.

Section 2.3: At the Event

Consider the following:

1. Making hand sanitizer/hand washing facilities readily available.
2. Using maximum regulation distance between lanes (17' from center to center) to give more space between judge and competitors.
3. Having only the host club change jump heights.
4. Cleaning commonly touched surfaces often.
5. Asking teams to limit the amount of people allowed in the venue during the race to the minimum necessary to race (i.e., limit to 4 to 6 handlers, 1 box loader, 1 ball shagger, 1 mattress holder, 1 pass caller). These limits could be relaxed temporarily during the team's warm-up time, but then extra people must leave.
6. Asking waiting teams to wait outside the venue. If weather conditions are not conducive to this, ask that only the "on deck" team be ringside during warm-ups and racing.
7. Other modifications to discourage gathering:
 - a. Provide results electronically (for example, pictures/screenshots on Facebook), rather than posting on result boards;
 - b. Mark out and assign box squares for clubs to keep their equipment;
 - c. Have award ceremonies outside;
 - d. Have self-serve title ribbons (or other prizes);
 - e. Have Captains meeting outside.

Section 2.4: Recommendations for Judges

1. Disinfect anything that gets passed between judges, such as the EJS remote.
2. Use electronic whistles.
3. When changing measuring judges, wipe down the measuring area and equipment. Do the same between measuring dogs, upon request.

*Planned dates that may change depending on the status of COVID-19 laws and regulations across North America.