

North American Flyball Association, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Omaha, Nebraska

Abridged Minutes

November 30, 2007

Present were: Executive Director Sam Ford
Board of Directors Brian Fay,
Lee Heighton,
Dana Nichols,
Lisa Peckham,
Kris Pickering,
Dale Smith,
Scott Stein

Chairman Lee Heighton called the meeting to order at 8:36 AM CST. Todd Morningstar was absent due to a previously scheduled judging commitment and gave his proxy to Lisa Peckham. Mike Smith was absent due to work commitments and gave his proxy to Brian Fay.

I. Chairperon's comments

Lee began by thanking Todd Morningstar for his service to the NAFA Board of Directors. Todd has never missed a single Board function during his entire tenure on the Board and would have been present for today's meeting but had committed to a judging assignment. His service has been invaluable and he has given great guidance to many other directors. All of the Board members extended their thanks as well.

a. Cynosports report

This year's event went very well. We received comments from Ken Tatsch about how well he thought the flyball event went. Lee indicated there are currently plans to extend bleachers with shade next year. Lee also discussed that we may need additional rings and more space next year. Lee discussed other ideas for making event even better, including: online entries, release forms in digital format provided ahead of time, and increased information for announcer from teams.

II. Executive Director's comments

NAFA is a strong, proud & responsive organization this year even more than before.

There were first tournaments held in Wyoming & the new region 20. We are continuing to expand flyball and growing into new areas such as Quebec and Alaska. The Montreal tournament was a big success. Sam discussed the potential need for translating flyball information into French. The laws in Quebec require items to be in French. We have access to a professional translator. Producing awards in French may be a first step towards integrating into French. Translating our rulebook would be a larger financial commitment. The French Canadian area is a large dog sports area.

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We are proud of the new ideas we have generated. This year, we started a new class, the open class, and performance teams. We have also greatly expanded the Signature Gear lights available for tournaments.

We are driven from the bottom up by our constituency. We have responded to many requests from our member clubs. Our organization has changed to meet requests of our populace. It is important for us to be responsive. Some examples are: reduced fees for two tournaments over two days and recognizing Junior Handlers through pins. We're a grass roots organization.

We've moved forward with our web presence and web based information.

We have work to do. We believe our populace wants us to show that we are responsive to measuring issues. We are opening new regions. We need to continue to develop leadership. Our Board is constantly changing. Dana is a new face. Lisa came on this year. And we'll have at least one more new face this year. We're a volunteer organization trying to do the best we can. We are taking ideas from our members and making changes.

We still face many challenges. Fuel prices will be critical issue in flyball. Driving RVs across country is becoming more and more expensive. This works against flyball. We are starting to see regions that are smaller geographically.

One thing that is going right in the organization: a pleasant environment to play in. There is less strife in the organization. Far less strife than when I took over as ED originally. One main goal I had was us going back to being civil. We all needed to live together. Coast to coast, there is more of a calm and pleasant place to be.

We need to continue supporting growth in flyball and widening flyball's exposure.

1. Approval of RDs
 - a. Region 20 Natalie Cornell. She is somewhat bilingual and has long term flyball experience. Scott Stein moved to approve her. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. 2008 Junior Handler pins – are already ordered. Will be delivered in the next few weeks. Junior Handler pins will continue to be handled by the ED.
3. Opening Saturday night at tournaments for use of mats – will be addressed in old business. Perhaps to define end of tournament as last race of the day. Makes two day tournament have options for fund raising, etc. on Saturday nights.
4. Translation – we have never spent any money on translation. We need to discuss how much we want to invest in translation, especially to help our new Region 20 in French Canada.
5. 25th Anniversary – Need to be thinking about banners, etc. for 25th anniversary. Need to budget now for that anniversary – October 1, 2009. I'm seeking Board assistance to make anniversary memorable.

III. Secretary's Report

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The minutes for the August 25, 2007, as amended, were approved by unanimous consent September 6, 2007.

There was a discussion regarding the bylaw amendment on administrative decisions and committee, executive director, and executive committee reporting of decisions while the Board is not in session. We reviewed the bylaw provisions and authority for actions. Committee chairs were reminded to provide copies of committee minutes to the secretary. Committee reports at Board meetings will include any interim actions by those committees.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Scott Stein indicated the books are undergoing their end of the year review with the accountants. They should be done in the next 7 to 10 days. The 990 will be completed in the next 10 days. The end of the year report will be delivered at the next Board meeting after the accountants have finalized their annual review. The yearly filing was done with Michigan today.

Current quarter Profit & Loss sheet was circulated and will be made part of the minutes (see Attachment A). Scott emphasized we operate on a cash basis, thus there are a number of expenses from previous quarters that are included in this Profit/Loss sheet because of when the bills were received and paid. Cynosports numbers are included, but do not include the bill from USDAA which will be \$1,040.00 (\$20/team). There was a discussion that the Cynosports event was never intended to generate income, but is very valuable to NAFA as a marketing tool. It was valuable to have Board members at the event to interact with members of the flyball community. There was interest in discussing Cynosport budgeting for next year at the next board meeting.

Scott moved we enter Executive Session to review preliminary year end numbers. Kris seconded.

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:03 a.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 11:18 a.m.

V. Committee Reports

a. Judges/Education Committee

The following judges lost judging status due to an inadequate number of assignments in racing year 2007: Annette Tindall, Darrel West, Steve Brown, and Dave Samuels. All judges have been notified regarding their change in status.

The judges committee received a request from Steve Brown to make an exception to allow him to retain his status for a tournament already scheduled. This was beyond the scope of the Committee's authority so it was referred to the Executive Committee.

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The Committee reviewed a requested video tape of Todd Heineman measuring. Their recommendation was that his measuring privileges be reinstated. The Committee forwarded their recommendation to the Executive Director, who reinstated Todd Heineman's measuring privileges.

The Judges Committee recommends Michael Fry from Douglasville, PA be moved from Novice to Apprentice. Dale moved to approve. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Scott to notify.

The Judges Committee recommends Dave Collett from Mesa, AZ be moved from Apprentice to Provisional status. Dale moved to approve. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Scott to notify.

The Judges Committee recommends Curtis Smith from Eagle River, AK be moved from Provisional to Approved. Dale moved to approve. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Scott to notify.

The Judges Committee reported that Jenny Graziano from Thornton, Ontario has applied to be moved from Provisional to Approved status. The Judges Committee recommends two additional judging assignments with measuring before resubmitting her application. Dale moved to adopt the recommendation of the committee. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Scott to notify.

The Judges Committee recommends Brian Kauk from Brantford, Ontario be moved from approved status to supervising status. Dale moved to adopt the recommendation of the committee. Dana seconded. There was discussion. In favor: Dana Nichols, Lisa Peckham, Kris Pickering, Dale Smith, Scott Stein. Against: Brian Fay. Abstain: Todd Morningstar (by proxy), Mike Smith (by proxy). The motion passed. Scott to notify.

b. Finance Committee

Lee Heighton moved we enter Executive Session to discuss financial projections.

The Board entered Executive Session at 3:26 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 5:02 p.m.

c. Disciplinary Committee – Lee Heighton

I. Request to remove aggression write-up on Ruckus CRN #040073 – The Committee recommends the write-up be removed. Scott moved to accept the recommendation. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Lee to notify.

d. Technology Committee – Dale Smith

I. Status of EJS order – We have ordered three new systems. We have already received two. We are waiting for the shipping cases to arrive. Once the cases

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are received and the systems are tested, the two new sets will be sent to Todd for distribution. The third set ordered will not be ready until around February due to the manufacturing process, as we were originally informed. The price of the lights has increased to \$9900 plus shipping and cases.

- II. Status of EJS update and maintenance** – We are running a preventative maintenance system every 18 months. The time varies somewhat due to needs for lights. We have a new software release upcoming that will include false start elimination for Veterans. We have had quite a few minor repairs done under warranty. The manufacturer has been very responsive about making repairs in a prompt fashion once the parts are shipped to them. One issue we've had is that the manufacturer prefers having individual parts shipped, rather than the entire system.

Sam Ford gave an additional update on the current status of light sets: There are four Hughes sets in storage, one Hughes set in Alaska, and one Hughes set in Ontario in storage. The only Hughes set in circulation right now is used in Alaska. There are six Jason sets in storage. We have Signature Gear sets 1-8 Red and 1-8 Yellow. 16 Signature Gear sets have been released in circulation. Our goal is to have 15 of the 16 sets go through maintenance this year. One set has already been through maintenance. Three sets of lights are currently out of service for repair. In some areas, NAFA rents light sets less expensively than paying shipping costs and equipment. Sam indicated he believed we need to budget for approximately two new sets of lights per year.

There was discussion regarding whether a dollar figure needed to be set for teams to receive a third sets of lights. Our current rule 6.5(d) specifies tournament fees generated to receive one or two sets of lights. Dale moved that the criteria for a third set of lights be \$1400.00. Thus rule 6.5(d) would be amended to include:

“Tournaments that generate \$1400.00 or more in NAFA fees may be eligible to receive 3 sets of EJS lights.”

Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about selling the sets of lights in storage as practice sets. The Technology Committee will look into disposition of the Hughes and Jason lights in storage.

e. Marketing Committee – Lisa Peckham

Lisa indicated the committee produced a French language version of the NAFA brochure. We would like to thank Marie-Emmanuelle Porlier from Dogsworth for her translation assistance.

Approximately 20 clubs have ordered brochures this year.

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The Flyball Locator is fourth most popular page on the webpage. We are hoping to expand it for next year.

DogSport is going to mail out promotional issues to new CRN registrants.

f. Standing Rules/Regulatory/Bylaw Committee – Kris Pickering

I. Rulebook – Kris reported finding a few typographical errors in the rulebook. Those errors will be posted on the webpage and include: (1) page 43, Article IV, section 16 should be “within 7 or more calendar days” instead of 5 business days; and (2) Form C8 should be \$20US or \$23CAN

II. Request for acceptance of Rarities Breed Registry – The Rules Committee has reviewed this request and unanimously recommended not to accept the Rarities Breed Registry as a recognized registry. The request dies for lack of support.

III. Tournament seeding guidelines – There were several questions posed regarding tournament seeding.

First, whether a division may have three or fewer teams? The Committee reported that the rules do not set minimum numbers for divisions, but do require approval by the Regional Director. The Board agreed with this interpretation.

Second, if there are fewer than 4 teams in a division, does that division still qualify for regional points? The committee reported that it would, so long as the class, of which the division is a part, qualifies under 8.3(e), in particular subsection (i), which requires at least four teams competing in a class. The Board agreed with this interpretation.

IV. Suggestion from Linda Carter regarding wheelchairs/scooters in box and line judging – The committee received an email from Linda Carter requesting restrictions on line and box judges officiating from wheelchairs or scooters. A copy of the letter is attached to the minutes with permission of the author (See Attachment B). The Rules Committee was unanimous in its position that there is not now, nor should there be any restriction based on disability on competitors, officials, or others who participate or officiate in our sport. The Board unanimously supported this position.

g. Executive Committee – The Executive Committee met regarding an emergency request from Steve Brown for a waiver to the lapse of his judging status or for appointment of a temporary supervising judge so he could judge a tournament scheduled the following weekend. Lee Heighton was absent due to a family emergency. After discussion, it was determined that the head judge in whose name the tournament was sanctioned and other judges were available to enable the tournament to move forward. The Executive Committee denied the request.

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VI. Outstanding Business

a. Use of the ring in a two day tournament format

There was discussion of allowing clubs to utilize the ring for training, fund raising, or other purposes after the conclusion of racing between days of a multi-day tournament. The current rule provides:

7(b) "There shall be no practice or training in the ring for the duration of the tournament, 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."

There was discussion of amending the rule to:

"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."

There was also discussion of amending the current definition of training in the ring. The current rule provides:

Glossary - Training in the ring - where, once racing has started, the handler uses techniques and/or devices that would be used to train. See Chapter 7 warm-ups, Chapter 8, Section 8.3 – The Run.

There was discussion of amending the definition of training in the ring and including a new definition of "racing day" as follows:

"Training in the ring - where, once racing has started and before the end of the racing day, the handler uses techniques and/or devices that would be used to train. See Chapter 7 warm-ups, Chapter 8, Section 8.3 – The Run."

"Racing day – the racing day begins thirty minutes before the first scheduled race and ends thirty minutes after the conclusion of the last race of the day."

Dana moved to adopt the amendments effective January 1, 2008. Lisa seconded. In favor: Brian Fay, Todd Morningstar (by proxy), Dana Nichols, Lisa Peckham, Kris Pickering, Dale Smith, Mike Smith (by proxy), Scott Stein. Abstain: Kris Pickering and Scott Stein. The motion carried.

b. Discussion on budget projections

This item was tabled to the next Board meeting pending final numbers from the

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Accountant's review of the year end figures.

c. Language for delegate vote regarding increase in measuring reduction (tabled to the Rules Committee at the August meeting)

As directed by the Board, the Rules Committee drafted language and presented two alternative measures for a delegate vote:

Ballot Alternatives

Do you favor changing NAFA Rule 8.2(a) to provide that jump heights will be set by subtracting **five instead of four inches** from the height at the withers of the shortest dog running, to a minimum jump height of seven inches?

Or

NAFA Rule 8.2(a) sets jump heights by subtracting four inches from the withers of the shortest dog running (to a minimum jump height of seven inches). Should the amount subtracted be increased from four to five inches?

Lisa moved to send the following question to a delegate vote pursuant to Chapter 4(a) of the Corporate Policies and Procedures:

“Do you favor changing NAFA Rule 8.2(a) to provide that jump heights will be set by subtracting **five instead of four inches** from the height at the withers of the shortest dog running, to a minimum jump height of seven inches?”

Scott seconded the motion. There was discussion. Kris had concerns about any expressed interest in this issue from delegates. Several Board members indicated they had input from several concerned delegates wanting a vote on a reduction in jump height. Other Board members indicated they had heard from delegates who felt it should not go to a vote.

In favor: Brian Fay, Todd Morningstar (by proxy), Lisa Peckham, Dale Smith, Mike Smith (by proxy), Scott Stein. Against: Dana Nichols and Kris Pickering. The motion passed. The question will be posted to the NAFA webpage to begin the 90 day comment period.

VII. New Business

a. Clarification regarding judging of Performance Teams

There was a question regarding how races against performance teams are scored. The Board's initial intention was to have performance teams compete in 3/5 formats as if they were capable of winning heats, meaning that the race could proceed to a 4th or 5th heat, but that the table would award losses.

The current rule states:

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A Performance Team is not eligible for tournament awards or placements. A Performance Team will not be awarded any wins in any races or heats. A team racing against a Performance Team must complete the minimum number of heats in order to record a win. In an elimination event, Performance Teams shall be placed at the bottom of the elimination brackets, with the Performance Teams being ranked by time among themselves by seed time in the event more than one Performance Team is in the elimination schedule.

There was discussion about whether the rule should be amended. The issued was tabled to the Rules Committee for proposed action at the meeting tomorrow.

b. Discussion regarding merger of Open/Vets Class at tournaments -- There was discussion about the rule regarding elimination of false starts when Open and Veterans are combined together for racing. If a second round robin does not include any Veterans teams, then false starts are in effect.

I. Submittal of two written suggestions received from Bonnie Klonowski

Both letters from Bonnie Klonowski were submitted to the Board. Neither called for any action so they were not included in the minutes.

II. Submittal of paperwork regarding change to scheduling format submitted by Erica Carrouthers

Paperwork was presented regarding computer racing schedules. It was tabled to the Technology Committee for further review.

c. Request to add link to website from dogpowerscooter.com -- Dana moved that all requests for links get referred to the Executive Director. Brian seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Regional and National Champions for racing year 2007 – Dale announced the Regional and National Champions for 2007.

Region	State/Prov	Regular	Multibreed
1	MI OH	Spring Loaded	Spring Loaded
2	ON	Burnin' Rubber	Burnin' Rubber
3	MN ND SD IA NE	Animal Inn	Omaha Speedracers
4	IL IN KY WI KS MO	Bordering on Insanity-Midwest	NONE
5	AR LA OK TX	Top Dog Racers	Dogz Rule!
6	AZ NV UT	Heat Wave	Flying Colors
7	BC OR WA	The Flying Squad	NONE
8	MB SK	Flyball N~R~G	KAOS
9	NC SC VA WV	Fur Fun	Fur Fun
10	NB NS PE	Fast 'n FURious	NONE
11	FL	Ketch This	Florida Air Xpress

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Region	State/Prov	Regular	Multibreed
12	AB ID MT	Redline Dogsports	NONE
13	CT MA ME NH NY RI VT QC	New England Trail Blazers	Ruff Enuff
14	AL GA MS TN	The Gamblers	Music City Road Dogs
15	DE MD NJ PA	Philadelphia Barking Authority	Flyball Dogs Anonymous
16	CA	Bark in the Park	INXS
18	AK	NONE	NONE
19	CO NM WY	D.E.O. Speedwaggin'	D.E.O. Speedwaggin'
NAFA	Champion	Spring Loaded	Spring Loaded

Todd (by proxy) moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mike (by proxy) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM CST on November 30, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Nichols
Secretary