

## Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, November 26, 2023

Held via Zoom Meeting

### Attendees:

#### Board Members:

Emily-Rose Allred  
Jonathan Bescher  
Kathy Haney  
Cindy Henderson  
Paula Johnson  
Meagan Langs  
Lynda Mantler  
Jayne McQuillen  
Dana Nichols

#### Executive Director:

Steve Corona

#### Guest:

Karen Oleson

Jayne called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm CT.

### Officer's Reports

#### Chair's Comments:

1. Jayne would like to form a special 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to celebrate this milestone. It would be fun to involve some flyball people as well as some board members and have Marketing and Communications come up with some fun ideas to commemorate the occasion. Jayne will form the committee and asked for suggestions for additional people who would be an asset to add to this group.
2. The next board meeting will be January 12, 2024 at 3:00 pm CT.  
The AGM will be January 13, 2024 at 1:00 pm CT.
3. General formatting update to the rulebook.  
Jayne would like to do a general formatting update to the rulebook. She knows of someone who does this type of work professionally and would be willing to take on the task. Jayne recognized Karen who commented that Emma had been working on this during her tenure on the Rules Committee.

Cindy moved to have Jayne spend the funds to update the formatting of the rulebook and establish a style for formatting. Jon seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

#### Executive Director's Comments:

##### 1. CanAm Recap

- Cindy sent out the CanAm Profit/Loss Estimate. The event did not break even, but it is not expected to lose a large amount of money.
- Steve: We did a very good job with expense control this year.
- YuMOVE was a major sponsor and AKC/ESPN was charged for the championship ring set up.
- There was no increase in the facility rental with the move to the Fall Creek Pavilion.
- Perhaps a written summary report would help viewers understand the statement better.
- There was discussion about how things were categorized and suggestions for changes to be made before the statement is published. The board discussed the information provided and it was suggested the Finance Committee could discuss this.

##### 2. FOWC Update (Flyball Open World Cup) Germany 2024.

- There is currently one team (Run Free) interested in attending.

##### 3. ED Staff Overview

There have been questions about who makes up the ED staff and what their duties are:

- Karen Oleson – Responsible for sanctioning and answering questions/emails
- Annie Taylor – Enters event results into NAFA database and orders and ships awards
- Kelly Price – Coordinates EJS assignments and shipping
- Dale Smith – Technology Committee, runs seeding list through the Optimizer
- Leerie Jenkins – NAFA Webmaster
- Emma Mak/Karen Oleson – Database work along with Steve Branin
- Honorariums are listed on the P & L and are paid quarterly.
- We have tried to consolidate/centralize any shipping/purchases of items (patches, pins, awards, etc.).
- RDs – All RDs are under the direction of Steve.
- Steve and the board members would like to thank all these individuals for their hard work and dedication on behalf of NAFA.

#### Treasurer's Report:

The P & L and Balance Sheet which cover to the end of the fiscal year 2023 were sent to the board members.

- The Balance Sheet shows about \$239,000.

From the Profit and Loss statement:

- Tournament fees are up year over year
- Our total income is about \$277,000 which is an increase of about \$50,000 over the prior year.
- EJS repairs are down
- EJS management is higher
- ED discretionary expenses – Steve has been very frugal
- Plaque expenses are up due to double points. It is expected this will fall back to the level of prior years now that double points have ended.
- EJS shipping is down. This is partly due to a lot of clubs hand carrying the EJS between tournaments. All the EJS that were used at CanAm were hand carried.
- Thank you to Kelly Price who has been doing a great job of keeping the shipping costs down.
- Thank you to all the people who have been going above and beyond by hand carrying EJS to tournaments. As it can cost up to \$1000 to ship EJS, this makes a significant difference.
- Net income of about \$8000 for the year vs \$13,000 for the prior year.

#### Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the last meeting September 28, 2023 have been approved and published.

#### Election Committee:

- The committee is waiting for some biographies that were requested from the candidates.
- The election will end at midnight CT, January 11, 2024.
- Biographies will be on the NAFA blog.
- There will be two written Q & A sessions as well as a ZOOM chat with the candidates.
- Board members were asked to submit a question to Kathy for the candidates.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### Judges' Committee:

1. Steve Schlosser promotion apprentice to provisional.  
On behalf of the Judges' Committee, Jonathan moved to advance Steve Schlosser from apprentice to provisional judge. Dana seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.
2. One supervising judge application has been received and another application is expected.
3. Dave Collett retired from judging, ending his career as the championship judge at CanAm. He will continue his work with the Judges' Committee and the COI Committee. Thank you to Dave for his many years of judging.
4. Jayne asked for suggestions for ways to recruit new judges. Jonathan said he could send an email to the judges' group and a perhaps publish a blog post. Paula volunteered to

interview judges to gain insight into what motivated them to become a judge. That may be easier for judges than to send in written responses. The blog could also explain what is involved in becoming a judge.

5. There are 2 new novice judges in Region 13.

#### Rules Committee:

1. Rule changes needed for RD review process per ED request.

At the September 28, 2023 Board meeting, the Executive Director requested the Rules Committee draft possible language to support him instituting a review process for Regional Directors every three years. The Rules Committee determined that no language need be added to the rules for the Executive Director to have a review process for Regional Directors every three years.

To the extent that the Rules Committee was tasked with developing language, the committee offers the following suggestion:

#### **Section 1.6 – Regional Directors Regions and Appointment of Regional Directors**

(b) Regional directors shall be appointed by the executive director, and approved by the Board of Directors. Upon a change of executive director, the slate of regional directors shall be tendered for approval at the next in-person meeting of the Board of Directors. ***The Regional Director serves at the pleasure of the Executive Director. The Executive Director may review, remove, or replace any regional director at their discretion. Any new Regional Director must be approved at the next in-person meeting of the Board of Directors.***  
(page 29 of the current rulebook)

- The Rules Committee consensus was that there was no need for additional language and the current rules indicate the RDs serve at the discretion of the ED. The ED can review, remove and appoint RDs and they are approved by the board.
- Rules recommends no additional language.
- Dana moved to make no changes to the rulebook language and noted that the ED has this ability. Meagan seconded.

Discussion: Lynda: Likes the word 'review' in the language the RC was tasked with creating.

Paula: Asked Dana to clarify exactly what her motion entailed.

Dana: Confirmed her motion is to make no changes to the rules.

Jayne took the board into executive session at 7:22 pm.

The board exited executive session at 7:34 pm.

The board discussed the recommendation of the Rules Committee.

Jayne called for a vote on the motion on the floor. The motion carried with no opposition.

## 2. Request to permit teams to go performance after racing has begun

The Rules Committee received the following request for a rule change from the Regional Director in Region 1.

*Hi all, I propose a rule change after watching multiple clubs struggle this year trying to run at maximum jump height after loosing their height dog mid-tournament. Not only was this painful to watch, it was also potentially dangerous, especially as these teams clearly had never jumped these sorts of heights. I propose that as long as a team finishes the heat following "open rules" (dogs 1-6 on c.2, and legal jump height) then the dogs finish and get points - no matter the division. I think this follows the spirit of modern flyball. Functionally what this does is allow teams to go performance mid-tournament and still collect points. They would not be eligible for any tournament "win points" after declaring performance. I just feel like if they are doing the same thing as open, they deserve title points and it takes away pressure for teams to put their dogs in bad situations. Of the two I see this year, one finished the weekend and one scratched for a dog injury. The other teams were then left running unopposed. I would match rather continue to race them and let them get title points safely. Thanks for consideration,*

*Rachel Olson Co-RD Region 1*

The Rules Committee considered this request in detail with members in favor and against the proposal. In trying to draft potential language for a change, it became clear that the timing of allowing the change to performance after racing had begun had several consequences that would need additional time to study. The committee agreed that if the Board were to consider such a rule, it would not be appropriate in a limited tournament situation, nor would time sheets be able to be changed to list additional dogs after racing started. Essentially, the change would directly affect the height the team would be able to race, and in multi-breed allow less than four breeds. None of the other performance team benefits would practically be able to be used (adding a dog that would normally not be permitted under the 87 day rule). There was some concern expressed that the process of having to go back and convert prior wins to losses might be difficult for scoring and might also affect elimination bracket racing (rather than round robin format). And there was concern expressed that this type of rule change could potentially be used to affect the outcome of racing, including regional placements.

At first blush, it seemed like an easy way to give teams a viable alternative to declaring For Exhibition Only when a height dog could not continue. Thus, giving more teams the ability to enter Regular classes rather than Open classes when back up height dogs were not available. It also seemed like a good way to encourage new clubs and make flyball more accessible. It was noted that this would be a particularly good option for teams that were traveling and might not have their normal roster of dogs. And ultimately, that this idea would make flyball safer.

Because the Rules Committee could not reach consensus and because of the difficulties in trying to draft a proposed rule, the Committee decided to first see if there was interest from the Board in such a rule change. If there is interest, then the Rules Committee would discuss any potential rules changes in more depth.

Board members discussed different situations that could occur.

- Jonathan: Does not want teams to be able to jump any height if they go performance.

- Dana: Noted that there is no current requirement to take a dog off a timesheet because they are the cause of the team declaring performance.
- Jayne: Suggested this be discussed with all the RDs to find out if performance is being abused.
- Dana: Sounds like to make this work, if after start of racing we cannot change the timesheet. She clarified that it should not change outcome of prior races; the same way as handling FEO. Even if declared in last race of the day, they will not get placement and will not change prior wins/losses. Limited events – People in limited event areas were opposed to this. Some board members feel this should be allowed at limited tournaments.

Cindy moved that the Rules Committee consider the recommendation from this competitor to go performance mid-event. Kathy seconded.

Jayne called for a roll call vote.

Jonathan – no

Kathy – yes

Lynda – yes

Dana – yes

Paula – yes

Meagan – yes

Cindy – yes

Emily-Rose – yes

Motion carried with one opposed.

The board took a recess at 8:11 pm.

The board reconvened at 8:29 pm.

Finance Committee:

Report included with Treasurer's Report

Nominating Committee:

Marketing Committee:

1. Junior Participant pins were handed out to RDs at CanAm. Pins have been mailed to RDs that requested them.

2. A request has been made to mylogoshop asking for a breakdown of how many CanAm shirts were sold, judges' shirts, volunteer shirts and the bottom line owing to NAFA.
3. Online store. Another company, Printful, has been investigated. It checks a lot of the boxes of features we are looking for. We will look at another company so that there will be several to choose from.

Disciplinary Committee:

Three aggression excusals have been received:

- a. Holly 220443 aggression excusal
- b. Roo 230546 aggression excusal
- c. Thea 190350 aggression excusal

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date
Terry Griffin	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	09/21/2022
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
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 report

## **Special Committee Reports:**

### Technology:

1. Jonathan has been corresponding with Dave. Karen Oleson and Mike Smith were taught how to do the light tree assembly. Dave is working on getting an email together to send to Technology and Finance regarding how to proceed. He has made a new design and there should be an update on that at the January meeting.
2. Steve: We discussed looking at Ryobi batteries to power the scoreboard displays instead of the extension cords, and it does not seem feasible.

### Communications Committee:

Any assistance needed in communicating around the AGM or elections, please let Cindy know so the committee can help with it.

### CanAm Steering Committee:

- The CanAm Steering Committee held a comprehensive meeting after the event and has documents detailing what worked, what can be done better and further ideas for next year.
- Steve: We received feedback from one competitor who expressed concerns from timing to awards. We will look at the feedback to see what we can glean from it.
- We are still in the process of finding out what building we will be in next year. We are trying to get back into the West Pavilion in 2024.
- 2024 dates are October 11, 12 & 13.
- Kathy: Several people mentioned that those using scooters seem to be taking the right of away and pedestrians had to jump aside. Jayne mentioned we were in tighter quarters which made navigating the aisles more difficult.
- YuMOVE has expressed interest in being our main sponsor next year.
- Cindy noted that several vendors have mentioned they'll be back next year and overall, expressed satisfaction with the experience.

### Invitational Selection Committee:

- Steve reported that there is a potential site in Nashville, TN, however, the proposed dates of April 20 & 21 conflicted with a local event.
- He informed AKC of the conflict and they will be looking for a different date sometime around April.
- Cindy asked about the possibility of combining the events.



- Steve said there are issues with background noise that could cause problems from a production standpoint.

#### NAFA Blog Committee:

- The next posts will be election related.
- Paula will continue working with the committee and work toward having a calendar of blogs for the year.

#### Old Business:

##### Status of main flyball.org webpage update

- Emma and Leerie are looking for feedback from the board about what is working and what the board would like to see.
- Jayne asked Marketing and Communications to review and provide feedback for the new website.

#### New Business:

##### Junior Participants

- Paula: Commented on the success of the Junior Participant class at CanAm. She would like to see us move that forward so we don't lose the traction we have with the juniors. AKC/ESPN did a good job of profiling it.
- Cindy: Likes the idea and suggested pulling that into the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.
- Paula: Would like us to encourage and engage the juniors more; find ways to include them in the flyball community.
- Cindy: Maybe a combination of the CanAm Committee and the 40<sup>th</sup> one too.
- Paula: An idea brought to her from someone in her region was to perhaps include a junior on a committee where there would be a voice from a junior.
- Jayne: Form a special committee to bring in Junior Participant involvement. Paula will chair the committee.

Cindy moved to adjourn. Lynda seconded. The motion carried with no opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

