

## Notes from August 26th NAFA Board of Directors Meeting:

First and foremost, nominations are open for the Board of Directors, Clyde Moore Hall of Fame, Regional MVPs and Judge of the Year. Please consider sending in nominations for the categories listed above. Please visit the following links to find out how to nominate!

Board of Directors: [http://flyball.org/nafa\\_elections.html](http://flyball.org/nafa_elections.html)

Clyde Moore Hall of Fame: [http://flyball.org/stats\\_clydemoore.html](http://flyball.org/stats_clydemoore.html)

Regional MVP: [http://flyball.org/stats\\_regionalMVP2.html](http://flyball.org/stats_regionalMVP2.html)

Judge of the Year: <http://flyball.org/joy.html>

The feedback we received from the trial period of open class changes (no false starts, and jump height options) has been very positive. The feedback has been well over 2-1 in favor of the changes. Based on the feedback, we are going to have a delegate vote with the following questions (this is not the official final wording). Additionally we are extending the trial period until 03/15/2018. The reason for the extension is that we are doing the delegate vote. The results for the delegate vote will be reviewed at the AGM in January. Based on the results of the vote, we will have a decision, but this will provide sanctioned tournaments 90 days out from the vote results, to have a set format in place.

1. Open Class - Jump Heights and False Starts:
  - a. Pick a height, no false starts
  - b. Have false starts, and jump height requirements that match regular/multi
2. Open Class – False Starts:
  - a. No false starts
  - b. Have false starts
3. Regular and Multibreed - False starts:
  - a. No false starts
  - b. No change.
4. Jump Heights Change from -5" from withers measurement to -6"
  - a. Yes change
  - b. No, stay the same

For the proposed changes regarding false starts, we are also proposing adding a time during the warm-up period for a practice false start. This would give starters a chance to find their spot, while still gaining all the benefits of removing false starts entirely.

The Board finalized the wording for the new Height Card process. I will send the approved wording shortly, but here are the highlights:

- A height card will only require a single measurement from the new NAFA Certified Measuring Judge.
- When a competitor applies for a height card, they will provide a list of upcoming tournaments they will be attending. NAFA will arrange for a Certified Measuring Judge to measure their dog for a height card at one of those events. Additionally, NAFA will communicate with the host club (TD) and Regional Director, to advise them of the Certified Measuring Judge attending so they can advertise they will have a Certified Measuring Judge in attendance and give other competitors the opportunity to also apply for a height card.
- There will no longer be a challenge process for the newly issued height cards.

The NAFA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the first four Certified Measuring Judges:

- Cindy Henderson (Region 13)
- Jonathan Bescher (Region 9)
- Kurt Johnson (Region 12)
- Steve Heine (Region 6 & 16)

The Board and Certified Measuring Judges gathered on Sunday and went through the certification process to ensure a consistent measuring process is being performed.

Also, on the subject of judges, I would like to congratulate the following judges that were promoted:

- Ian Cuthbertson (Pelham, AL) - Apprentice to Provisional
- Maija Doggett (Anchorage, AK) - Provisional to Approved
- Sandy Forseth (Stanford, KY) - Provisional to Approved
- Randy Garvin (Raytown, MO) - Provisional to Approved
- Tom Lamont (Cotuit, MA) - Provisional to Approved
- Cindy Rabe (Anchorage AK) - Provisional to Approved

There was a lot of discussion around a proposal to limit the number of heats from 35 to 30. There will be more research in this area, on the breadth of double running, but there wasn't support to change the rule at this time.

There was a change to the fouling in the ring wording. It is being changed to say that if a dog fouls in the ring starting from the "start of warm-ups" from the "start of the race". It's a subtle difference, but if a team is in the ring waiting for the opponents, who have an excused delay, and their dog fouls in the ring, but is cleaned up before the opponents arrive, they will not lose a heat.

We continue to have discussions on creating additional awards. The rules committee, and Emma Mak, in particular, have been hard at work coming up with additional ideas and calculations. Nothing is finalized yet, but there was some excellent progress. One example is a regional award for teams for placing well in ALL regular & multibreed divisions. This would not replace the existing regional championships, but would be an additional regional award.

Finally, I have been approached by the FCI, a world dog organization, about NAFA sending a team(s) to an upcoming World Cup of Flyball event next August. The Board has approved I continue to follow up and gather more details.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Neil Flood