

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

Present were: Executive Director Lee Heighton
Board of Directors Nancy Garcia,
Leerie Jenkins,
Dana Nichols,
Karen Oleson,
Kris Pickering,
Alisa Romaine,
Dale Smith,
Greg Stopay

Acting Chairman Dale Smith called the meeting to order at 12:12 PM PST. Scott Stein was absent due to work commitments and arranged for Vice Chair Dale Smith to chair the meeting. Scott gave his proxy to Kris Pickering. Kris was slightly delayed due to travel arrangements.

Guests: Dave Collett, Laura Collett, Chris Romaine, and Garrett Romaine.

Officers' Reports

Chair's Comments

None from Scott or Dale as vice-chair.

Executive Director's Comments

Lee welcomed the guests in attendance.

CanAm Classic

Lee reported on several aspects of the CanAm Classic event.

Survey Results: (Included with minutes as Attachment A)

Nancy found a program that allowed us to send out a survey to CanAm Classic competitors and compile results. Nancy and Lee presented the results of the survey. Overall the feedback was incredibly positive. 97% rated the event good or excellent. Some of the suggestions pointed out there were no dog treat vendors – this was the most requested vendor. As part of the survey, one of the inquiries was whether competitors would like online payments and online entries. The vast majority were interested. 95% said they would utilize online entries and 88% indicated they would use online payment.

Insufficient crating space and dog break areas were the most common areas of concern. For the first year, the building that was used did not have much grass nearby, so we had to utilize some unique solutions, such as Astroturf outside some doors for potty areas. This year's event will be in a new building at the same complex which is much larger and has more grass available.

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

The prizes were an overwhelming success. Everyone really liked the flyball jumps. Although it will be hard to top those prizes, we did receive lots of good suggestions.

Food was an area we'd like to see improved. Lee indicated he's working on some other options for this year's event. Nancy reported that many people requested a meet and greet type event. And a majority of competitors were suggesting a shorter lunch break on Sunday. Lee indicated he was going to take all of the suggestions under consideration when planning this year's event.

Lee reported that feedback on tournament communication was good. Most competitors indicated that the rules & format were easy to understand. Many also stated that the web page was very helpful, especially since the information was available well ahead of time.

Kris arrived at the meeting at 12:29 PM PST.

At 12:30 PM Dale had to leave the meeting briefly to attend to a work obligation; Dana served as chair while he was gone.

Format:

Lee clarified that the "CanAm" portion of the event is the single elimination for the regular and multibreed cups. The "Classic" portion comprises the divisions that are not competing for the championship cups.

Lee discussed possible formats for the 2010 CanAm Classic event. He also discussed possible entry fee structures for the event.

Expense report:

Lee went through the final numbers from the event. Income was \$33,300. Facility fees were the most expensive at \$16,628. This figure included a number of expenses, including \$1000 for building clean up, electrical expenses, rental of the picket fencing around the rings, insurance, and drapes for the crating area and vendor areas. Volunteers were the second most expensive at \$14,009. This number included hotel, travel, food, and entry fees returned to clubs who staffed rings. Although expensive, volunteers were critical for NAFA[®] being able to host a successful event of this size. Overall the event had a \$9,090.81 loss. Lee discussed that if entry fees had been \$125/day instead of \$100/day, it would have only been a \$600 loss.

Lee discussed the budget for the coming year's event. The new building will cost about \$4,000.00 more, but with the increased grassy areas, we will not have the \$1000.00 fee for AstroTurf. Approximately \$4,896.00 were one-time type expenses – back stops, etc. that should not be incurred next year. If entry fees are increased slightly, we could probably recover most of the costs this year. There was discussion that rental of mats is much more economical than buying them given that they would only be used for one event a year.

This year, Lee would like to aggressively court sponsors for the event. Dan Phillips has developed a sponsorship DVD from footage at the CanAm Classic. Lee played the DVD at the meeting. Everyone was very pleased with the DVD.

Dale returned to the meeting at 12:57 PM PST and resumed as acting Chair of the meeting.

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

Lee requested support from the Board to pay Dan Phillips \$400.00 for the sponsorship DVD. There was no opposition.

He will have 100 of the final DVDs printed to go to the Marketing Committee to actively seek sponsors for the event.

There was discussion about strategies for contacting and soliciting sponsors and of various options for sponsors. The Marketing Committee will be handling these issues. They'll be aggressively targeting sponsors for the CanAm Classic event using the special DVD presentation. If any competitors have suggestions for potential sponsors, they are urged to contact the Chair of the Marketing Committee. We hope to attract a wide range of sponsors.

The Board discussed holding the spring meeting in Indianapolis, IN to consolidate costs and allow for a site visit to the new building. Several hotels have contacted us regarding host hotel options. This might also give an opportunity to check out those hotels. Nancy has checked with the Fairgrounds regarding some possible dates.

The meeting was recessed for a short break and resumed 10 minutes later.

Shipping Costs

Lee continued with his comments to address shipping costs. A recurring question has brought up a larger issue. Our corporate UPS account has routinely been used for clubs to ship tournament results to NAFA[®]. For some reason UPS is not usually allowing that account to be used for shipping of results, but still allows the account to be used by clubs shipping EJS. The problem seems to stem from UPS's concerns with use of a third party account.

Lee indicated that NAFA[®] has historically allowed the account to be used for shipping of results. He proposed a policy where clubs who send in results electronically do not have to mail the timesheets to NAFA[®]. Clubs would be required to retain the written timesheets for one year in case of discrepancies. Clubs would be required to scan the C6 (results) and C9 (height sheet) and email them to NAFA[®]. This would significantly decrease the organization's shipping costs. If no scanner was available, clubs could send to the fax number. Clubs would still have the option to mail in results, but NAFA[®] would no longer pay for courier-delivery of results.

Lee stated that his goal is to make NAFA[®] entirely electronic within two years. He believes this is a reasonable goal. It would be more green, more efficient, and less expensive for the organization.

Rules was asked to review the existing rulebook to see if any rules need to be modified to implement this policy, such as the duties of the tournament sanctioning secretary including receiving courier results.

NAFA Communication Group

Lee indicated he wanted to implement a message list for people to receive notifications from NAFA[®]. The list would be one-way communication from NAFA[®] to subscribers. Announcements could include: web page updates, rule changes, reminders of deadlines, etc. Dale said a list could be set up in that fashion

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

through yahoogroups. Dana volunteered to administer it. There was discussion about what name to use. The group consensus was "NAFANews" given that we no longer have the printed NAFA News.

EJS

There have been issues with how clubs report problems with EJS and how those problems are tracked and resolved. Lee indicated he would like to have an online report form for judges to report on the status of the EJS. The judge is the one who knows best how the EJS performed. This would help track maintenance and upkeep of EJS. It would also give us the ability to ship replacement parts directly to where EJS may be. There was discussion about how to best implement this idea. This form would be made part of judge's responsibility. Judges would need to know which EJS was which. A reminder could be sent to the listed judge automatically before the tournament similar to how insurance reminders are sent. Dana suggested having a sheet to print off for judges to take notes on at the tournament to later input into the online system. There was discussion about making the records publicly available so clubs could check the status of the EJS that was sent to them.

Dale and Lee stated that we need to encourage people to contact us while still at the event when they have a problem. If we find out about a problem later, we don't have any way to try fixes, etc. So, if you have a problem, call during the event so we can try to fix it. Dana will send something out to the NAFA[®] Judges list with all of the EJS contact information. Currently an email goes to the Tournament Director and EJS contact the day before the event with all phone numbers for contact people. Dale also reported that we are still seeing lots of problems with damage to the EJS during set up and use, rather than during shipping.

Dale will create a form in the database within the next 30 days.

There was discussion about Region 7's issues in retiring the Hughes lights and utilizing the Signature Gear lights. Lee will confirm they are provided with contact information in case of problems. There is a training video on set up of the EJS on the web page. Kris was concerned that they may not have gotten the support they need during the transition away from the Hughes sets. Dale responded that part of the concern is that the region had purchased a set of Hughes lights many years ago and are now being required to use Signature Gear lights.

Lee shared that there is a new set of Signature Gear EJS that have not yet been used. He would like to send that set to Region 7 and have it be permanently parked in the region. The set would only be used elsewhere in the event of an extreme emergency. There was discussion about having Lee go up to a tournament in the region to train everyone on the use and set up of the Signature Gear EJS. On Saturday night, he would like to hold a town hall type meeting with competitors and clubs in the region.

Greg was concerned that a set doesn't need to be parked there full time, but should be utilized in adjacent regions. Lee wanted to make sure that were no concerns with damage during shipping or use in other regions. Leerie suggested a compromise of not shipping that set for a limited period of time until the region acquired more comfort with the Signature Gear lights. After that, the set could be put into general circulation.

Kris suggested Greg accompany Lee to Region 7 as he is the Canadian EJS contact. Lee and Greg both agreed and will contact the local clubs to try to schedule a time for them to go to a tournament.

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

There was discussion about damage to systems. Foam and ends that keep cases from sliding around are coming off, causing damage to cases, and potentially to the components. Lee has spoken to Mark at Signature Gear. He has offered that if we purchase 2 sets of cases (\$2200), as units come back for maintenance, he'll put components in new case, remark it, etc. and send the destroyed cases back for retrofitting. Dale indicated that the cases are probably not salvageable and may need to be destroyed. Mark will charge the same hourly time and materials rate we are already paying him for maintenance on the out of warranty sets. There was consensus for Lee to move ahead on this project.

PayPal payments

Lee reported that he would like to set up a PayPal account so clubs and competitors could pay online. We would incur a percentage charge based on scale. Nancy ran the numbers and estimates if all tournament fees were paid through PayPal for year, we would incur annual fees of approximately \$3000. This would be worth the convenience and getting payment more promptly. Funds can be transferred immediately. Nancy indicated her analysis was from March 09 to date. She took an average and included the transaction fee. The fee averaged out to about 2.6%.

Kris brought up that we are running at a negative balance right now. She stated that we might need to increase fees to correspond. She stressed that we need to make sure that we are being fiscally responsible. Tournament fees have not been raised in many years. Dana mentioned that when we lowered the cost for a second tournament in the same weekend, the Board indicated that it would reassess whether overall fees needed to be increased. That hasn't happened. There was discussion of the general need to consider the overall financial well being of organization. Karen asked if the savings from UPS for not requiring mailing of results would offset the PayPal cost. Nancy indicated that it probably would.

Dana recommended tabling the issue of a possible raise in tournament fees to the Finance Committee for development of a recommendation.

Nancy stated she wanted to try out the PayPal system on a limited basis to make sure it was workable. Dana wanted to give her the authority to use the online system and implement it as she saw fit and go live after she felt comfortable. It was decided this did not require a vote as it constituted day-to-day operations under the authority of the Executive Director.

Treasurer's report

Nancy distributed the fiscal year-end balance sheet and profit and loss sheets. The accountant is still working on the books, so the sheets do not include depreciation numbers yet. *(Included with minutes as Attachments B and C)*

Nancy reported that the bank accounts are being migrated and are almost completely finished.

She has some un-deposited funds that she just received.

The profit and loss sheet is through the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2009. The document will only reflect income and expenses that came in during the 10/1/08-9/30/09 time period. For instance, the

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

CanAm income & expenses are not reflective of the whole event. The Cynosports information was for prior years that came in after the close of the preceding year.

There was discussion of some of the expense items. There was a 25% reduction in EJS shipping costs, which equated to an annual expense saving of approximately \$10,000.00. Dale and Greg developed a spreadsheet for optimizing shipping. Dale indicated that we found a new storage unit for the EJS that is less expensive, reducing storage costs significantly as well.

There was discussion of publishing a comparative report to show the difference from the prior fiscal year. Nancy will generate it for attachment to the minutes. *(Included with minutes as Attachment D)*

Lee talked about measures we've taken to improve the finances. We are now caught up on honorariums paid to staff. NAFA[®] is run much better as a business today. Kris pointed out that we owe quite a bit to Sam Ford for his leadership in making this organization operate more like a business. Everyone agreed.

Nancy has modified the American Express cards to ensure all issued NAFA[®] cards are now earning AmEx points. She indicated we can use those points for hotel or airfare. She'll work to try to optimize points use. Dale indicated we should start keeping track of those points and include that information with the Treasurer Reports.

Secretary's Report

Dana indicated that the minutes were approved via email and posted on the web page for the August 22, 2009 in person Board meeting and the October 20, 2009 Teleconference.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee's report was covered by Nancy's Treasurer's report. Nancy will send the first quarter financials for inclusion in the minutes. *(Included with minutes as Attachments E and F)*

Judges Committee

Dana reported on the Judges/Education Committee.

Judges requesting advancement:

Amy Brubaker - Durham, NC - apprentice to provisional. The Judges Committee unanimously recommends advancement. Dana moved to promote her to provisional judge. Leerie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Sheldon - Englewood, CO - provisional to approved. The Judges Committee unanimously recommends advancement. Dana moved to promote her to approved judge. Alisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

Tammy Wilson - Phoenix, AZ - apprentice to provisional. The Judges Committee unanimously recommends advancement. Dana moved to promote her to provisional judge. Leerie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Walt - Caledonia, ON - approved to supervising. This was the first application the Committee has considered under the new supervising application rules. During the public comment period, the Committee received 19 comments. The comments were distributed to Board members. A teleconference was held with Dave Walt on January 5, 2010. There were some concerns that the Committee had about appropriate communication with NAFA[®] officials. The Judges Committee unanimously recommends advancement with caution to Mr. Walt to make sure that he utilizes appropriate communications in the future. Dana moved to promote him to supervising judge. Nancy seconded.

Dale moved we enter Executive Session to discuss concerns about his communications with NAFA officials.

The Board entered Executive Session at 3:42 PM PST.

The Board exited Executive Session at 4:01 PM PST. In executive session, the Board reviewed and discussed the specific exchanges with NAFA[®] representatives.

There was voting on the motion to promote Dave Walt to supervising status. In favor: Nancy Garcia, Leerie Jenkins, Dana Nichols, Karen Oleson, Kris Pickering, and Alisa Romaine. Abstained: Scott Stein (by proxy) and Greg Stopay. The motion passed.

Judge of the Year Award:

Dana presented language from the Committee for a Judge of the Year Award as was directed by the Board at the last BoD meeting in August.

The language presented by the Committee was:

Section 8.7 – Judge of the Year Award

(a) This award is to recognize a NAFA[®] judge who shows dedication, knowledge, sportsmanship, and outstanding contribution to the sport. The award may be given to one judge in each racing year. To be eligible, the judge must be a current NAFA[®] judge at the approved level or higher. The judge must be in good standing with NAFA[®] and must have been a judge for at least five years at the time of nomination.

(b) Nominations may be made by a person from any region, but each nominee may only be nominated by one person in each election.

(c) Nominations shall be no more than 200 words, citing the contribution and outstanding qualities that make the candidate deserving of the award. Candidates cannot have previously won the award in the past five years. Nominations should be submitted via the NAFA[®] webpage or sent to the NAFA[®] mailing address. Submit nominations to NAFA[®] no earlier than

North American Flyball Association® , Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

June 1st and no later than July 31st of each year by mailing to the Hall of Fame Committee at the published NAFA® address.

(d) A committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, and chaired by a member of the board. This committee will review the nominations and ensure they meet the above nomination criteria. All qualified nominations will be put to ballot vote.

(e) The winning candidate will be the candidate who earns the most returned votes. Winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

There was discussion regarding whether the award would become a popularity issue with bigger regions getting more votes, etc. There was also discussion about whether the award should be formatted more like the Hall of Fame award. Some expressed concern that the award might be more problems than it was worth.

Nancy moved against approval of a Judge of the Year Award. Greg seconded.

In favor of the motion: Nancy Garcia and Greg Stopay. Against: Leerie Jenkins, Dana Nichols, Karen Oleson, Kris Pickering, Alisa Romaine, and Scott Stein (by proxy). The motion failed.

There was further discussion about how the award should be formulated. Karen suggested that the nominator must be in good standing. Further modifications were suggested as follows:

Section 8.7 – Judge of the Year Award

(a) This award is to recognize a NAFA® judge who shows dedication, knowledge, sportsmanship, and outstanding contribution to the sport. The award may be given to one judge in each racing year. To be eligible, the judge must be a current NAFA® judge at the approved level or higher. The judge must be in good standing with NAFA® and must have been a judge for at least five years at the time of nomination.

(b) A nomination may be made by any person in good standing with NAFA®. Each nominee may only be nominated by one person in each election. The Board of Directors will narrow the list of nominees to no more than five (5) finalists to submit to a delegate vote.

(c) Nominations shall be no more than 200 words, citing the contribution and outstanding qualities that make the candidate deserving of the award. Candidates cannot have previously won the award in the past five years. Nominations should be submitted via the NAFA® webpage or sent to the NAFA® mailing address. Submit nominations to NAFA® no earlier than June 1st and no later than July 31st of each year.

(d) A committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, and chaired by a member of the board. This committee will review the nominations and ensure they meet the above nomination criteria.

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

(e) The winning candidate will be the candidate who earns the most returned votes. Winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

Leerie moved to approve the award with the language as modified above. Alisa seconded.

In favor: Nancy Garcia, Leerie Jenkins, Dana Nichols, Kris Pickering, Alisa Romaine, Scott Stein (by proxy), and Greg Stopay. Abstained: Karen Oleson. The motion passed.

Rules Committee

1. Request from Renee Nappier to allow a 7th dog for warm-ups

"Has NAFA ever considered adding a 7th slot to the C-2 form?

Here's my thought:

- 1) *The 7th slot could be for warm-up only, not part of the regular 6 dog roster. That could be an optional point for me. However, those of us with small teams that must use all six dogs on our roster often don't have space for a newbie. Given that it's virtually impossible to duplicate tournament conditions unless you're at a tournament, this would give a new dog/handler warm-up opportunities. Perhaps there could be a Saturday and Sunday designate so more dog and handler teams could gain exposure over a weekend. It would still be the Team's responsibility to handle their warm-up time allotment but sometimes simple lane presence helps.*
- 2) *Single dog racing is nice but not always available or doable. It also does not give you any idea how the dog might react over an entire weekend."*

The Rules Committee considered this request and does not recommend that the Board adopt this proposal. The Committee took into consideration that dogs can already be listed on a time sheet and warm-up as long as they meet the minimum requirements. Where tournaments are sanctioned as one tournament each day, different dogs can be listed on Saturday and on Sunday. The Committee was concerned that such a modification to the current rule might result in a larger number of dogs who are not yet ready for warm-ups being in the ring, may lengthen the racing day, and there may be some difficulties in tracking which dog is the warm-up only dog. Overall, the Committee felt that this modification was not warranted and that our current rules already provide ample opportunity for training of new dogs.

Karen moved to adopt the recommendation of the committee to not change the current rule. Greg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Request from Denise Barringer regarding whether dogs can be double run on a performance team even when double running is not allowed due to a limited tournament filling

"Again, limited tournament: if double running is not allowed based on the regular team entries and a team has to go to performance can dogs be double run on the performance team (with the exception of dogs entered on a vets team which is specifically not allowed in the rules)? I am guessing that is double running is allowed based on the regular entries that as long as the dog isn't on a vets team that it is fine. My issue is if usual double running is not allowed."

North American Flyball Association® , Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

The Rules Committee has considered this issue and is split in its recommendation. One view is that Section 6.2(h) prohibits double running in this situation. The performance team rule is specified as an exception to the 87 day rule, not an exception to the limited tournament rules. The opposing view is that the performance team rule overrides this prohibition because it is not one of the specifically listed exceptions in the performance team rule.

The rules applicable to this issue are as follows:

Section 6.2 (page 31 of the current rulebook)

(h) Dogs may not compete in more than one class at a NAFA® sanctioned tournament except:

- (i) When the tournament's regular class is unlimited or;
- (ii) When all entries received for a tournament's limited entry regular class are accepted at the conclusion of the automated draw.

Section 7.5(c) (page 36 of the current rulebook)

(v) Other Classes or Time Sheets. A dog that is listed on a timesheet for a Performance Team may be listed on the timesheet for one additional team provided the entry is on a team in another class, except in circumstances where a second entry would be prohibited by Sections 6.2(f) or (g) of the NAFA® Policies and Procedures.

Greg moved against allowing double running in this scenario. Dana seconded.

There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of permitting double running in this scenario.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dana moved to amend Section 7.5(c) to specifically include, "6.2(f), (g) or (h)." Kris seconded.

There was brief discussion to ensure no further amendments were necessary. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Recording heights on time sheets

This issue was originally raised on the Judges yahoo group. The Judges Committee asked the Rules Committee to consider whether there needed to be any changes or additional language to the current rules.

"We had an incident this weekend where a club didn't write any information in the jump height column on their C-2 sheet, they were all blank. The team ran the first race and the line judge and no one else noticed it was not filled out. They did run 7 inches the correct jump height for their lineup. At the start of their second race the line judge noticed the lack of a jump height and brought it to the attention of the head judge. The judge left the team add the correct height to the C-2 for the remainder of the tournament and removed any points, both NAFA and tournament, that were earned in the first race.

The club protested the judge's call and after several conversations with an attending supervisory judge

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

came to the conclusion that it was a judges call as we could find no rule to cover this situation."

The Rules Committee considered this request. The current rules do not specify what information has to be provided on a C.2 timesheet. The current form contains spaces for information, including: dog, breed, jump height, handler/owner, and CRN. Section 7.6 (page 37 of the current rulebook) provides penalties for listing an ineligible dog, but there is no proscribed penalty for failing to list a height or other information on a C.2 sheet. The Committee considered that if there is an allegation that a team is running an incorrect height, there is a process in place for a height challenge and a judge may measure a dog at any time. After considering several options, including completely redrafting the rule, the Rules Committee felt that it was more appropriate to leave the rule as it currently exists but educate judges that if a height is not filled out on the sheet, the team should be permitted to add the information without penalty.

There was discussion among the Board that there is currently a forum for a height challenge. Kris indicated that we should encourage people to declare the height that they are jumping. There should be some benefit to putting information on the sheet. Tournament secretaries & line judges should also be double checking that heights are filled out on sheet before racing begins.

Kris moved that the rules be amended to indicate that in the event a team fails to record the jump height on the C2 and fails a jump height challenge, it will be presumed that the team was jumping the incorrect height in all preceding heats. Greg seconded. There was discussion about what language should be used and possible consequences.

In favor of the motion: Leerie Jenkins, Dana Nichols, Karen Oleson, Kris Pickering, Alisa Romaine, Scott Stein (by proxy), and Greg Stopay. Abstain: Nancy Garcia.

The issue was referred back to Rules to draft language.

Leerie moved that we indicate that failure to record a height on a C.2 is not in and of itself a time sheet violation and does not implicate Section 7.6. Dana seconded. There was discussion.

Kris asked to amend language to, "failure to record a height on a C.2 form alone does not trigger the penalty specified in Section 7.6 and does not require forfeiting of the heats." Leerie and Dana both accepted amendment.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Requests to approve alternate materials for 1 and 2 inch slats

Dana shared that the Rules Committee received a request through judge Carle Lee Detweiler to approve materials represented to be similar to Sintra[®]. The Committee indicated it would need the specifications and a sample of the requested materials to consider the request. Richard Matthews provided a brochure and sample of a material called Azek[®]. The sample provided was 3/4 inch thick as a thinner sample was unavailable.

The sample and specifications were considered. The sample as presented, even given its greater thickness, seemed too dense to have any give. There was no motion to approve this material.

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

5. Bylaw review

Dana indicated that the Rules Committee recommends a periodic review of our by-laws to ensure they comply with applicable rules, statutes, and codes.

Dale moved we enter Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:48 PM PST.

The Board exited Executive Session at 5:54 PM PST. The Board discussed bylaw change.

6. Request from Sharon MacSween for rule to clarify that racing may be stopped in inclement weather

"I would like to propose a change to the rules to somehow state (my wording can be altered):

For tournaments that consist of uncovered crating outside that during inclement weather (visible lightening, tornadoes, etc) that racing should be halted during the time that this lightening, tornado is visible. The RD or TD should make the call, monitor the situation and suspend racing only for the time that it is deemed unsafe for the competitors to move from the crating area to the tournament floor.

The reason for my request is that in the summer of 2009 in Region 2, there was an extremely bad storm, there was water that rose to some competitors calves and we had to walk through trailers that were plugged in. Lightening was striking all around us. Racing was not halted as there was no rules or policy in place. I would like to see that something be put in place for the safety of the competitors and their dogs to halt racing at least during visible lightening (and strong tornadoes/torrential downpours or anything else that is harsh and unsafe in other regions) if crating is not offered indoors for all competitors."

The current rule provides:

Chapter 2 – Judges (page 20 of the current rulebook)

(e) The Rules of Racing and Corporate Policies & Procedures are a basic guide. They should not be considered a manual containing explicit direction for every possible situation. Judgment calls should be based on the experience, good character, and fairness of the judge. The intelligent application of discretionary authority demands that a judge exercise common sense, fairness, and initiative. **Above all else, the safety and well being of the dogs and exhibitors shall be foremost.**

Under this section, the Rules Committee finds that a judge does have the authority to stop racing in situations that compromise the safety and well being of the dogs and exhibitors, including inclement weather. The Rules Committee would encourage Regional Directors and Tournament Directors to work with judges regarding situations that may compromise safety. In regions where outdoor tournaments are held (and areas with indoor tournaments, but significant inclement weather), this section is regularly used to halt or delay racing in the event of rain or other inclement weather. Based on these findings, the Rules Committee does not recommend any changes to the current rule.

Greg moved to adopt the recommendation of the Rules Committee. Nancy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

Disciplinary Committee

Kris reported for Scott as chair of the disciplinary committee.

Request for reinstatement – Gimli – CRN 040608:

The Disciplinary Committee reviewed a packet of information submitted by Gimli's owner requesting reinstatement. The Committee distributed the packet to the Board prior to the meeting. The Committee does not recommend reinstatement. They do note that since the last incident, the dog obtained his CGC, but they do not feel this test generates the same level of stimulation as flyball. They felt it was still too risky at this point to reinstate this dog. The owner may apply for reinstatement once a year.

Dana moved that Board deny the request for reinstatement. Alisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Alisa will contact the owner with the Board's decision.

Request for removal of write-up – Sydney – CRN 040761:

The Disciplinary Committee received a request to remove the write-up on this dog. Kris reported that the Committee does recommend the write-up be removed. The dog has run successfully for quite some time since the excusal.

Greg moved that the write-up be removed as recommended. Kris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of charge – 2010-01:

The Disciplinary Committee received a disciplinary charge with the appropriate fee.

Dale moved we enter Executive Session to discuss the disciplinary charge.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:30 PM PST

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:53 PM PST. The Board denied the charge. The vote was not unanimous.

Marketing/Awards Committee

There is currently no chair of the Marketing Committee. Alisa and Nancy have both been working on pending projects. Alisa presented a recommendation for a NAFA[®] store front to sell NAFA[®] themed merchandise. She presented options from Café Press. The plan allows you to pick up to 80 items. She discussed that the base prices are pretty expensive. Even if NAFA[®] was to forgo any money at all, the items are still fairly expensive.

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

Abridged Minutes

January 15, 2010

Alisa discussed that another option is doing a run of items with pre-orders, similar to the CanAm merchandise. There was discussion that the orders could be done on a periodic basis, such as quarterly. And, merchandise offerings could be rotated with each order.

There was discussion about who would handle the orders and merchandise selection. Greg expressed interest. Lee suggested using a volunteer to free up Board members for other projects. Nancy said she had a person she could approach.

Awards

Nancy reported that the Marketing Committee received a proposal to redesign the 30,000 pin, primarily because it was so different from the other pins. The Committee researched the issue among regional directors, but there did not seem to be any support to change the pin design.

Dale reported on the Regional and National Champions for FY 2009 who would be announced at the Annual General Meeting tomorrow.

2009 NAFA Champions				
Region	States/Provinces	Champion	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
Regional Champions - Regular				
1	MI OH	Slammers	Spring Loaded	RPM Dog Sports
2	ON	Rocket Relay	Instant Replay	Border Patrol
3	MN ND SD	Animal Inn	SuperNova	Balls Out
4	IL IN KY WI	Bordering on Insanity-Midwest	Synergy	Ulti-Mutts
5	AR LA OK TX	Texas Heat	Top Dog Racers	Lone Star Ruffnecks
6	AZ NV UT	Heat Wave	Stampede	Phoenix Hot Pawsuit
7	BC OR WA	The Flying Squad	Total Anarchy	Dogwood Pacesetters
8	MB SK	Holeshot Racers	KAOS	Prairie P.D.Q. Dogsports
9	NC SC VA WV	Blockade Runners	C.I.A.	DogGoneFast
10	NB NS PE	Fast 'n FURious	F.A.M.E	Prepare for Takeoff
11	FL	Ketch This	Sundogs	Florida Flash Flyball
12	AB ID MT	Redline Dogsports	Synergetic Surge	Northern Power Paws
13	CT MA ME NH NY RI VT	Ruff Enuff	Canine Mutiny	New England Trailblazers
14	AL GA MS TN	The Gamblers	Music City Road Dogs	Birmingham Bandits
15	DE MD NJ PA	Fur Fun	Hard Drive	Revolution Flyball
16	CA	INXS	Bark in the Park	Turn N' Spit
18	AK	N/A		
19	CO NM WY	LAUNCH	D.E.O. Speedwaggin'	Denver Speed Demons
20	ON QC	DogZworth	Paws on Fire	Burnin' Rubber
21	IA KS MO NE	Omaha Speedracers	Hawkeye Hustlers	Omaha 4-Play

North American Flyball Association[®], Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Forest, California

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January 15, 2010

Region	States/Provinces	Champion	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
Regional Champions - Multibreed				
1	MI OH	Spring Loaded	Fur in a Blur	Woofelines
2	ON	Extreme Chaos	Instant Replay	Rocket Relay
3	MN ND SD	SuperNova	Happy Hurdlers	N/A
4	IL IN KY WI	All Ruffed Up	Ulti-Mutts	BC Boomerangs
5	AR LA OK TX	N/A		
6	AZ NV UT	Sedona Red Rockets	N/A	N/A
7	BC OR WA	N/A		
8	MB SK	N/A		
9	NC SC VA WV	Go Dog Go	DogGoneFast	Carpe Pilam
10	NB NS PE	Fast'n Furious	Prepare for Takeoff	F.A.M.E.
11	FL	Sundogs	Ketch This	W.O.F.F. "Watch Our Fur Fly"
12	AB ID MT	Redline Dogsports	Synergetic Surge	N/A
13	CT MA ME NH NY RI VT	Ruff Enuff	Infurno	Jump Masters
14	AL GA MS TN	The Gamblers	Music City Road Dogs	Birmingham Bandits
15	DE MD NJ PA	Release the Hounds	Fur Fun	Revolution Flyball
16	CA	Bark in the Park	INXS	Marin Running Riot
18	AK	N/A		
19	CO NM WY	D.E.O. Speedwaggin'	Rocky Mountain Flyball	N/A
20	ON QC	DogZworth	Hot Diggity Dogs	N/A
21	IA KS MO NE	Omaha Speedracers	Skidmarkz	N/A
NAFA[®] Champion Regular – Slammers				
NAFA[®] Champion Multibreed – Spring Loaded				

Technology Committee

Dale had nothing specific to report.

Election Committee

Dale indicated that Lee will need to appoint some additional counters for paper ballots at tomorrow night's Annual General meeting. One of them should be the person who received the ballots by mail. Early in the meeting, Dale will be sent out to finish tallying the votes.

Aggression Review Panel

Dana reported on aggression excusals since the last Board meeting.

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Kylie, CRN 090122 – excused 11/13/09. The excusal was sustained and notice was sent to her owner.

Dana indicated she recused herself from the next excusal because she was the judge involved. Lee reported that Leerie was appointed to fill Dana's position on the Review Panel for this excusal.

Roxie, CRN 051102 – excused 12/5/09. Lee reported that the excusal was sustained. Leerie will send notice to her owner.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Request from Linda Bullard to review NAFA voting procedures

"First & foremost, the Rules/Policies/Procedures should fully & clearly explain the voting process, specifically addressing the fact that splitting votes is available and what exactly it means. Combined with the fact that the paper ballot and the online ballot do not contain the same information in support of the voting process (by both providing a method & instruction for how to split a vote) and that some votes may have been cast without this knowledge by the voter leads to the perspective there is lack of integrity in the voting process."

Dana, Leerie, and Karen excused themselves from the meeting for the discussion because they were candidates in the election. Nancy assumed secretarial duties.

Kris moved that we refer the issue to the Rules/Bylaws Committee for research and response. Alisa second.

In favor: Nancy Garcia, Kris Pickering, Alisa Romaine, Scott Stein (by proxy), and Greg Stopay.
Abstained: Leerie Jenkins, Dana Nichols, and Karen Oleson.

Lee will respond to Linda Bullard.

Leerie, Dana, and Karen returned to the meeting.

Alisa moved to adjourn the meeting. Leerie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM PST.