

North American Flyball Association®, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

Montreal, Quebec

Abridged Minutes

November 29, 2008

Present were:	Executive Director	Sam Ford
	Board of Directors	Brian Fay, Nancy Garcia, Lee Heighton, Dana Nichols, Alisa Romaine, Dale Smith, Scott Stein

Chairman Lee Heighton called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM EST. Kris Pickering was absent due to work obligations and gave her proxy to Dana Nichols. Lisa Peckham was absent due to family commitments and gave her proxy to Brian Fay. Dale Smith appeared by phone.

Guest: Kim Davis.

Chairperson's Comments

Lee Heighton opened the meeting by thanking Brian Fay for his service to NAFA over the past six years.

Lee expressed his excitement at having the Board meeting at this location in conjunction with the Big O tournament in Montreal. It is a very impressive event, held in an extremely large venue in the Olympic Stadium. He thanked the host club Dogzworth for doing an outstanding job organizing the event and also for helping with arranging the Board of Directors meeting and Annual General Meeting.

Executive Director's Comments

Sam Ford requested the Board's approval to appoint Elizabeth Currin of Top Dog Racers as Regional Director for Region 5. Brian moved to approve the appointment. Alisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

He discussed the need for a regional change. There are new teams forming in Newfoundland who are not currently assigned to a region. Their geographic location makes it extremely difficult to place them with an existing region. Sam recommended the formation of a new region with him as acting regional director. Nancy moved to create the new region as requested. Dana seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The new region will be designated as Region 22. The change will be effective immediately.

There was discussion regarding the need for web page updates. Kim Davis has been helping with web updates and may be able to complete these updates as well.

Sam announced that Annie Taylor will be assisting Dale with electronic scoring of tournaments. Annie is currently in charge of plaques and has been assisting with hand scoring of tournaments. Dale will still be responsible for handling any tournament with scoring errors.

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Secretary's Report

Dana reported that the minutes from the August 2, 2008 Board meeting and the August 19, 2008 Board teleconference have been approved and were posted to the web page.

She indicated that the Board received a request via email from Leerie Jenkins for an extension of time to complete required judging assignments to the end of October due to substantial medical issues he faced this year. This request was approved by unanimous consent of the Board via email. Leerie has now completed the needed assignments.

Treasurer's Report

Scott combined his report with the Finance Committee Report.

Committee Reports

A. Judges/Education Committee

Scott Stein reported on two requests for change in judging status:

1. Toby Emo of Nunda, New York requested promotion from provisional status to approved. The Judges Committee unanimously recommended that change. Brian moved to adopt that recommendation. Nancy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Scott Chamberlain of York, Pennsylvania requested promotion from approved to supervising judge. The Judges Committee unanimously recommended that change. Brian moved to adopt the recommendation. Dana seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott also indicated he had received a letter from Jennifer Staton in support of Carle Lee Detweiler for supervising judge, but that he has not yet received a supervising judge application.

Lee raised an issue that at the past few tournaments, he has observed teams being permitted to replace the start dog after a false start. Both Rule and Judges Committees agreed that dogs cannot be substituted after a false start, only between heats. Once the heat has begun, dogs cannot be substituted. If a heat is rerun by a judge, then dogs can be substituted because the heat begins again as if it had not been run.

Brian inquired as to whether judges should be permitted to wear black and white Hawaiian shirts. He did not believe this constituted professional attire. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this issue. The consensus of the Board was that our current rule does not prohibit black and white Hawaiian shirts for judging. Any modification of that would require a rule change.

Brian moved that NAFA provide two approved judging shirts for all judges. Scott seconded. There was further discussion regarding this proposal. In favor: Brian Fay, Lisa Peckham (by proxy), Scott Stein. Opposed: Nancy Garcia, Dana Nichols, Kris Pickering (by proxy), Alisa Romaine, Dale Smith. The motion failed.

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B. Finance Committee

Scott Stein provided financial reports via email (attached to the minutes as Attachments A and B). These are in draft form because they are pending accounting review and do not yet include depreciation. The numbers are thus preliminary. EJS shipping has increased again to \$40,000.00 due to gas and UPS costs. Although the preliminary numbers show a profit for the year, after depreciation is added we will show a loss. Scott projects a loss of approximately \$20-25,000.00.

C. Disciplinary Committee

Lee indicated he had nothing to report.

D. Technology Committee

Dale submitted a report via email prior to the meeting. His report is incorporated into the minutes as follows:

Results backlog

We experienced a four week backlog of results being entered into the database from electronic submissions. This was really caused by four factors - all related to me only having so many hours in the day. It started with our normal pause as we close out the last racing year. It was lengthened by an email redirection problem (which resulted in some email going to flyball@flyball.org getting a "temporarily unable to deliver" response) and by the time it took to get ballots mailed out and the electronic balloting set up. Finally, it was compounded by some unexpected work travel which had me out of town for most of three weeks. As a result we've immediately enabled another person to process results (mainly the ones with no issues) if this type of overload were to happen again. This should minimize its impact on our competitors.

Insurance Support

New functions have been added to support the new insurance requirements. This allows entry of insurance information into the database as well as display of insurance status as part of the tournament list.

EJS Tracking

New SW functions are providing good support for tracking the current location and use of each EJS system. Read-write access is provided to the EJS Shipping coordinators. Read-only access is provided to others at ED discretion. New automated letters are going out to help with common EJS issues and to ensure tournament hosts know who to contact (and how) if EJS issues arise.

New draw logic

There has been a delay in getting the new draw logic (allows trade-offs between classes when one class fills and another does not) integrated into the system. I expect it to be complete and tested by year - end.

New scoring program

Specs are completed but development has not yet begun. Development should begin by year-end with estimated delivery this spring.

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Tournament Scheduling/Enablement

Lee created a special project some time ago to help with tournament scheduling. Work continues to progress with pieces of the technology being tested at various events. The ultimate goal is to make the hosting of a NAFA flyball tournament easier and more fun for both the tournament hosts and competitors. We are working closely to ensure that whatever is done does not disadvantage individuals or corporations that write and sell software and/or services to assist NAFA tournament hosts.

Balloting

Last year we discussed the electronic delivery of ballots to further reduce the workload involved in printing, stuffing and mailing over 1600 ballots. There is also a cost savings. At the time there was no opposition, but no firm action was taken and the issue got lost amongst many other to-dos. I'd like to see us make progress on this item this year. As well, we have the outstanding issue of the delay between when delegate votes are earned and when they can be used. Votes for the election running now were earned between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.

Other enhancements

Other enhancements remain in the queue including online "New Club" purchase, Online sanctioning, and additional Club owner features to transfer dog's to their Club and to set status for dog's on their Club (Retired, Deceased, etc).

EJS Software

Signature Gear has completed a new release of Software for the EJS systems. This release should make it easier to run veterans by providing a new method to set the false start lights. It also provides a new, more robust, computer output for integration with PC-based scoring systems. It provides some other nice features as well. I expect to test it next week for the first time in Blue 3.

EJS Systems

EJS systems continue to experience excessive wear. The most pervasive issue appears to be over-tightening of the screw which sets the tripod legs. This results in dents in the tripod and subsequent issues with extending the tripod above its minimum height. Shipping crates continue to take a beating with several having cracks or holes. The "crate inside a crate" approach that we're using has protected our timing systems from this damage. As many of you remember, we lost one half of an EJS system to a shipping loss over a year ago. We really need that EJS system in circulation. Unfortunately, the crate that was lost had the bulk of the electronics in it (and the bulk of the cost). I've asked Signature Gear to quote replacement for the missing components which is shown below. I'd ask the Board to authorize purchase of the components to bring the set (Red 7) back into circulation. There will also be about a \$1000 cost to replace the shipping case.

(2 Lane Flyball Timing System less 2 Scoreboards, 2 Scoreboard Cases, 1 Speaker & Bag, 4 Bases and Base Bag = \$7621.00)

E. Marketing Committee

Lisa submitted a report via email prior to the meeting. Her report is incorporated into the minutes as follows:

Brochures

We're down to our last 500 or so brochures (they're with Kim Davis). We distributed approx 4,500 brochures this year, including 400 that are en route to the Big O tourney this weekend. So I'd like to get board approval to order more. We seem to go through about 5,000 per year, so that's my

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recommendation for this next order. The cheapest I have seen them is on VistaPrint, which is \$549 plus \$52 shipping.

DogSport Magazine

DogSport was sold in October. The original owners were Andrew and Anne Douglas in Ontario, and they sold it to NTI Global, based out of New York. NTI makes some dog sport equipment (agility tunnels, i think). The new editors are Rachael and Joyce Raeburn. It seems like they are sticking to the same format and will continue to want flyball articles. We've gotten at least one article about flyball (sometimes 2 or 3) in every issue of DogSport for the past year. Our partnership agreement with DogSport is over, though.

NAFA Website

I just want to publicly thank Kim Davis for helping out so much with the NAFA website this year. She's done a fantastic job.

Dana moved to authorize an addition 5,000 brochures. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lee indicated we are in the process of signing a new contract with DogSport magazine.

Sam indicated he has obtained a design for the 2009 junior handler pins.

Nancy presented potential designs for pins for 40,000 through 90,000 titles. There was discussion among those various designs and one was chosen. Dana moved to have Nancy take the design to a pin company and have those manufactured. Alisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Once produced, they will be distributed retroactively to all dogs who have received those titles.

F. Standing Rules/Regulatory/Bylaw Committee

Kris submitted a written report ahead of time as follows:

The Rules Committee has no new business to report. The changes made throughout the year were incorporated in the 2009 Rule Book, which has been published and is available on the website. Special thanks to Dana Nichols for keeping track and taking care of so much of this work. Thanks also to Patty Cannon who assisted in the word processing involved.

The Rules Committee wants to remind everyone to forward ideas and suggestions or criticisms to us. Not all ideas result in new rules or rule changes but the best ideas come from the NAFA® community and we try to address them all.

G. Awards Committee

Dale submitted a report with regional champions:

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2008 NAFA Champions				
Region	States/Provinces	Champion	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
Regional Champions - Regular				
1	MI OH	Slammers	Front Runners	Spring Loaded
2	ON	Rocket Relay	Unleashed	Border Patrol
3	MN ND SD	Animal Inn	Balls Out	HighVelocity
4	IL IN KY WI	Bordering on Insanity-Midwest	Synergy	Milwaukee Dogs
5	AR LA OK TX	Top Dog Racers	Texas Heat	Lone Star Ruffnecks
6	AZ NV UT	Heat Wave	Flying Colors	Sedona Red Rockets
7	BC OR WA	The Flying Squad	Dogwood Pacesetters	Total Anarchy
8	MB SK	Holeshot Racers	Prairie P.D.Q Dogsports	Fylball N~R~G
9	NC SC VA WV	Blockade Runners	Carpe Pilam	DogGoneFast
10	NB NS PE	Fast 'n FURious	Lietash PUSH The Limits	F.A.M.E
11	FL	Ketch This	Sundogs	Florida Air Xpress
12	AB ID MT	Redline Dogsports	Northern Power Paws	Synergetic Surge
13	CT MA ME NH NY RI VT	Ruff Enuff	New England Trail Blazers	Boston Stragglers Flyball Club
14	AL GA MS TN	Fetchin' Frenzi	Music City Road Dogs	The Gamblers
15	DE MD NJ PA	Fur Fun	Flyball Dogs Anonymous	No Speed Limit
16	CA	Bark in the Park	Turn N' Spit	INXS
18	AK	N/A		
19	CO NM WY	D.E.O. Speedwaggin'	LAUNCH	Denver Speed Demons
20	ON QC	DogZworth	Paws on Fire	Burnin' Rubber
21	IA KS MO NE	Jammn' K9's	Omaha Speedracers	Hawkeye Hustlers

Regional Champions - Multibreed				
1	MI OH	Spring Loaded	Slammers	Woofelines
2	ON	Rocket Relay	Ballderdashers	DOG-ON-IT
3	MN ND SD	High Velocity	SuperNova	Nose to Nose
4	IL IN KY WI	Synergy	All Ruffed Up	Milwaukee Dogs
5	AR LA OK TX	N/A		
6	AZ NV UT	Flying Colors	N/A	N/A
7	BC OR WA	N/A		
8	MB SK	N/A		
9	NC SC VA WV	DogGoneFast	Carpe Pilam	Beltway Bandits
10	NB NS PE	N/A		

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11	FL	Ketch This	Sundogs	W.O.F.F. "Watch Our Fur Fly"
12	AB ID MT	N/A		
13	CT MA ME NH NY RI VT	Ruff Enuff	Jump Masters	Granite State Racers
14	AL GA MS TN	Music City Road Dogs	Birmingham Bandits	Chattanooga Chomp
15	DE MD NJ PA	Fur Fun	Flyball Dogs Anonymous	Release The Hounds
16	CA	Bark in the Park	Turn N' Spit	INXS
18	AK	N/A		
19	CO NM WY	D.E.O. Speedwaggin'	N/A	N/A
20	ON QC	Paws on Fire	Hot Diggity Dogs	N/A
21	IA KS MO NE	Omaha Speedracers	Skidmarkz	Hawkeye Hustlers

NAFA Champion - Regular	
Rocket Relay	
NAFA Champion - Multibreed	
Spring Loaded	

There was a discussion about circumstances when teams qualify for regional placements. Teams must enter four tournaments in that class, but not all four tournaments must qualify for regional points. For example, a club can enter multibreed at four tournaments and be regional champion even though not all four tournaments had four teams entered. At least one tournament must have four teams competing in that class for regional points to accrue. This was sent to Rules Committee to review the rule to make sure this was clear and draft any needed language.

Brian moved to approve the Awards Committee report. Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Outstanding Business

Sam extended his thanks to Alisa Romaine for the height card transition. She did an incredible job of issuing new height cards for dogs after the rule change.

New Business

1. Request from Amy Rideout, owner of Gimli (CRN 040608) to remove suspension for two write-ups due to aggression

Lee reported that the Executive Director has suspended this dog for having two write-ups for aggression. His owner has petitioned to have one or both of those write-ups removed and the suspension lifted. Documents were distributed to Board members ahead of the meeting (included as Attachment C to these minutes). There was no motion put forth.

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2. EJS replacement

There was a request from Dale as head of Technology Committee to replace components from a missing EJS as detailed in his committee report. Nancy moved to replace these components at the \$7,621.00 bid. Alisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dale will take care of purchasing the components.

3. DogSport request

Lee relayed a request from DogSport magazine to use information from the "About Us" section on our web page to use in beginner bags with information about various dog sports. The Board indicated support for this use, pending final approval of the product.

Scott moved that the meeting be adjourned. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am EST.