

North American Flyball Association Inc.

Los Angeles, California

March 18/19, 2005

Abridged Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Present were: Executive Director - Sam Ford

Board of Directors - Lee Heighton,
Jeff Kinsley,
Dale Smith,
Glenn Hamilton,
Brian Fay,
Todd Morningstar,
Kris Pickering,
Scott Stein

Absent - Ken Eldridge

Called to order at 7:17PM Pacific Time by Chairman Lee Heighton. Several guests were in attendance and introduced. The board thanks Marge Henderson, Jane Horsfield and Margaret Lyons for attending.

Ken Eldridge was unable to attend due to business commitments and has given his proxy to Glenn Hamilton.

Due to the delays in starting the meeting, both the Chairman's and Executive Director's comments were deferred until later in the meeting.

Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee met and has no report at this time.

Standing Rules and Regulatory Committee

The committee reviewed the requirements for sanctioning with respect to Breed Specific Legislation. The committee proposes that Section 6.1 – Requirements be modified to exclude the phrasing regarding banned breeds. Currently the rule reads as follows:

- (b) The host club must submit a complete application (NAFA® Form C.3).
 - (i) NAFA® will not sanction tournaments where all dogs would not be allowed to participate on the tournament grounds. eg. certain breeds banned.

Discussion ensued as to whether NAFA wanted to emphasize the position that Flyball should be open to all dogs, mixed breed or pure bred except where prohibited by legislation. The sanctioning process needs to be upgraded to report breed limitations and exemptions that would apply to tournaments and affect competitors that may enter. This information would be included on the web site for public review when entering events. The board requested that the Standing Rules Committee draft the formal wording of the proposed rule change and the modification to sanctioning form C3 to be submitted later in this meeting. Additionally, further rule changes that may be affected by BSL need to be researched, i.e., regional championships, venues, possible 90 day exemptions, etc. by the rules committee.

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The committee reviewed the management of limits on the size of entry fees and felt that it was impossible to regulate tournament entry fees. They did recommend that entry fees be charged by team and not by person. Discussion followed about whether limits should in fact be used to regulate the upper amount that an entry fee amount can be established. The question was asked whether the Executive Director should be given some discretion in the approval process to manage excessive entry fees or conditions, subject to the approval of the board. The board felt that current definition of rule Section 6 -1 (g) Requirements can continue as the basis for controlling unusual sanctioning requests.

The committee was asked to recommend a method to the Executive Director for approval of regional directors. After review, the board concluded that April 30 of the year following an election of an Executive Director should become the cutoff date for an Executive Director to propose a full slate of regional directors for review.

The committee was asked to decide whether vomit was considered "fouling in the ring" or not. The recommendation from the committee is that vomit is not considered fouling and should not be penalized by a loss of heat. "Fouling" is to be limited to urination and defecation.

Lee recommended that Glenn Hamilton be added to the Rules Committee. There was no opposition to the recommendation. Motion carried.

Judges Committee

The Judge's committee thanked the Executive Director for initiating the distribution of the updated form C12 to the judges.

The committee recommends that Danny Fitz be moved from Apprentice to Provisional judge status. Brian moved acceptance and Dale seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

The committee recommends that Rob Bitler be moved from Apprentice to Provisional judge status. Brian moved acceptance and Scott seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

The committee recommends that Cynthia Henderson be moved from Provisional to Head judge status. Brian moved acceptance and Scott seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

The committee recommends that Melinda Roast be moved from Provisional to Head Judge status. Brian moved acceptance and Glenn seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

Scott left the meeting at 9:18PM.

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Lee requested that the board enter Executive Session which was entered at 9:19PM to discuss a recent judge's committee teleconference.

The board left Executive Session at 9:36PM

Upon review of the recent teleconference, no further action was required by the judge's committee.

Glenn moved that we recess the meeting until 03/19/05 at 8:00AM. Brian seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting recessed at 9:40PM.

The meeting was resumed on Saturday, March 19, 2005. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 8:30AM. Roll Call was taken and all members were present with exception of Ken Eldridge whose proxy remained with Glenn Hamilton.

The Judge's Committee continued with their presentations.

The committee reported that Glenn Hamilton had resigned from the Judge's Committee due to his recent addition to the Rules Committee. Lee moved that the board accept his appointment of Scott Stein to the Judge's Committee. Glenn seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

The committee reported that they have reviewed the requirement of developing new methods for presenting judge's training. A series of 3 to 4 minute training sessions is proposed that would outline the various aspects of the required training. Storing digital video clips would enable judges to have immediate access to updated material without the need for reproduction of static videos, saves money in the long term for NAFA. High and low resolution presentations could be offered to dial-up versus broadband users. Additionally, if a judge is not computer enabled, alternate distribution methods can be developed. The committee recommends that the board undertake a bid process outlining the development of the videos with information being requested on the NAFA web site.

Rules Committee

During the recess, the committee drafted the following revision to 6.1 to eliminate 6.1(b) and 6.1(g) and replace them with the following replacement rules;

6.1 (b) NAFA is committed to maintaining Flyball as a sport for all dogs. NAFA tournaments are open to all dogs without regard to whether the dog is a mixed breed, a pure bred or any particular breed. NAFA will not sanction a tournament at a site that excludes dogs on the basis of breed unless the exclusion is mandated by governmental law or ordinance and the host club has attempted and been unable to qualify for an exemption to governmental exclusions. A host club shall inform NAFA of any such laws or ordinances when sanctioning is requested. It is the host club's responsibility to keep the sanctioning request current on all legislation and ordinances that affect the tournament. The host club shall finalize all such event limitations 60 days prior to the event closing.

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6.1(g) The host club must submit a complete application (NAFA Form C.3). The entry fee shall be stated on a per team basis. The host club must request and obtain written approval from NAFA for any special or unusual request.

Kris made a motion that the rule changes be accepted. Brian seconded. In discussion, Kris noted that the necessity of the for the rule change is to formally publish NAFA's mandate regarding Breed Specific Legislation to enable NAFA to work with legislative powers to seek exemptions from existing ordinances for our sport. Scott endorsed the policy but was concerned that the distribution of this rule should not wait until a new rulebook is published in September. A single page addendum to the rulebook should be stated and placed on the rulebook distribution page. It was felt that this rule change does not affect the rules of racing but is directed at the sanctioning process to bring it in line with current legislative requirements. There was no opposition to the amended motion. Motion carried.

Working with the BOD, the ED has adopted an amendment to form C3 to require application and coordination of any applicable exemption with appropriate local governmental authorities and subsequent notice to NAFA of the BSL and the event's exemption. In this manner, the sanctioning function managed by the Executive Director and through the web site, all competitors can be kept current on the status of events with respect to legislative issues that affect their ability to enter NAFA events.

Todd made a motion to define fouling in the ring to include only urination and defecation and amend the glossary to reflect this definition. Brian seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

Marketing, Development and Awards Committee

The committee met to discuss various issues and presented the following recommendations.

Jeff made a motion that the terms FDSilv and FDGold be adopted for the 1,000 and 2,500 point awards. Todd seconded the motion. In discussion, the concern was that the concept of FDCh was being lost. Jeff amended the motion to replace the title names as FDCh-S and FDCh-G for the 1,000 and 2,500 point title names. Scott seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the amended motion. Motion carried.

The committee noted that the distribution of these awards in the current year will be to dogs that earn the title in FY2005 and to past achievers that are active in racing in FY2005.

The committee presented a draft of the 100K Hobbes award pin. Jeff recommended the acceptance of the proposal. Brian seconded the motion. Jeff noted that the image of the dog will be an outline of Hobbes. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

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Various Flyball game classes have been discussed by the board and committee in the past. Classes under consideration are Single, Doubles, Mixed Doubles (height dog and other), Open (holiday or friends from multiple clubs) and Steeplechase. Concerns that under discussion are the impact of racing of Open classes against Regular class, impact on club integrity, separate point and award systems for Single and Doubles racing, jump heights, etc. Scott noted that the implementation of such events should be scaled and planned to ensure complete success of the games. The committee feels that the addition of such classes will appeal to many competitors. Concern was expressed that the development of such games may erode the team aspect of Flyball which is one of the major strengths of our sport. The committee will request input from the Flyball community as we move towards the development of sanctioning new classes.

Technology Committee

Signature Gear is on schedule to deliver the initial order of 5 sets on March 31 to Dale to acknowledge formal receipt of the product. The shipping cases for the systems are delayed as the updates to the tree are not yet finalized. Once development is complete, the case foam cutting will be completed. Dale is developing the set up instructions to be included before distribution. The systems will be distributed in April to tournaments once the cases are ready. As the SG systems are certified and used in NAFA events, the board will be kept current on the success or failures of the new systems. An additional five SG systems will be available 4 to 6 weeks after our order is placed with Signature Gear. The board has requested that the Technology Committee request a delivery date of systems beyond the proposed 10 systems be established.

Concern was expressed over the lack of accuracy of the Electronic Judging Systems. Efforts are under way to determine if the Hughes hardware can be reprogrammed to eliminate the errors. Discussion of the letter from Alyson Brown describing failures on the EJS's was extensive and Dale will respond to her questions. The Judge's Committee is requested to advise the judges that they have the ability to override calls on all EJS's when it is apparent that an error has occurred.

Dale reported that the technology driving the Chat transcripts has been improved and the ability to print an entire chat has been improved.

The board requested that the web site display all NAFA world records.

Dale reported that MVP, board nominations and Clyde Moore Hall of Fame nominations will be submitted using the web site for online submission of nomination information.

Election Committee

Outstanding is a request from Walter Davis that the balloting be accomplished completely on-line in the FY05 elections. Dale expressed concern that the technology for electronic distribution of the ballots may not be available for this voting year.

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The committee requested information about the location of the Annual General Meeting so that Balloting plans can be established.

The committee recessed at 10:40AM for 30 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 11:10AM.

The Chairman indicated that the meeting would continue beginning with Disciplinary Charge 2004-7 and reviewed the hearing process as outlined in the NAFA rulebook. Charged individuals will be identified, the charges reviewed, witnesses will be identified and interviewed. Sam confirmed that he was recording the meeting separately on a voice recorder.

Hearing for Disciplinary 2004-7

Scott Stein and Brian Fay requested that the board enter executive session to begin the discussion regarding Charge 2004-7.

The board entered executive session at 11:13AM to conduct a disciplinary hearing. Witnesses and guests were asked to leave until called by the board.

The board left Executive Session at 2:12PM.

Disciplinary charge 2004-7 was sustained in that Mr. Sid Lupu was found to have committed Conduct Prejudicial to the sport of Flyball with a written letter of discipline and apologies to follow.

The board recessed for lunch at 2:15PM.

The board returned from lunch at 3:10PM.

Treasurer's Report

Scott moved that we renew our Director's E&OE insurance per Dale's quotation. Brian seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion Carried.

The current year financial statements were presented and reviewed.

Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report.

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Disciplinary Committee Report

Lee requested Executive Session to discuss disciplinary issues.

Executive Session was entered at 3:23PM to discuss several new charges that had been brought to the Disciplinary Committee for review.

The board left Executive Session at 3:59PM.

Disciplinary charge 2005-2 was found to warrant a hearing.

Sam left the meeting at 3:46PM.

Disciplinary charge 2005-3 was deemed to be unfounded and was dismissed without merit.

Sam returned to the meeting at 3:51PM.

Disciplinary charge 2005-4 was deemed to be unfounded and was dismissed without merit.

Chairperson's Comments

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the five Regional Directors who have recently resigned. NAFA wishes them well in their future endeavors.

Executive Director's Comments

Sam expressed his appreciation to Kris Pickering for making the arrangements for today's meeting.

NAFA has the opportunity to improve our sport and look forward to continuing to expand it throughout North America. As an organization, we have new challenges and will rise to meet those challenges. The ED congratulated the board for taking stands on various issues and looked forward to working with the Board and the changing slate of Regional Directors.

Outstanding Business

Approval of Regional Directors

In the days immediately preceding this meeting, NAFA received 5 resignations from Regional Directors for Regions 1, 4, 6, 7 and 16. The board thanked Annette Tindall, Katy Kaylor, Doug May, Dave Cracknell and Steve McAvoy for their work on NAFA's behalf.

Todd made a motion to accept the appointment of Bunny Burton of Region 2 as Regional Director. Brian seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Carried.

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Glenn made a motion to accept the appointment of Jonnie L. Geen of Region 6 as Regional Director. Brian seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Carried.

Brian made a motion to accept the appointment of Peter Wesdyk of Region 8 as Regional Director. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Carried.

Todd made a motion to accept the appointment of Amanda Brown from Region 9 as Regional Director. Brian seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Carried.

Dale made a motion to accept the appointment of Ule James from Region 4 as Regional Director. Jeff seconded. For the motion: Scott, Dale, Todd, Kris, and Jeff. Abstain: Ken by proxy, Glenn, Brian Motion carried.

Todd made a motion to accept the appointment of Christine Sells from Region 11 as Regional Director. Brian seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Carried.

Scott made a motion to accept the appointment of Linda Smith from Region 12 as Regional Director. Dale seconded. For the motion: Scott, Dale, Todd, Kris, Brian, and Jeff. Abstain: Ken by proxy, Glenn. Motion carried.

Todd made a motion to accept the appointment of Denise Delaney from Region 15 as Regional Director. Brian seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Carried.

Due to recent resignations, regions 1, 7 and 16 still require permanent regional director appointments.

Removal of Aggression Write-up on Suncrest Jus' Breez'n Thru CRN #010696

The Disciplinary Committee recommends that the aggression incident be removed from its file. The dog has continued to learn the sport of flyball and has earned over 10,000 points, competing in over 20 weekends of racing. Scott made a motion to accept the recommendation. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

Formalization of Legacy or Reserve Weekend Requirements

The draft of the proposal has been submitted to the NAFA web site for response from the Flyball community. The draft was tabled for further discussion.

Increase in fee for Disciplinary Charges

Brian made a motion to increase the fee associated with any disciplinary charge from \$25.00 to \$100.00 per named respondent effective Oct. 1, 2005. Glenn seconded. In discussion, the concern

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was expressed that increase in fee might cause some people to be unable to afford to file reasonable charge. Nonetheless, the board has been expending a tremendous amount of effort reviewing charges, frivolous or otherwise, to bring all charges to an accurate conclusion. If the increase in fee causes plaintiffs to research their charges more accurately, then the idea has merit. It was noted that the \$25.00 fee has not been increased since the early 1990's. Scott made a motion to table the motion to the Rules and Bylaws committees to provide a recommendation to amend the Disciplinary process. Dale seconded. For the motion: Kris, Scott, Dale, and Todd. Against: Ken by proxy, Glenn, Jeff, Brian. Lee voted in favour of the motion. Motion to table carried.

Glenn made the motion to reconsider the vote of the motion to table. Brian seconded. Against tabling: Ken by proxy, Glenn, Jeff, Brian and Todd. For tabling the motion: Kris, Scott and Dale. Motion to reconsider the tabling was passed.

Further discussion followed regarding the merits of increasing the fee. After review, Scott made a motion to table Brian's original motion to the Rules and Bylaws committees to provide a further recommendation to amend the Disciplinary process. Dale seconded. For the motion: Kris, Scott, Dale, Ken by proxy, Glenn and Todd. Against: Jeff and Brian. Motion to table carried.

Wicket Responsibility

Dale made a motion to transfer the responsibility of providing the NAFA approved wicket for tournaments from NAFA to the tournament hosting club. Scott seconded. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

New Business

Response to Passage of Breed Specific Legislation

The Rules committee is reviewing the impact of BSL of the NAFA rule book and will continue to report on its progress.

Region 6/16 Realignment

The Executive Director has removed his earlier proposal to split region 16. At this time, there is no plan to split California into multiple regions.

The Executive Director has agreed to review the composition of Region 6. He has received a number of communications respecting Nevada, Colorado and all areas of region 6 which he is studying.

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All other regions are under review for the balance of the year. Any further regional realignment will be proposed by July 31. It should be noted that several proposals were received and they continue to be reviewed by the ED.

Alaska as Region 18

The Executive Director recommended the development of Alaska as Region 18. Todd made a motion to accept the creation of Region 18 as Regional Director. Brian seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

Next In-person Board Meeting

It is suggested that the next board meeting be held in the south east segment of the United States on August 12.

Annual General Meeting

The proposed weekend for the Annual General Meeting is November 5 with a board meeting on November 4.

Letter Received from Julie Norman

Julie Norman wrote to request that NAFA prohibit the dog Whiplash from racing without her consent. The dog has been registered in her name and was living with a former family member. When the dog began to compete in Flyball without her consent, Ms. Norman objected. The board felt it was unable to enforce her wish as she placed the dog in the other party's care and control regardless of NAFA registration which placed the dog beyond the scope of any NAFA involvement. Lee will reply.

Letter Received from Julie Andrews

Julie Andrews has requested that NAFA accept the Mini Australian Shepherd as a separate breed. NAFA is unable to accede to this request this as NAFA only accepts breeds from the registries listed Chapter 6.2 – Classes of Competition, paragraph (d). Lee will reply.

Videotaping of World Record Measurements

The Rules Committee believes that there is merit in the submitted proposal to video tape world record measurements. Todd made a motion that during the verification of the world record measurements, that all measurements be videotaped, including a measurement of the height dog,

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regardless of the presence of a height card. Kris seconded the motion. Brian made a motion to table the proposal for review. Scott seconded the motion to table. For the motion: Scott, Dale, Ken by proxy, Glenn, Brian and Jeff. Against: Kris and Todd. Motion carried. The proposal was returned to the Rules Committee for further research and/or recommendation.

Brian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

The meet was adjourned at 8:00PM.