

# North American Flyball Association Inc.

Teleconference

May 4, 2005

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Present were: Executive Director - Sam Ford  
Board of Directors - Lee Heighton,  
Glenn Hamilton,  
Brian Fay,  
Todd Morningstar,  
Kris Pickering,  
Scott Stein

Called to order at 7:10 PM Central Time by Chairman Lee Heighton. Ken Eldridge was unable to attend due to business commitments and has given his proxy to Glenn Hamilton attached as Appendix A. Dale Smith was unable to attend due to business commitments. Jeff Kinsley indicated by email that he would be joining the meeting late.

### Opening Remarks

The special meeting was called to review immediate issues requiring discussion by the board. Lee welcomed Mark Kuznitz of Signature Gear.

### Signature Gear Update

Mark Kuznitz joined the meeting for an update on the new Signature Gear EJS lights, which have been displaying several bad passes per weekend in the initial testing at tournaments. The Board expressed its concern with this intermittent fault and with the delay in production and delivery. Signature Gear reports that it has been working to isolate and resolve the problem and believes that it has done so. Mark will be shipping a set to Chelsea, MI for use this weekend to determine if the problem has been resolved under actual tournament conditions. Lee will provide a camera to monitor all passes for Mark's testing and Mark will be in attendance and have several bug fixes available to implement in case of error. The glitch seems to be related to the reception of radio waves. Signature Gear does not believe the implementation of two rings, side by side, affects this error.

Cases are being delivered in the week of May 9. There will be seven cases required for each ring of equipment. The board feels that this number of cases needs to be reduced to a maximum of two cases.

Competitors are experiencing some differences in the start sequence. The fact is based on the fact that the LED lights display quicker than incandescent bulbs. Starters will probably need to adjust their release points. The timing intervals are exactly the same as with the old sets.

SG reports that it is 98% of the way towards solving the problems. It is hoped that this coming test weekend will confirm the problem has been solved and validate the systems. In that case, Mark believes the balance of the initial order of five sets can be released to general use by June 7.

Outside usage should have no impact on the integrity of the lights. Use in a thunder storm may impact the integrity due to sensor interference, however racing should realistically not be held during such circumstances. The only equipment that needs wet weather protection is the system controller.

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Mark reports that Dale has pledged to write the user manual with Mark doing cooperative editing.

Signature Gear has enough components on hand to build seven additional sets within 3 weeks from the production of the first five sets.

Jeff joined the meeting at 7:43PM.

Mark left the meeting at 7:49PM.

The board discussed its concern with the delay in production and the passing faults, but also noted its appreciation of SG's cooperative efforts and dedication to problem-solving. Assuming the problem has been isolated and fixed, the Board hopes production will proceed without further delay. If feasible, one further weekend's testing should occur. Further, as sets are rolled out, acceptance criteria should include a minimum of two weeks of perfect exchanges, out door usage and use in a multi-ring environment. The user manual must be developed in parallel to the testing so that the whole user package of hardware, cases and manuals can be approved.

### **Financial Committee:**

Dale was unable to attend and relayed a Finance Committee report to other members. Attached were copies of the 2001, 2002 and 2003 IRS 990 filings to the Executive Committee. Sam forwarded these to Glenn at the close of the meeting.

The board will request financial information from past Executive Director Steve McAvoy to enable past year financial statements to be reproduced. The finance committee directed Sam and Kris to address the need directly with Dale for the production of these statements.

### **Breed Specific Legislation:**

Glenn, Kris and Rob Sparling have worked together to prepare a request to Mr. Grant McLeod of the Attorney General's office of the Ontario government. The request would add NAFA to the list of organizations that can provide exemptions for "pit bulls" competing at events in Ontario. Work has progressed and as of May 3, enough information had been assembled for Mr. McLeod to be able to prepare his assessment. The Board expressed its deep appreciation to Rob Sparling for his efforts.

### **Outstanding Business:**

#### **Judge's Training program:**

The Judge's Committee has received one bid to date to produce training tapes for ongoing judge's training. Additional bidders will be solicited by adding a second notice to the NAFA web site.

The committee is developing a proposal for a new program that will move from a two tier mentor program to a three tier method that offers a better grounding to judges before becoming apprentice

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judges. The program will be formalized more fully by the committee with an intention to deliver a working proposal at the next in-person meeting.

### **Request to Register "Flyball" in Japan:**

The Marketing committee will respond to Kuni and Yuka Amano who wish to protect the concept of the NAFA flyball in Japan through copyright protection. The Amanos have created a league in Japan playing by NAFA rules that has grown to 9 clubs and 129 dogs. The Board supports this effort by the Amanos to "grow" flyball in Japan and has asked the Marketing Committee to express NAFA's support for their effort. Scott Stein to respond.

### **Len Silvester's Request to Use the NAFA Logo:**

Mr. Silvester has requested the use of the NAFA logo for use on pictures. NAFA charges a fee for use of its logo based on prior contracts. Sam will investigate what the rate is and advise the board at the next meeting. Glenn made a motion to table the discussion until that information was available. Kris seconded. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion was tabled.

### **Summer Meeting:**

The board members reviewed their calendars and agreed that the July 29/30 date in Detroit should stand as proposed.

Glenn moved that we adjourn the meeting. Brian seconded. Unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44PM Central.