

North American Flyball Association Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minneapolis, MN
November 4, 2005

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Called to order at 9:14 AM Central Time by Chairman Lee Heighton. Ken Eldridge was unable to attend due to business commitments.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Lee congratulated the board on meeting the special challenges of the past year. The board offered its thanks to out-going board member Ken Eldridge for his long term history with the board and his many contributions to Flyball.

Executive Director's Opening Remarks

Executive Director Sam Ford reported that he had recommended to his RD's that they review their commitment prior to the upcoming racing year and not leave themselves short of personal time. Sam accepted the resignation of Denise Lacey from the Region 15 RD's position. Bill Bunting, from Mountville, PA was proposed as the new RD for Region 15. Brian made a motion to accept the proposed appointment. Glenn seconded the motion. After some discussion, there was no opposition to the motion and the appointment was confirmed.

Sam reported that he would be reviewing event statistics from the 2005 racing year and would prepare a series of proposals for regional realignment at the next in-person board meeting.

Glenn made a motion that Colorado be created as a new region. Kris seconded the motion. Scott noted that with Sam's review yet to be done, we should wait until its presentation in January to ensure that we follow a cohesive plan. Also noted, however, was the fact that Colorado had requested on several occasions that the geographic imposition of the Rockies made it difficult to compete in Region 6. Glenn amended his motion to state that the change for Colorado would be effective immediately for the 2006 racing year. Kris seconded the amendment. After lengthy discussion concerning regional divisions as a whole, the vote was called. For the motion: Glenn, Kris, Dale, Jeff. Against the motion: Brian, Todd, Scott. The motion was carried. The new region will be designated as Region 19.

Jeff and Kris requested that Sam consider attaching Wyoming and New Mexico to the new Region 19 when reviewing statistics and developing future plans.

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Treasurer's Report

Dale presented the Financial Statements for the year ending September 30, 2005. Revenue showed a small increase over the prior year. Cash outflow was high due to the purchase of eleven Signature Gear EJS. NAFA continues to show a positive bank balance.

Dale presented a list of accounts comprising the outstanding receivables shown as owed to NAFA. Several of the balances outstanding are for small amounts and will be written off. The remaining unpaid balances are being investigated with full collection sought of those confirmed as due. The Finance Committee will investigate outstanding amounts and request payment by registered letter. If balances are not paid within 30 days of the request, without satisfactory explanation or documentation, NAFA's rules support placing the club or owner on suspension until the funds owed are paid. The Finance Committee will review the current procedure for cheques returned NSF to improve the collection process.

As requested, regional breakdowns of CRN and tournament revenue will be made available at the AGM for analysis.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary requested that any documentation submitted to the board in paper format be submitted in parallel in electronic format. Directory updates for staff positions will be converted to NAFA's Chicago address and email address to simplify contact. Minor changes to the rulebook will be made with the changes noted and revision notice on the cover.

Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee received two charges noted as 2005-5A and 2005-5B which it has reviewed. It found that there was no basis for the charges to be pursued as disciplinary matters. The committee requested that the judges committee review the charges and make appropriate recommendations on the process. Jeff moved that we accept the recommendation. Dale seconded the motion. There was no opposition to motion. Letters to follow

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is working on the transition to the accounting firm and new treasurer.

Standing Rules/Regulatory Committee

The committee recommends that the Veteran's class be exempted from the 90 day rule. In this manner, entrants are encouraged to participate in the class without time penalty or loss of club affiliation. Dale made a motion to accept the recommendation and Scott seconded. Dale amended the motion to make the rule change effective October 25, 2005. Scott seconded the amendment. There was no opposition to the motion.

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Section 7.5 – Changing Clubs

(a) If a dog has earned points with a NAFA® Club in a NAFA® sanctioned tournament, the dog may not be listed on a timesheet for any other class other than the Veterans class with a different NAFA® Club for a period of 90 days. The 90 day wait period shall begin the day after the end date of the last day of a tournament in which the dog earned NAFA® points. The dog will be eligible to be listed on a timesheet with a different club in a class of competition that starts the day after the 90 day waiting period. A dog must be eligible to race at the beginning of a class of competition to be included on the time sheet. Any dog(s) listed in violation of this rule will cause the forfeiture of all NAFA® points earned during the tournament for all dogs on the timesheet. The team with the dog violating this rule will also forfeit any tournament placement.

(b) The 90 day rule stated in paragraph 7.5 (a) above does not apply to the Veterans class. A dog running in the Veterans class shall retain its existing club affiliation.

The Judges Committee asked the Rules Committee to improve the Rules of Racing - 8.4 – Aggressive Dogs rule by defining the term of time that a dog is excused. Add the sentence "Dogs that are excused, are excused from competing for the remainder of that event." after the end of the first sentence. The rule change is to be effective immediately. The Rules committee accepted the recommendation. A motion was made by Scott to amend the rule and seconded by Brian. There was no opposition to the motion.

It was recommended that the following addition be made to the end Rules of Racing 8.4 and 8.5 (b).

The Head Judge must report any dog excused from competition to the Executive Director on NAFA® Form C.12.

Glenn made a motion that the addition be accepted and implemented immediately. Kris seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion.

Bylaws Committee

A minor housekeeping error was noted. The committee recommended that Article V Section 4 be amended, effective immediately, to change Section 12 of Article III to Section 11 of Article IV. Scott made a motion to accept the change. Brian seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion.

Technology Committee

All eleven Signature Gear sets have now been received. The shipping cases have been received and the user manuals are in the process of construction. Minor documentation changes need to be developed to handle the Veterans class "no false start" rule. Table staff will need to understand the process for deactivating the false start sequence in the EJS.

It was noted that shipping charges represent a large portion of NAFA expenses. Todd noted that much of the shipping charges were related to repairs and/or replacements to the older Hughes systems. It was suggested that shipping for repairs be tracked separately by the Treasurer to get an accurate record of repair costs.

The meeting was recessed at 2:30 PM.

The meeting resumed at 2:50PM.

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Judges Committee

The Judges committee requested that judges complete the C12 Excusal Forms completely including eye-witness accounts. The NAFA copies are to be mailed to the ED directly.

Three judges have been contacted and removed from the Judges list for lack of assignments. Michael Dembeck, Susan Borup and Shaun Evans are no longer approved NAFA judges. They have been contacted by mail outlining the requirements to return to approved status.

The committee recommends the promotion of Arend TeRra of PEI from Apprentice to Provisional status. Scott made a motion to accept the recommendation. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

The committee recommends the promotion of Mike Devine of PEI from Apprentice to Provisional status. Scott made a motion to accept the recommendation. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

The committee recommends the promotion of Kevin Gordon of NH from Apprentice to Provisional status. Scott made a motion to accept the recommendation. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

The committee recommends the promotion of Peter Wesdyk of SK from Apprentice to Provisional status. Scott made a motion to accept the recommendation. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

The committee recommends the promotion of Dave Walt of ON from Provisional to Head Judge status. Scott made a motion to accept the recommendation. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

The committee recommends the promotion of Randy Kenzie of BC from Provisional to Head Judge status. Scott made a motion to accept the recommendation. Kris seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

The committee recommends that Danny Fitts of CO judge at least two more assignments with measuring at both assignments before moving from Provisional to Head Judge status.

The committee recommends that Rob Bitler of FL judge at least two more assignments with measuring at both assignments before moving from Provisional to Head Judge status.

The committee is split in its recommendation on the promotion of Paul Ferlitto of AL from Head Judge to Supervising status. The board reviewed the applicant's documentation and reviewed the qualifications with the committee. Todd made a motion to accept the recommendation. Dale seconded. For: Todd, Dale. Against: Glenn, Jeff. Abstain: Scott, Kris, Brian. Lee voted in favour of the motion to break the tie. Motion carried.

Scott reported that there has been lobbying from the Ottawa area that NAFA make a Supervising Judge available for their region. At present, there is only one Apprentice judge in the Ottawa area

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for a Supervising Judge to train. The board felt that a number of options already existed to satisfy the situation. Scott to reply.

The Judges Committee reported its recommendation to the board that based on reports received, an apprentice judge has had his apprentice judge's status revoked pending notification and request for further review by the apprentice. The board voted to unanimously support this decision.

Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee reported that the Hobbes pin design is ready for manufacturing. The additional award pins for the 10K increments are in a final design. The awards should be available by early 2006. The 4,428 Silver and 3,837 Gold certificates will be printing in November for follow up distribution.

Election Committee

By today's meeting, 38% of the 1,584 ballots had been submitted with a small number of paper ballots. The Election Committee consists of Dale Smith, Jan Frey and two other non-board members to be appointed before the AGM. There have been very few ballots returned from the mail.

Outstanding Business:

Wording of Delegate ballot for Height Card vote

Dale made a motion that the request for a delegate vote be changed to a referendum. Todd seconded. Glenn then made a motion to table the motion. Kris seconded. For: Brian, Glenn, Jeff, Todd, Kris, Dale, Scott. The motion passed.

Publishing of Futurity Results

Dale proposed a method that would document the Futurity results at each event by showing Futurity dogs as being listed on two teams, the Pass and Fail teams. Dogs would not have club alignment assigned yet their presence and participation at the NAFA event would be recorded.

Publication of Minimum Runback

The original question that was asked was "What happens when a team doesn't provide the advertised run-back as announced on the sanctioning form." After discussion of the need to address this by rule amendment or other measure, Dale moved that we table to the Rules committee the discussion of this issue pending a recommendation from them as to enforcement options. Glenn seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion.

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Chris Van Wert Proposal for Divisional Championship

Dale made a motion to table the motion. Scott seconded the motion. For the motion: Scott, Dale. Against: Glenn, Brian, Jeff, Todd. Abstain: Kris.

In discussion, the board discussed the pros and cons of the proposal. Chris has proposed that NAFA establish regional divisional championship based on established times (bracket racing) so that more clubs can experience a championship race. Glenn proposed that her proposal be published to the web site for comment. Dale seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

New Business:

Jeff left the meeting at 5:09. Before leaving, Jeff left his proxy with Kris.

Meeting was recessed at 5:10 for 30 minutes for dinner.

The meeting at 6:00PM and Jeff re-joined the meeting.

Recognition of the Web Site as an "official" means of communication

After a review of the bylaws, Kris reported that was no legal reason for us to continue producing the NAFA News principally in paper as opposed to electronic form. Michigan State laws pose no impediment to electronic communication. Historically, it has been argued that paper distribution of the NAFA News is required as an "official" means of communication, but this is not supported by the by-laws or the Michigan corporations code. Given today's more computer enabled society, an e-zine would be preferable and more effective.

NAFA News will continue to be the vehicle of communication between NAFA and the Flyball community. Club owners can request to continue a paper version but they are encouraged to obtain the internet version with its more timely delivery, better graphics and easier distribution.

An email list will be generated, starting with club owners, judges, tournament directors being followed by an option for the community to participate. Once a NAFA News or other timely issue is available for discussion, it could then be distributed directly to the community by email in addition to archiving on the web site.

Permanent Assignment of EJS by Region

The goal is to reduce shipping costs by minimizing the shipping. Increased shipping typically creates increased exposure to damage and while the Signature Gear systems are covered by a comprehensive warranty, NAFA would like to reduce down time by travel, repair and maintenance.

By switching from Air travel to Ground based travel, substantial savings can be generated.

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Scott made a motion that we table further discussion of the issue pending the development of a meaningful plan for presentation at the next in-person meeting. There was no opposition to the motion.

Compensation for Hughes Systems Work

Earlier this year, the board asked several independent consultants to review the Hughes systems to assess ongoing viability of those systems as they age and to develop a repair method for EJS. Bill Carrothers did a review, as did Donn Moore and Bob Verhagen. Documentation has been received outlining the findings. Glenn made a motion that the board authorizes a one time payment of \$200.00 to each party for consulting. Dale seconded the motion. For: Glenn, Brian, Jeff, Scott, Dale. Against: Todd. Abstain: Kris. Motion carried.

Discussion of Letter on Reserve Weekend Rule from Ballistics

The Executive Director has solved this discussion.

On a parallel note, Sam noted that clubs really need to get their sanctioning forms submitted quickly so that NAFA can establish the quantity of Reserved Weekends that exist.

Practicing of Dogs During Tournaments

(a) Rules of Racing Chapter 7 (b) – Warm-ups states;

"There shall be no practice or training in the ring for the duration of the tournament, except for the warm-up as permitted prior to each race. Training in the ring during the competition will mean a forfeit of the heat."

Teams are reminded that practicing is not acceptable for both tournament dogs and non-entered dogs.

Reserve Weekend Rule Change from 300 to 200 miles if clubs are in different regions

Sam reported that sanctioning issues have arisen with respect to the 300 mile limitation on reserve weekend rule. Kris moved and Brian seconded a motion to amend section 6.1(f) of the Corporate Policies and Rules, effective immediately, to read as follows:

"NAFA may sanction a tournament within 250 road miles of a previously sanctioned tournament . . ."

Discussion followed. Todd suggested that the change should go out for comment. Brian, Kris, Scott, Todd, Jeff and Dale voted in favor of the amendment; Glenn abstained. Motion carried.

Note that despite the agenda item title, the limit is now 250 miles.

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Merging of Regions 6/16

Kris gave a summary of the history of Region 6 before and after the reconfiguration into Regions 6 and 16. The geographical challenges faced by Region 6 were discussed. Sam will revisit this alignment after his analysis is complete. Sam confirmed that he will present his proposal respecting regions at the January meeting. Jeff again requested that Sam consider attaching Wyoming and New Mexico to the new Region 19.

Adding Birth Date to CRN and database

Amy Rideout requested that the board add the dog's birth date to the CRN application to enable tracking of a dog's age. Glenn made a motion to add the dog's birth date to the CRN application form C8 effective October 1, 2006. Brian seconded the motion. For the motion: Brian, Glenn, Jeff, Kris. Against: Todd, Dale. Abstain: Scott. The motion carried.

Requiring Non-Slip surfaces next to the Boxes

The board considered the agenda item respecting a proposed rule amendment respecting the configuration of the mats at the box end of the racing lane. The diagram and wording Rules of Racing Section 2.1 – Footing was reviewed. After discussion, the board elected not to pursue amendment of the rules. The consensus was that such concerns should be brought to the RDs and head judge.

Age Limits for Children in Racing Ring

NAFA Flyball is a team and family sport. The board declined to pass age restrictions. Parents are urged to exercise good sense when bringing young children into the ring.

Color Limitations and dimensions of back drops

Rules of Racing, Section 2.2 – Barriers, adequately describes the requirements.

Failure to Complete Heats in a Bye Race

The Rules Committee recommends that the Judges Committee inform the judges that when a "3 of 5" race is being run with an unopposed lane (a bye race), the racing team may use up to 5 heats to earn the 3 wins. If 3 losses are obtained before 3 wins, the race is finished. Kris made the motion that the board accepts the committee's recommendation. Dale seconded. For the motion: Jeff, Brian, Todd, Dale, Kris. Against: Scott, Glenn. Motion carried.

Brian moved that we adjourn the meeting. Scott seconded. There was unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 PM Central.