

**North American Flyball Association®, Inc.**

Board of Directors Meeting

Golden, Colorado

Abridged Minutes

August 2, 2008

Present were: Executive Director Sam Ford  
Board of Directors Brian Fay,  
Lee Heighton,  
Dana Nichols,  
Lisa Peckham,  
Kris Pickering,  
Alisa Romaine,  
Dale Smith,  
Scott Stein

Chairman Lee Heighton called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM MST. Lee Heighton and Kris Pickering were unable to attend in person due to work obligations and appeared via telephone. Mike Smith was absent due to family matters and gave his proxy to Dana Nichols.

## **I. Rules Committee Report**

*It was agreed that unless otherwise specified, any rules passed are effective October 1, 2008 and applied to tournaments held on or after October 1, 2008.*

### A. Discussion on sunset of Open and Performance team rules

Kris reported that the response to Open and Performance has been overwhelmingly positive. The Rules Committee recommends unanimously that the classes be continued and incorporated into the rules. There may need to be some adjustments to various rules within the classes.

Dana moved to adopt the Open and Performance rules as part of the permanent rulebook. Dale seconded.

Alisa commented that performance teams have been handled differently from tournament to tournament. There also seems to be confusion with the score table and a chance for error. There was consensus to address any suggested rule changes separately from voting on whether to adopt Open and Performance.

The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about how performance teams should be scored. Scott and Sam both suggested educating judges and RDs on how the existing rule should be interpreted rather than writing new rules regarding this issue. Kris proposed calling all performance teams a loss at the time the race is run. Sam was in favor of having the judge call the race normally and at the end of the race the judge would instruct the table to convert the heats to losses. Most of the Board members were in favor of Kris' proposal to have the team take a loss in each heat, but still have false starts and all other rules. There was further discussion regarding possible advantages of calling the losses after the race is completed.

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After a lengthy discussion, and a division of opinion, the majority of the Board supported the race being called a loss in the ring by the judge as the race happens. There was discussion whether there should be modification of the rule to reflect how the rule should be interpreted.

Dana moved that the rule be interpreted as a loss in the ring called by the judge as the heats are run. Alisa seconded. In favor: Brian Fay, Dana Nichols, Lisa Peckham, and Alisa Romaine. Against: Kris Pickering, Dale Smith, and Scott Stein. Abstain: Mike Smith (by proxy). The motion carried.

Dale indicated he would like to see it included in the rulebook for future reference. Kris agreed.

Kris moved to table this to Rules to develop language. Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kris moved to eliminate section 1 of the Open Class rules – essentially prohibiting a dog from being listed on a timesheet for a second class (ie no double running). Alisa seconded. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of this practice.

In favor: Kris Pickering and Alisa Romaine. Against: Brian Fay, Dana Nichols, Lisa Peckham, Dale Smith, and Scott Stein. Abstain: Mike Smith (by proxy). The motion failed.

Kris brought up an issue of rules application when open teams are combined with veterans teams for racing. If there is a second round robin that does not include veterans teams, she believed that false starts would be permitted for the open team in the second round robin. Sam suggested modifying this to find that any time an open team runs against another open team, regardless of whether veterans teams are included in the schedule for racing, then false starts would be permitted. If a veterans team is in the ring, then the veterans rule regarding false starts would apply. This would modify the existing interpretation.

Dale moved to make a change to the Rule 3b of the existing Open rule to indicate that the vets rules would apply only when a vets team is in the ring. Lisa seconded. Dana moved to amend the motion to state, "where this occurs in heats with direct competition between an open and a veteran team, the heat shall be run subject to the false start rule stated for. . . ." The motion passed unanimously.

Dale read statistics regarding the open class into the minutes:

For the 08 year so far:

- 262 separate events with open class
- 913 open teams have competed
- 5102 dogs have been listed on time sheets, 473 also earned points in another class at the same event
- 1983 different dogs participated in open

Dale reported that several people expressed concern in comments to NAFA about open teams displacing multibreed & regular teams at limited tournaments.

Dale requested that section one regarding double running of dogs should be consistent with language we use for veterans 6.2(f). He says it is creating some difficulty in that teams are sanctioning separate

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events on Friday. For instance, if a dog runs on open & multi on Friday night, they could not then run in regular on Saturday. He proposed making the limitation that a dog can be listed on one other timesheet that day, rather than that tournament.

Dale moved that the wording in paragraph one of appendix B be amended in one additional class "on the same day." Alisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kris asked if we were currently treating performance teams as "competing teams" for purposes of regional points per section 8.3(e). Dale confirmed that this is how the teams are currently treated for NAFA scoring purposes. Teams going FEO are also counted as long as they race one heat before declaring FEO. Kris asked if there was the need for a rule clarification. The consensus was there was no need for a rule modification and the minutes will reflect the current way these teams are handled.

Dale reported there were a number of requests received suggesting that teams be permitted to convert to Performance Team status after racing has begun. Currently the rules require that status to be declared prior to the beginning of racing. Teams may still convert to FEO status after racing has begun. There was discussion regarding the issue. There was no motion put forth for a rule change.

B. Discussion on height cards in regards to delegate vote

Dale moved that we mail new height cards to all dogs who have raced during the 08 racing year with new height cards available on request to other dogs. The new height cards would be a distinctively different design from the existing cards and would include the dog's height at the withers. Dana suggested a deadline of August 1, 2008 in the 08 year to allow time for the height cards to be disseminated in a timely fashion. Dale agreed to that amendment to his motion. Scott seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the motion.

Brian clarified that the height of the dog should be rounded down to the lowest inch. Dale & Scott accepted that amendment to the motion.

Kris expressed concern about whether there needed to be a rule change regarding reissuing height cards.

The motion passed unanimously.

Kris moved to amended rule 7.1(c) to include an additional statement, "At the discretion of the Board, height cards may be reissued to accommodate rule or design changes." Dale seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Brian asked about what the cost would be to issue a credit card style height card. Dale reported he has investigated the issue and found that the machine itself would cost approximately \$2,000.00 and then each card would cost approximately \$1.00. There was discussion about whether these could be outsourced or if increased fees need to be charged. This discussion was tabled to the Finance Committee Report.

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Dale moved to strike the word "laminated" from Section 7.1(b) regarding height cards to give NAFA the discretion to look into credit card type height cards. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion on remainder of rule change suggestions

Exhibit 2 non-consent items from the July 21, 2008 teleconference were distributed to members in person. They were also distributed via email prior to the meeting.

**(1) Limited class**

Kris moved to modify the rule to:

(k) Limited Classes: The host club may not limit entries to *fewer* than four. *At sanctioning, the host club must designate the total number of teams permitted at the tournament. At the closing date, the host club will then designate the number of teams permitted per class.* The host club must accept all entries up to 6:00 p.m., local time of the tournament secretary, on the closing date. Seed times for teams are not needed until after the draw. Teams that get into the class are to be selected by random draw.

Alisa seconded. Scott moved to amend the motion to modify the sentence as follows:

At sanctioning, the host club must designate the classes offered and the total number of teams permitted at the tournament.

Kris and Alisa accepted the amendment.

Dale raised that this could not be implemented in our existing computer system by October 1, 2008. Sam discussed other possibilities. Dale indicated that he can implement a computer change that would permit a host club to designate a total number of teams permitted, then a priority would be established at the draw to fill first regular and multibreed teams, then sort other entries to available slots. Scott expressed concern that entering clubs would have difficulty planning how to best maximize the number of teams & dogs entered for each tournament.

In light of that discussion, Kris proposed additional language:

If one class fills, but the other classes do not, the size of the classes that filled may be expanded to add the teams excluded from the draw up to the original total size of the tournament declared.

Dale requested modification to:

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If one or more classes fill, but the other classes do not, the size of the classes that filled will be expanded by the automated draw to add the excluded teams up to the maximum size of the tournament declared.

Kris suggested:

At sanctioning, the host club must designate the classes offered and the maximum number of teams per class to reflect a total number of teams permitted for the tournament.

Kris and Alisa accepted further amendment of their original motion. The final wording is as follows:

(k) Limited Classes: The host club may not limit entries to *fewer* than four. *At sanctioning, the host club must designate the classes offered and the maximum number of teams per class to reflect a total number of teams permitted for the tournament.* The host club must accept all entries up to 6:00 p.m., local time of the tournament secretary, on the closing date. Seed times for teams are not needed until after the draw. Teams that get into the class are to be selected by random draw. *If one or more classes fill, but the other classes do not, the size of the classes that filled will be expanded by the automated draw to add the excluded teams up to the maximum declared size of the tournament.*

The motion passed unanimously. This rule will be effective for all tournaments held on or after October 1, 2008.

**(2) "not measurable"**

Kris reported that the Rules Committee did not have any proposed motion to define "not measurable" for the rules. Lee asked if Scott, as head of Judges Committee, felt there was a need for a rule change. Dale and Scott both clarified that the issue is when can a dog walk away and when is a dog deemed not measurable and is required to jump maximum jump height. There was discussion regarding this issue. Dana requested that this issue be referred to the Judges Committee for language. The Judges Committee accepted the task.

**(3) Head Judge / RD issue**

There was discussion that the current rules have ambiguity as to when a judge can act as RD while carrying out judging duties. There was language proposed and there was discussion of how to best address this concern.

Dana moved to modify the rule as follows:

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1.6(e) If the Regional Director is the tournament director or is actively measuring or judging during the tournament, the Regional Director shall designate an acting Regional Director while those duties are fulfilled.

Dale seconded. There was discussion.

Melinda Vernon joined the meeting as a guest.

Kris suggested some other possible modifications. There was discussion about whether the appointment should have to be subject to the approval of the ED.

Dana amended her motion to include: "Such designation shall be approved by the Executive Director." Dale also approved the amendment."

Scott called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion as to whether there needs to be a definition of "Head Judge." There was no motion put forward regarding that issue at this time.

**(4) Approval of appointed RDs**

Brian brought up an issue originally brought up in 2005 that Rule 1.6(b) was interpreted to require "upon the election or appointment of an Executive Director, all Regional Directors shall be tendered for approval by the board." (January 2005 BOD meeting).

Kris indicated that the Rules Committee received this issue very shortly before the meeting and had not been able to review the issue yet. There was discussion whether this language included re-election of the same ED and whether the slate of RDs would need to be approved again upon re-election. Several current board members were present for the 2005 discussion. Kris believed that this did not include re-election of the ED. That the idea behind the interpretation was that a new ED was not confined to a prior ED's slate of regional directors. Scott believed that this was put in place as a review process to permit the Board to have approval process for RDs once a term. Lee said there was significant discussion regarding possible issues in 2005, but that the language ultimately put in place by that Board did not include lifetime approval of RDs. He believed the Board would currently have the authority to disapprove an RD. Lee indicated he believed that because the Board did not take any action at the first meeting after Sam was re-elected, that we have set a precedent that the Board does not need to approve the slate of RDs for a re-elected ED. Sam stated that he did not believe the Board had the power to disapprove an RD. Sam believed that the Board's approval is at the beginning of the term of a new ED. Sam indicated that he would certainly work with a Board who wanted an RD replaced, but he believed the ultimate decision on removing an RD is up to the ED. He was concerned about possible implications on future EDs and wanted to retain the right of the ED to approve or disapprove of RDs.

There was discussion as to whether the Board should review and approve the slate of RDs at the beginning of each term. Scott wanted to table the issue for development of language. Lee stated that he believed we needed to address the issue now. The rulebook does not appear to provide a process for disapproval of RDs. The Board unanimously expressed support for all existing RDs, but wanted to make sure that we were in compliance with the Board rules and interpretations.

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Dana moved that the interpretation be clarified to indicate that the approval of RDs should occur with a change of ED. Dale seconded. In favor: Dana Nichols, Lisa Peckham, Kris Pickering, Alisa Romaine, Dale Smith, and Scott Stein. Against: Brian Fay. Abstain: Mike Smith (by proxy). The motion passed.

Scott asked to have the issue referred to the Rules Committee for inclusion in the rulebook. Lee clarified that this would be language regarding any newly elected ED. The issue was referred to Rules/Bylaws.

## **II. Disciplinary Committee Report**

- A. Request for removal of aggression write-up on Rake CRN# 041013

This submission was added to the agenda as the request was provided by mail. Lee reported that the dog meets all the requirements. Dale moved to remove the disciplinary write-up. Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Request for removal of aggression write-up on Rocket CRN# 040253

Lee reported that the dog has met all the requirements. Mike (by proxy) moved to remove the disciplinary write-up. Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Request for removal of aggression write-up on Daisy CRN# 040786

Lee reported that the dog has met all the requirements. Mike (by proxy) moved to remove the disciplinary write-up. Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. Nominating Committee**

- A. Report on nominations for BoD

Lee reported that we have not yet received mail from the NAFA mailbox for the last day of nominations. So far, we have received three letters of nomination for the Board: Kris Pickering (Nevada), Nancy Garcia (Texas), & Greg Stopay (Ontario).

- B. Report on nominations for Regional MVP – moved to Awards.  
C. Report on nominations for Clyde Moore Hall of Fame - moved to Awards.

## **IV. Awards Committee**

- A. Approval of nominations for Regional MVP and Clyde Moore HOF

Dale reported on the number of MVP nominations per region. Sixteen nominations were submitted for Clyde Moore HOF. That number is reduced to five for voting. Dale asked for a delay until later in the meeting so he could provide that information to the Board for voting.

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Kris was concerned because she tried to submit a nomination for HOF that included a large number of co-nominators. She was not able to list all of the co-nominators because of the word limitation in the form. Kris felt that the co-nominators should not be included in the word limitation. Dale indicated that in the past, there were submissions that included hundreds of names on a petition that they were asking be included in the nomination letter. Dale indicated that the current form was created with one nominator so that it created some uniformity and encouraged election based on dogs' accomplishments rather than how many people support the dog. The language of the current rule was examined. Scott expressed that this appears to have been an interpretation of the rule by a previous board.

Alisa moved to amend the language of the Hall of Fame nominations under Section 8.5 to clarify that no more than one person may nominate each dog by including, "Each nominee may only be nominated by one person in each election." Dale seconded. Dale moved to amend the motion to include similar language in 8.6. Alisa agreed. Scott and Dale moved to amend the motion to modify the language "NAFA members" in the same rule to state, "individuals." Alisa agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

Dale clarified that urls may be included in nomination letters.

## **V. Chairperson's comments**

Due to time constraints these comments were delayed until after New Business.

## **VI. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **VII. New Business**

Lee moved we enter Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 1:45 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 1:50 p.m.

### **A. Liability Insurance**

Kris moved that NAFA require for United States tournaments hosted on or after October 1, 2008, NAFA must receive a certificate of additional insured with minimum limits of \$1million per occurrence naming NAFA as an additional insured. Dana seconded.

There was discussion that this requirement was the result of extensive study by NAFA. The Board recognized that this places a financial burden on NAFA clubs hosting United States tournaments. In an effort to minimize this burden, we have researched and found coverage available through the R.V. Nuccio company ([www.nvnuccio.com](http://www.nvnuccio.com)) at highly competitive rates, although insurance is available through many different companies. NAFA is not receiving any portion of these premiums. Due to the different legal and insurance environments in the United States and Canada, these requirements will not apply to events



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hosted in Canada at this time. We have not yet been able to find similar policies available for Canadian tournaments.

The motion passed unanimously.

This was sent to Rules Committee to develop language on an expedited basis for inclusion in the October rulebook and to be approved by teleconference. Kris expressed her thanks to Lee and Scott for all of their hard work on this issue.

- B. Request from Phyllis Askew to create an award for dogs reaching 150,000 points

There was no motion put forth regarding this request.

- C. Proposal from Andrea Walli to charge \$20.00 for height challenges at tournaments

There is no current fee required. There was no motion put forth regarding this request.

- D. Proposal from Maureen McKernan to change single elimination format concerning 7 and 8 team divisions

Copies of the proposed new bracketing were distributed via email and at the meeting in person. A copy is attached as Attachment A. Scott moved to adopt it. Lisa seconded. There was discussion regarding the proposal, which basically includes the possibility of loser brackets in 7 and 8 team single elimination as it currently permitted in 4, 5, & 6 team single elimination brackets. The motion passed unanimously.

### **VIII. Chairperson's comments**

Lee expressed his appreciation for the Board member's cooperation and patience with him and Kris appearing by phone. He expressed his pleasure with the direction the organization has taken.

### **IX. Executive Director's comments**

Sam passed out certificates he has developed for the second and third regional champions in response to the rule change. He indicated that he would like to call the positions first runner up and second runner up. The Board expressed support.

Sam tendered for approval the following Regional Directors:

- A. Region 1 – Dennis Filarski. Sam relayed his qualifications for the position. Lee expressed his support for Dennis. Brian moved to approve. Dana seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Region 12 – John Hendriks. Sam relayed his qualifications for the position and indicated that the former RD was supportive. Kris moved to approve. Dana seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Sam conveyed that Todd Morningstar is stepping down as EJS coordinator in the United States. Sam is going to be appointing Jamie Smith to fill that role. The storage building will be moved from Michigan to Omaha. Jamie has agreed to transport EJS from Michigan to the new location in Omaha. Sam stressed that Jamie Smith, not Dale Smith would be in this position. The Board wished to express its thanks to Todd for all of his years of hard work in this position. Todd has agreed to help with the transition.

Lee left the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and gave his proxy to Alisa. Kris left the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and gave her proxy to Dale. Scott took over as Chair.

Sam discussed Cynosports. All four classes – regular, open, multibreed and veterans will be offered. The intention is for all teams entered in those classes to have three days of racing. There would be a separate championship class where teams would compete to make into the finals on Sunday. The closing date is September 30, 2008. Brian inquired about financial considerations such as the meet & greet, water, t-shirts and other expenditures. There was discussion about financial alternatives, such as subsidizing the meet & greet, but perhaps not shouldering as much of a cost. One suggestion was providing some food, but not alcohol tickets. Sam suggested making final determinations once we see how many teams will be competing. Sam expressed a desire to have the event be a premiere event, but also keep costs reasonable given the reality of fuel costs. We are prepared to run multiple rings to accommodate all teams running three days.

Sam reported that Karen Oleson noted some requested changes to existing forms. This was sent to Rules to consult with Karen regarding the changes she was requesting. Dana indicated she would speak with Karen.

## **X. Secretary's Report**

Minutes for the May 27, 2008 teleconference have been approved and posted to the web page. The June 18, 2008 teleconference minutes have been approved and are awaiting posting. The July 21, 2008 teleconference minutes were distributed via email 7/28/08 and are awaiting approval.

Alisa moved to accept the minutes from the 7/21/08 teleconference. Dale seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **XI. Treasurer's Report / Finance Committee**

The Treasurer's Report was combined with the Finance Committee report at Scott's request.

Scott distributed Profit and Loss and Balance Sheets. Copies are attached as Attachments B and C. Year to date our income is essentially equal with this time last year. There has been an increase in CRN income, with over 1,000 issued already this fiscal year. While income has remained essentially the same, but there have been increases in EJS shipment, postage & packing which were all related to fuel surcharges. There has been an increase for preventative maintenance for EJS systems as we have implemented maintenance that was not done in the past. At this point in the year, we are showing a profit, but we are \$11,000 behind where we were last year at this time. Slight increases in web hosting and maintenance expenses due to when the bills were submitted. Our plaque costs were much higher

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because of the timing of when billing occurred. Board travel is higher this year, due to higher airfare charges.

Scott indicated we annually re-evaluate our United States and Canadian fees. He indicated United States and Canadian dollars are approximately the same now. Dale moved that we reset all Canadian fees on par with United States fees effective October 1, 2008. Seconded by Lisa. The motion passed unanimously.

One issue referred to the committee was to review existing fees. Scott reported that the only fees that are not merely replacement costs are: tournament fees, CRNs, club registrations, and height card fees. Scott indicated the Committee is unable to make a recommendation regarding tournament fees at this time. He needed more information before addressing recommendations for tournament fees. He recommended that the club registration fee remain the same. He expressed that the height card fee seems to be somewhat low. The Committee recommends a re-evaluation of the height card fee.

Lisa moved to increase the height card fee to \$10.00. Dale seconded. While this will not generate a large amount of revenue, it will bring the fee more in line with the remaining fee structure and the effort involved in generating height cards. The motion passes unanimously.

## **XII. Judges/Education Committee**

Scott reported the Judge's Committee recommendations:

1. Michael Fry, Douglasville, Pennsylvania, apprentice to provisional. The Committee recommends advancement. Lisa moves, Dana seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Leerie Jenkins, Climax, North Carolina, approved to supervising. The Committee recommends advancement. Lisa moves, Dana seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Dan Wood, Linnwood, Washington, approved to supervising. The Committee does not recommend advancement. There was no motion put forth. The Judges Committee will respond to Mr. Wood.

Dale raised that our current measuring form only has a signature line for the judge. There was a suggestion to amend the form to include a place to record the name of the Regional Director who observed measuring. This was referred to Rules to draft language.

Brian requested that we clarify protocols for judges who have to officiate when the EJS is not operational. Scott discussed including it as an educational component with supervising judges. Older versions of the rulebook included a specific procedure. This issue will be referred to the Judges Committee to formulate any needed language regarding this issue.

## **XIII. Marketing Committee**

Sam expressed that he was very pleased to see articles by Lisa Peckham as chair of Marketing in DogSport magazine. Sam reported that he has started utilizing a Power Point presentation regarding the

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rules for educational use with audiences at large tournaments. He is looking into similar options for Cynosports.

Lisa indicated she has been working on a number of issues behind the scenes to increase marketing.

**IX. Technology Committee**

Dale indicated he has not been able to research the 1 second start cadence yet. We currently use a 1.2 second start cadence for historical reasons. He hoped that if a change were made it might help some of the tournament venues with limited runback.

Dale and Sam relayed that the EJS are going through a maintenance plan.

Dale indicated that he is still working on getting someone to write a new scoring program. He was not ready to issue a report on that issue. He hopes to incorporate additional data into the scoring program, including information from the measuring form.

**X. Hall of Fame**

Scott turned the Chair of the meeting over to Sam for Hall of Fame discussions and voting.

Dale reported that there were several nominations submitted that exceeded 200 words. The Board did not consider these nominations as required by the rule. Brian abstained from voting. As noted in the minutes, Kris and Lee were not present. All proxies were abstained. The Board narrowed the field, as required by the rules, resulting in five final candidates. In alphabetical order those candidates are:

- Bizzz-Quick
- Ripper
- Roxanne
- Snap
- Warden

A list of eligible nominations submitted for Regional MVPs and the final candidates for Hall of Fame is attached to these minutes as Attachment D.

Dale moved that the meeting be adjourned. Lisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM MST on August 2, 2008.