

## **NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016:**

In attendance:

Executive Director: Sam Ford

Board of Directors: Jenn Bell

Steve Corona

Kim Davis

Dirk Elber

Neil Flood

Dana Hanson

John Hendriks

Dave Walt

Dale Smith was unable to attend.

### **Officers' Reports**

#### **Chair's Comments:**

Neil opens the meeting at 8:35 am.

Neil: Thank you everyone for attending.

Thanks also to Dana Hanson, Steve Corona and Jenn Bell for being here and welcome to the board. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

Some expectations for the board when in executive session; everything is confidential. You can speak freely. It's fine to disagree. But what's said should not leave the room.

Neil: This is my first meeting as Chair, so please be gentle.

#### **Executive Director's Comments:**

Sam: There have been several changes in the regional director structure. Recent changes as of this week include new RDs coming on board.

In Region 4, Carl Gavin has been acting RD since Ule James resigned. He's been doing a great job. We certainly hate to see Ule go, he's been a great asset to our organization. I present to the board that Carl be approved as RD.

Neil: I've seen Carl at a tournament. I think he's a great choice; his energy in flyball is fantastic. Competitors love him, he's even keel and passionate about the sport.

Neil motioned to accept Sam's recommendation. Dana seconded. Motion carried.

Sam: Peter Wesdyk, RD of Region 8, asked that we name a co-RD for the region due to the travel burden of traversing Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Sam would like to present Cindy Gutwein as being named as co-RD.

John motioned to accept Sam's recommendation. Dirk seconded. Discussion: John: having known Cindy, I think she will be a good choice. She's been in the sport for a long time and is very knowledgeable. Motion carried.

Sam discussed that normally co-RDs will discuss who will be the RD of an upcoming tournament beforehand. Once established, that RD will take on all that goes with the duties.

Dirk voiced concern about not having two wickets to go around. Discussion then ensued about purchasing new wickets.

Sam: Jules Comeau of Region 10 (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island) is retiring. Jules has submitted Daniel Kirkpatrick. Daniel is acting RD at present and it's been working well. He's knowledgeable, and aware of the duties.

Kim motioned to accept Sam's recommendation. John seconded. Motion carried.

Sam: Region 6 includes all of Utah, Arizona and Nevada. California (region 16) is hard to travel through; it's not the miles, it's the traffic and very hard to traverse. So some of the R16 clubs have chosen to race in R6 to make those tournaments and the trips easier.

These teams are in a transition; California clubs have played outdoor and they are transitioning to indoor play. But they are struggling to find indoor locations. This brings up a problem with the mileage rule. At the last board meeting, there were exceptions allowed for the distance rule.

The mileage rule is discussed. Some had mentioned that some teams were using this to change regional standings. Sam visited to investigate. There is no evidence to support this statement.

People would love to have a southern California region. Others in Nevada, Utah and northern California don't want it because they don't want to lose teams and therefore tourneys. Sam is not recommending any changes in the regions.

Sam would like to ask the board to repeal your decision to keep the executive director from exempting tournaments. Because they are limited, there are a few key locations and that we allow them to go ahead and run. They are just looking for somewhere to play.

John moved to remove the restriction. Jenn seconded. Motion carried.

Sam: Region 6. Sam introduced Karl Ruetz as acting RD. He has multi regional experience, including Texas. Sam has had lots of discussion with people out there about RD, but no one contacted him directly.

Sam: I also visited a Las Vegas tournament that had issues last year and did not receive their EJS on time, due to weather and timing of the shipment. This tournament went off without a hitch. It was a very good visit and a great tournament.

Sam: I'm looking forward to the town hall meeting tonight. I've extended the invite to the town hall meeting to Karen to attend. She would be there as a daily operations representative.

#### Treasurer/Finance Report:

Executive committee convened June 1, 2016 at 9:15 pm CDT. Dale motioned to accept the banking resolution as presented. Kim seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dana: Dana presented reports and scenarios on how to help out with subsidizing Canadian dollar.

While there are many scenarios, we still haven't come up with a solid plan for setting a rate increase or a decrease or subsidizing.

The profit and loss statement was reviewed. Total Income is down, possibly due to the change in the Canadian dollar. If we take that out of the equation, we are seeing an increase in revenue.

Expenses are up along with a slight increase in CanAm expenses and web development.

There were no huge or concerning swings either way.

Steve: Are we at a place where we can have EJS parking in each region to help reduce expenses?

Sam: It's a good idea but it's probably not completely feasible. If anyone holds a double ring tourneys, it means another set has to be shipped. In some regions, they carry them from tournament to tournament which works.

But in the larger regions, there may have to be EJS shipping costs because of distances. To alleviate that, we'd have to have two sets in each region.

Dana is asking for the board for ratification to add signers on the Canadian account. Dave motioned to accept. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.

Executive committee convened June 1, 2016 at 9:15 pm CDT. Dale motioned to accept the banking resolution as presented. Kim seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting broke at 10:30 AM

Meeting resumed at 10:45 AM

#### Secretary's Report:

January Board meeting minutes were approved May 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### Election Committee:

Looking into new chat interface.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### Judges Committee:

- Edits to Provisional language in regards to weekends

Provisional

"Judge a minimum of 25 races at ~~five tournaments on 5 different weekends~~. Five different tournament weekends."

Dave motion to accept wording. John seconded. Motion carried.

- Randy Garvin (Brandon, FL) - Apprentice to Provisional. The judges committee is recommending to promote. Dave motioned to accept the committee's recommendation. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.
- Thomas Lamont (Holliston, MA) - Apprentice to Provisional. The judges committee is recommending to promote. Some discussion ensued. Dave motioned to accept the committee's recommendation. Jenn seconded. Motion carried.
- Lyndsy King (Omaha, NE) - Provisional to Approved. The judges committee is recommending to promote. Dave motioned to accept the committee's recommendation. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.
- Bill Carter (Sparks, NV) - Provisional to Approved. There was some discussion. The judges committee is recommending to promote. Dave motioned to accept the committee's recommendation. John seconded. Motion carried.
- John Forseth (Blaine, MN) – Provisional to Approved. The judges committee is recommending to promote.

- Dave motioned to accept the committee's recommendation. John seconded. Motion carried.
- Cindy Henderson (Grafton, MA) - Approved to Supervising. The judges committee is recommending to promote. Dave motioned to accept the committee's recommendation. Steve seconded. Motion carried.
- Announcement of CanAm Judges
  - Cindy Henderson (Grafton, MA) Championship Judge
  - Steve Heine (Placentia, CA)
  - Paul Ferlitto (Wilsonville, AL)
  - Matt Goodyear (Pickering, ON)
  - Chris Carr (Frederick, MD)
  - Robin Chapelsky (Edmonton, AB)

Rules Committee:

**Height Card Challenge Question:**

**Measuring Surface Question:**

**Treats Inside Tennis Balls:**

**Proposed Rule Change:**

**Multibreed Performance Proposal:**

**Use of EJS outside of the racing day during a NAFA sanctioned event:**

**NAFA Late Fees:**

**Breed Challenge Process:**

**Height Card Challenge Question:**

"When a height card is challenged can it still be used as proof of height until proven or not?"

Answer: Yes, the height card remains valid until a determination is made and communicated to the holder.

**Measuring Surface Question:**

*Measuring a dog as written in the rule refers to measuring in one place as being taken from a "surface" and in another place as being from the "Ground".*

*So if a judge wanted to have the wicket on a table is that permissible? Everything else, verification, witnesses, everything else in place just measure on a table rather than on the ground.*

*"c) The measurement area will be determined by the measuring judge. The judge shall select an appropriate measuring surface..."*

*"(f) The dog's height shall be measured from the ground to the top of withers with the dog standing in an upright position as indicated by Illustration 4.1."*

## **Discussion**

*The committee agreed that the word “surface” means ground. It was discussed that any surface other than the ground could be a safety issue.*

## **Recommendation**

**The committee recommends that the “ground” be the surface for measuring.**

**Judges are given the discretion to use an alternate surface for a handler that is not physically able to measure on the ground as long as the surface chosen is safe for competitor and the dog.**

## **Treats inside Tennis Balls:**

All,

I've received a request for a ruling on the legality of putting treats inside tennis balls and loading them in the box. I actually got a note on this from a totally separate region last year, and the consensus was it was not allowed, but these were informal discussions. The consensus was it was not allowed, and most considered it training in the ring. However, my most recent note on this indicated this was a common practice in a region (I don't know which one).

Could the rules committee please review this item, and provide a decision. If they feel we need to add an item to the rule, that could also be in play.

After that decision we can issue a communication via the judges group and RDs.

### **Recommendation:**

The committee considered changing chapter 7(b) to define specifically where the rule applied in the ring.

There was discussion against allowing any type of manipulation of equipment (puncturing the ball). The committee was not in agreement regarding whether this could be considered training in the ring however most agreed that this practice poses a safety hazard to the dog retrieving the ball and to any other dog using the lanes in the event the treat exits the ball.

With one dissenting member, the committee recommends that this is a safety issue and should not be allowed.

Discussion ensued about whether it qualifies as training in the ring.

The board finds this this manipulation to be a safety issue. The Rules committee will recommend to judges that this is a safety issue.

## **Proposed Rule Change:**

### **Rule Change Proposal**

We are proposing a change to Chapter 8, Section 8.4 Regional Champions, paragraph (c) in the Corporate Policies and Procedures section of the NAFA Rulebook. This section currently states, in part,

*“A host club’s regional affiliation shall determine the region in which regional points accrue for tournaments hosted by that club, except when the tournament is hosted more than 200 road miles away from the opted-in regional border, in which case the regional points will accrue for the region where the tournament is geographically located.”*

The change we are proposing is to have the mileage restriction changed from 200 road miles to 250 road miles. We also propose to include the provision that this change take effect immediately.

The mileage restriction affects mostly the mid-west and western regions since the eastern regions are smaller and it is possible to go through 2-3 different regions while traveling 200 miles or less. For the geographically larger regions the 250 miles would be a more reasonable distance than the current 200 miles. For the most part, in these

larger regions even if a tournament site is more than 200 miles from the opted-in border Regional border, it would still be a shorter distance than traveling from one end of the region to the far end of that same region. For example, a Region 6 club located in Ogden, Utah would have to travel 816 miles to a tournament held in Tucson, Arizona which is in the same region. For that same Ogden, Utah club to travel to a tournament held in Los Angeles, California they would travel 725 miles (91 miles less). If the club hosting the Los Angeles tournament was a team which was located in California, but opted-in to Region 6 it would currently be unable to host that tournament as a Region 6 tournament because it is approximately 227 miles from the nearest Region 6 border.

We recognize that normally rule changes do not take effect until the next racing year, but we are asking for an exception for two reasons. First and foremost, good racing venues, especially where racing can be done on mats, are very difficult to come by in the western U.S. If this rule change is not adopted immediately it will cause the newly revitalized Region 6 to lose what has proven to be one of Region 6/16's most popular and largest racing venues over the past 3 years. The host club, Surf City Flyball, declared to Region 6 in order to be more in line with the teams they mostly compete against and yet cannot host their biannual tournaments as a Region 6 tournament because this venue is approximately 214 miles from the Region 6 border. In the past 3 years while hosting at that site, Surf City has increased their entries each tournament and is well above the Region 6/16 averages in attendance. In 2014 Surf City with their winter and summer tournaments averaged 13 clubs with 25.75 teams per day. In 2015 that grew to an average of 16.5 clubs with 32 teams per day. The Surf City winter tournament (which has always been much smaller than the summer tournament) in January 2016 had 15 clubs with 28 teams. The second reason for the request to have this rule change effective immediately is that, unlike most rule changes, this is not one that affects the day-in, day-out rules of racing. Rather it is a single change to a single number in one rule, word of which can easily be sent.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need more information. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Kathy Haney  
Surf City Flyball  
[hbhaney@hotmail.com](mailto:hbhaney@hotmail.com)

Dave Collett  
Crazy Train Flyball  
[dogfather@dogfather-dogsports.com](mailto:dogfather@dogfather-dogsports.com)

Dave Gillette  
INXS  
[gotmuledog@yahoo.com](mailto:gotmuledog@yahoo.com)

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Dear Sam and NAFA Rules Committee members,

Flying Colors (168) is a region 6 NAFA team and has been for many years. We support the proposal to amend Rule 8.4(c) of the Corporate Policies and Procedures to change 200 to 250 road miles. We also support making the change effective immediately.

As I recall, the mileage limit in Rule 8.4(c) was taken from Rule 6.1(f), which requires host-club approval if another tournament is to be sanctioned for the same weekend at a venue closer than 200 road miles to the already sanctioned tournament. A similar change may be apt for Rule 6.1(f) (change 200 to 250), if you make the requested change to Rule 8.4(c).

Billy Coleman, who is the RD for Region 6, is a member of Flying Colors. He has asked me to say that he also supports the proposed rule change.

Thank you.

Kris Pickering  
Flying Colors (168)

**Discussion:**

The committee carefully considered the proposed rule change and how its application would affect all NAFA regions. The proposed change may be beneficial to regions 6 and 16 however the committee expects it to negatively affect the remaining regions.

**Recommendation:**

The committee does not recommend a change to the current rule.

## **Multibreed Performance Proposal:**

Hi John,

I know over the past several years the NAFA board has considered several options to increase Multibreed entries. Creating the Multibreed titles was one of these, and it's a great incentive.

My club enters Multi whenever we can; however, we are a small club, and sometimes entering a Multi team is too risky. I won't enter Multi if I don't feel that I have qualified backup dogs of different breeds, even if I have 4 solid dogs of different breeds. I think a lot of people may feel the same hesitation I do.

Rather than increase the # of dogs that can be listed on a Multi team (as has been suggested and considered previously), I would like the board to consider adding a "Multibreed Performance" rule, that would allow a Multi team to declare Performance at any point during a tournament (not just prior to the start of racing), enabling them from that point on to run two dogs of the same breed in the same heat. Once declaring Multibreed Performance, the team would be eliminated from placing, all heats would be losses, and the dogs would earn no Multi NAFA points for the entire tournament, but they would still earn all regular NAFA points they would otherwise qualify for.

Such a rule would give clubs the option of being able to back up a Multi team with a dog of the same breed without losing points (only the Multi points). As far as wins/losses go, it would be no different than a team having to go FEO in the middle of a tournament - the wins/losses would not change for the heats/races run prior to the team's change of status.

Thank you for considering this rule change.

Regards,

Dede Crough  
Captain  
Happily Evfur After Flyball Club  
Region 15

### **Discussion:**

**After discussion and careful consideration, the committee cited many opportunities for the rule to be abused.**

### **Recommendation:**

**The committee does not recommend a change to the rules at this time.**

## **Use of EJS outside of the racing day during a NAFA sanctioned event:**

Sam has requested we change/add wording to allow host clubs to offer practice time with EJS without having to get ED approval. The request to do this by host clubs is typically granted each time.

### **Discussion:**

The committee discussed Sam's request and determined adding this to the rules would not have a great impact on current EJS use. The committee wanted the wording to be specific in such a way as to prohibit use of the EJS by invitation only or its use when not in conjunction with a NAFA sanctioned event.

### **Recommendation:**

The committee recommends the following:

Section 6.5 - Electronic Judging Systems

(b) If NAFA® owned EJS systems are not available, NAFA.....

(c) NAFA® owned EJS systems may be rented from NAFA.....

Current section (d) becomes (e)

Current section (e) becomes (f)

## **New section (d) added to Section 6.5 Electronic Judging Systems**

### **Section 6.5 – Electronic Judging Systems**

(d) NAFA® owned EJS may be used for practice one day prior to and on days of the NAFA sanctioned event for which it is provided with the following requirements:

- (i) The EJS is used for practice outside of the racing day.
- (ii) No more than 2 dogs are run in succession while using the EJS.
- (iii) Use of the EJS is open to all dogs and handlers.
- (iv) The host club is liable for all damages that occur to the EJS during this time.

#### **Glossary:**

**Racing day** – the racing day begins thirty minutes before the first scheduled race and ends after the conclusion of the last race of the day. ~~and the Electronic Judging System has been removed (unless the executive director has granted permission for use of the EJS outside of racing).~~

John moved to accept the rules committee recommendation. Dana seconded. Motion carried.

### **NAFA Late Fees:**

*Hi John,*

*I have a question about how to apply late fees to tournaments as the intent of the wording is not clear to me.*

*Sam instructed me to send the question to Rules, once the intention is clarified, I'm happy to take a stab at wording the information in such a way that there is less doubt as to when late fees apply.*

#### **Discussion:**

The committee agrees that the current wording indicates fees, paperwork and results must be sent to NAFA within 14 days of the event.

#### **Recommendation:**

The committee recommends the following changes to the rule book to further clarify the intent of the rule.

#### **Schedule of Fees:**

NAFA® tournament results and fees are sent to NAFA® more than 14 days after a tournament have the following penalties;

- o 15 plus days after a tournament, a fee of \$50.00 USD will be charged.
- o One calendar month after a tournament, an additional \$50.00 USD fee will be charged (for a total of \$100).
- o Disciplinary action will be taken for results sent any later than two calendar months after a tournament.

## **CHAPTER 6 – HOSTING A NAFA® SANCTIONED EVENT**

### **Section 6.1 – Requirements**

(n) The following penalties will be applied when recording fees, time sheets, jump height forms, and tournament results are not ~~received by~~ sent to NAFA® within 14 days after a tournament:

- (i) at 15 plus days after a tournament ~~late~~, a fee of \$50.00 USD will be charged;
- (ii) one calendar month after a tournament ~~plus~~, an additional \$50 USD ~~-\$100.00 USD~~ late fee will be charged (for a total \$100);



(iii) greater than two calendar months after a tournament ~~late and~~ the club is put on probation for a period of 1 year;

(iv) greater than three calendar months after a tournament ~~late and~~ the club is suspended. Any suspended club ~~would need to~~ must request reinstatement from the Board of Directors.

John moved to accept the rules committee recommendation. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

### **Breed Challenge Process:**

**The committee received notification of an error in the breed challenge process portion of the rulebook.**

Section 7.7 – Breed Challenge Process

(g) Review Committee;

(vi). The committee shall review the packets and make one of three findings (by majority vote). They will report their findings to both the executive director or his designate and the Board of Directors:

c. The packet is acceptable and is not consistent with the issued height card and recommends that the height card be revoked

**Be changed to this:**

Section 7.7 – Breed Challenge Process

(g) Review Committee;

(vi). The committee shall review the packets and make one of three findings (by majority vote). They will report their findings to both the executive director or his **designate** and the Board of Directors:

c. The packet is acceptable and is not consistent with the current listed breed and recommends that the current breed be changed to "mix"

### **Recommendation:**

The committee recommends the wording be changed in the rulebook to address breed in section C.

John moved to accept the rules committee recommendation. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting broke at 11:50 AM

Meeting resumed at 1:41 PM

### **Nominating Committee:**

Nothing to report.

### **Marketing Committee:**

CanAm t-shirt design contest opening soon.

Jr Handler design contest opening soon.

Social media campaign.

### **Disciplinary Committee:**

<b>Disciplinary Committee Report:</b>			<b>Effective Date(s)</b>
Cash, 140545	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	04/25/2015
Tommie, 100016	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	06/08/2014
Taj, 090259	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	05/04/2014
Tux, 100191	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	10/29/2013
Roxie, 051102	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	8/22/2011
Gimli, 040608	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	11/17/2008

Junior, 000165	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	07/13/2002
Tucker, 960374	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	06/24/1996
Marion Brinkman	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Mike Mattos	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Janet Nelson Morris	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Dave Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Cheryl Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Jennifer Nelson	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely

Review Panel:

- Warden 130670 04/18/2016
- Zephyr 071039 05/17/2016

**Special Committee Reports**

Technology Committee:

Nothing to report.

NAFA/Flyball History Committee:

Nothing to report.

CanAm Steering Committee:

Discussions revolved around possible purchases for replacement items. Also, considering new process for handing the wifi. Contracts are being negotiated for future dates. Adding a banner for photo ops for clubs.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Neil: I will be scheduling the next meeting soon. The board will be researching locations and a tournament for AGM. Areas are being considered.

Sam: If you know of anyone that have rule questions, adds, changes or suggestions, please have them send them in to the rules committee as soon as possible for the August meeting.

Dave motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dana seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 2:20 pm.