

Glenn Hamilton
Some Ruff Competition
3983 Irwin Street
Innisfil, Ontario L9S2T5

January 17, 2011

Mr. Leerie Jenkins
Chairman of the Board
North American Flyball Association, Inc.
1333 West Devon Avenue, #512
Chicago, IL 60660

Dear Leerie:

Shortly after the 2010 CanAm event in Indianapolis, IN, we noticed that there were errors in the published results for the event and that the seeding lists did not reflect the results from the two CanAm divisions raced on Sunday Oct. 10. The results were corrected, however the seeding and best time reports were not adjusted to reflect the times achieved by the clubs racing in the CanAm divisions.

Inquiries to NAFA produced the reply that the two CanAm divisions, Regular and Multibreed, were scored as Non-Regular classes and the times would not be considered for the seeding lists and best times reports.

6 of the 23 clubs that raced in this year's CanAm either matched or bettered their club's best time ever in NAFA racing and most of the other teams competing set their club's best of time of the 2011 racing year. Yet there is no acknowledgement of that fact in the seeding lists and best times reports. The CanAm events are supposed to be the premier racing events in NAFA with the best teams earning their way to what is effectively the Division 1 of the Sunday racing. While only two teams will emerge as winners, the goal of all clubs competing in the CanAm is to showcase their talents to all those present and to those who weren't present by virtue of the results and seeding lists.

Attached you will find a convincing argument to reverse the decision that was taken to not post the CanAm results in the seeding lists and best times reports. These were real events, raced according to the NAFA rules with teams that entered legitimate NAFA classes. These were not Non-regular classes

Please consider the arguments with an eye to the rulebook about what classes exist, how they are entered and how they are scored. There is no provision for an arbitrary scoring decision to change the results and efforts of the NAFA clubs competing in NAFA events.

We look forward to your positive review of the facts and seeing the seeding and best times reports adjusted to reflect the 2010 CanAm results.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hamilton
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Attachment

cc: Lee Heighton, Dale Smith, Karen Oleson, Scott Stein, Kris Pickering, Dana Nichols, Alisa Romaine, Greg Stopay, Nancy Garcia

Argument:

6 of 23 teams competing in the 2010 CanAm Championship recorded or tied their Best Club racing times, yet none of the achievements are recorded in the NAFA Seeding Lists, the NAFA Best Times this Year reports or the NAFA Best Times since Database reports.

Discussion:

1. NAFA has 5 classes of competition – Regular, Multibreed, Open, Veterans and Non-Regular. All teams entered into the CanAm events from Oct. 8 to Oct. 10 submitted and paid for their entries in the Regular, Multibreed, Open or Veterans divisions. Not one club entered a Non-Regular class as none were offered.
2. The CanAm tournaments are sanctioned according to NAFA rules with minor changes noted in advance on the web site. The event is considered to be part of Region 0 so as not to confuse any results with Regional Championships. Every club is effectively competing out of their home region.
3. Based on the results of the racing from the first two days in the Regular and Multibreed divisions, clubs were invited to compete in the CanAm Championship division according to the rules of the classes that they had entered and based on the seed times generated in the first two days of racing. All clubs entered in the CanAm had the right and ability to perform to their best to earn the right to be invited to what was considered the premier division of Regular and Multibreed racing. There was no indication given to clubs by the NAFA that by moving to the CanAm class that they had changed to a Non-Regular class.
4. Due to the high caliber of competition, NAFA was unable to fill the Regular CanAm division as many clubs opted for the Classic division.
5. Results for the 3 days of racing were scored and posted to the NAFA web site and when it was noted that they were incorrect, the results were corrected. Once corrected, the results were published a second time to correct the errors.

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6. During event scoring, a decision was made by the scorer on the NAFA management team to reassign the Multibreed and Regular CanAm competitions into two non-regular divisions creating new classes of competition. These separate classes have resulted in the exclusion of the CanAm results from the various performance lists as the reporting software only looks at Regular, Multibreed and Veterans classes.
7. Looking back through past results of the Cynosports and other CanAm event, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that racing in the CanAm events have resulted in club "bests" indicating the growth in the quality of NAFA Flyball.
8. We noted that every effort was made to validate a potential world record run during the CanAm Championship and several other clubs came within mere hundredths of a world record. Would that record have counted in a Non-Regular class? This opens a very embarrassing prospect for future CanAm events.

Summary:

We request that the NAFA make the appropriate adjustment to the scoring in the 2010 CanAm results or to the software to correct the three performance reports on the web site that record seeding, current year performance and best times since database so that the complete results of the CanAm Championships be presented accurately.

Flyball is a competitive sport with a standard set of rules that are published and adhered to with standardized judging. This solid foundation and structure allows club successes to be measured across North America through the publishing of results and the resultant performance lists on the internet based web site. It is a travesty that the very event that is supposed to showcase NAFA club's talents when brought together for head to head racing does not allow those results to be reflected in the performance lists.

The effect of excluding these "best" times is to deny the 6 clubs an opportunity to be represented in a better light which may cost them sponsorship opportunities, attracting new members and causing harm to their reputations.