

Agenda

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting - August 26th, 2017 – Pflugerville, TX

Measuring Judge Certification – August 27th, 2017 – Pflugerville, TX

Officers' Reports:

Chair's Comments:

- Board meeting took place at Doggy Day Out, 17808 Wilke Ridge Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78660.
- Steve, Dana, Leerie, Dirk, John, Lynda, Neil attended in person. Kim and Dale attended via phone conference. Jenn did not attend.
- Steve called the meeting to order at 8:45 am.
- Cindy Henderson and Jon Bescher joined the meeting at 11:33 am Sunday.

Executive Director's Comments:

- Barb Miller has stepped down as regional director for Region 11. She has offered to stay in the role until she moves. Neil has appointed a CO-RD, Louie Hellard, to work alongside until the move. Neil asked the board to approve his recommendation. Leerie motioned to accept Neil's recommendation. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.
- Neil asked for input for Peter Wesdyk concerning a borderline team name. Discussion. Steve mentions exposing the junior handlers to this. Neil to discuss with club.

Steve called for executive session at 9:05 am.

Executive session ended at 9:15 am.

The board discussed a potential disciplinary issue.

Treasurer's Report:

- Dana went over the current financial statement, CanAm Performance and profit and loss statement.
- Neil discussed the effects of the earlier rollback for NAFA fees due to the Canadian dollar at the time. Dana also mentioned that we planned on not having to increase the fees right away.
- Discussion around an EJS being stolen, as well as a set staying versus the cost of shipping (i.e. ground shipping from Alaska). Neil concerned about UPS. Dana discussion.
- Reconciled carried-over expenses. Dana plans on going over the chart of accounts.

Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

Election Committee: Dana to come back with proposal for Big Pulse.

Standing Committee Reports:

Judges Committee:

- Kalip Fraser (Lunenburg, NS) - Novice to Apprentice – Successfully finished his novice assignments and is a now an Apprentice Judge.

- Bryan Roper (Sandston, VA) - Novice to Apprentice – Successfully finished his novice assignments and is a now an Apprentice Judge.
- Ian Cuthbertson (Pelham, AL) - Apprentice to Provisional – The judges committee unanimously recommended to advance Ian to Provisional. Dirk motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Kim seconded. Discussion. Motion carried.
- Tom Lamont (Cotuit, MA) - Provisional to Approved - The judges committee unanimously recommended to advance Tom to Approved. Dirk motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Steve seconded. Motion carried.
- Sandy Forseth (Stanford, KY) - Provisional to Approved - The judges committee unanimously recommended to advance Sandy to Approved. Dirk motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Leerie seconded. Motion carried.
- Glenn Hamilton (Innisfil, ON) - Reinstated to Approved (approved by Judges Committee 6/13/17)
- Cindy Rabe (Anchorage AK) - Provisional to Approved - The judges committee unanimously recommended to advance Cindy to Approved. Kim motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.
- Maija Doggett (Anchorage, AK) - Provisional to Approved The judges committee unanimously recommended to advance Maija to Approved. Kim motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Steve seconded. Motion carried.
- Randy Garvin (Raytown, MO) - Provisional to Approved The judges committee unanimously recommended to advance Randy to Approved. Dirk motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Leerie seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting broke at 9:45 am.

Meeting resumed at 10 am.

Rules Committee:

- NAFA Measuring Judges: Review of final wording for the rule book.
- World Record Verification
- Ring Layout: Letter from Beth Leleck
- Format & Schedule: Letter from Amanda Joudrey-LeBlanc
- Fouling in the Ring clarification: Letter from Jon Bescher
- Regular and Multi champ for Division 2 and below

Agenda Item 1) Section 2.1 – NAFA Measuring Judges

Discussion:

The rules committee presented the following raft for consideration and discussion.

Section 2.1 – NAFA® Measuring Judges

(a) The objective of NAFA® Measuring Judges is to promote the standardization of measuring for Height Cards.

(i) The Board shall appoint, provide training, and certify an appropriate number of approved or supervising judges to serve as NAFA® Measuring Judges.

(ii) Re-certification every 3 years shall be required to remain a NAFA® Measuring Judge.

(iii) NAFA® Measuring Judges are required to travel to designated events to complete any required training and certification/recertification.

(iv) NAFA® Measuring Judges are required to travel to measure dogs for height card applications assigned to them by NAFA. Travel costs will be reimbursed by NAFA.

(i) When acting in their capacity as a NAFA® Measuring Judge, they shall only measure dogs outside of their home region, that have been assigned to them by NAFA®.

(ii) A NAFA® Measuring Judge shall not be listed as the Head Judge of record at tournaments to which they have been assigned to measure for a height card.

(v) NAFA measuring judges may not serve on the NAFA board of directors during their appointment.

(b) Dismissal/Resignation of a NAFA® Measuring Judge.

(i) The Board of Directors reserves the right to remove any NAFA® Measuring Judge at any time with or without cause by resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors then in office.

(ii) Any NAFA® Measuring Judge may resign at any given time by giving written notice to the Chairperson of the Board or the Secretary of the Corporation.

Leerie motioned to adopt this wording to be effective 10/1/2017. John seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 2) World Record Verification

Discussion:

World Record Verification

There was a lot of discussion regarding our verification of height dogs during the last board meeting. The majority of people were in favor of requiring height dogs to be measured by measuring officials to verify a world record.

The different discussions were:

If the dog has a height card no action needed

If the dog does not have a height card, a measuring judge must verify the height ; therefore the record would be pending until NAFA verifies the height of the dog.

If the dog was not old enough to qualify for a height card, a Temporary height card could be obtained until it met the requirements for a permanent one.

The judge of the race could verify the height of the dog.

Neil feels strongly that those pursuing World Records should not be treated any differently from others and should not be singled out for tougher requirements for height dogs (tougher than Regional Champs, for example). Possibility of all height dogs requiring height cards was raised.

It was discussed that temporary height cards could be issued at designated tournaments to dogs not yet eligible for permanent height cards.

Conclusion:

A final decision is needed from the board about how to handle measuring differences between regions. The Rules Committee is currently continuing with the Measuring Judges approach. The Rules Committee's recommendation is that the wording around World Record Verification stay similar to previous versions of the rulebook. However, there would be the addition of 'World Records with an asterisk'.

Proposed wording:

World Records run without a dog having a height card, or temporary height card, will be noted with an asterisk. Once a height card has been obtained for the height dog at the height jumped during the world record heat, the asterisk will be removed.

Discussion – Neil - talked about the world record not being the issue and must address the root of the problem. Dale – if we don't address it for world record, what's the incentive for the height card process? They can still measure at local tourneys with local judges. Dana – we are scrutinizing every other element of a world record. Neil – we want to try treat everyone the same.

Leerie motioned that the pertinent section of the world record verification process will include the requirement of a height card. John seconded. Motion carried,

Leerie motioned to replace all existing wording regarding verification of the height dog height for world record with the requirement that the height dog possess a height card for verification of the world record. John seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion. Options were also discussed for future including all dogs have a height card, etc. We are one of the only, if not the only dog sport organization, that performance is based on height by the measurement of the dog is not required.

Agenda Item 3)

RULES OF RACING

Section 2.4 – Ring Layout

Change #1 – Increase the minimum runback to 60 feet for a tournament to count for regional points

With faster dogs now racing in our region and as seen in many other regions with teams running 14-15 second times, 50 feet of runback is no longer enough space for many of these fast dogs to decelerate and safely stop themselves upon completing the course. Regular and Multibreed teams racing these fast times are also the teams competing for regional points, and require a safe environment for their dogs and teams to participate in fast, competitive racing. Many dogs running at these speeds cannot safely stop themselves before they run out of runback space at 50 feet, and run an increased risk of injury especially when there is a solid wall at the end of the 50 feet of runback. Even with the use of a mattress, I've heard the "smack" of a dog hitting the wall through the mattress due to the impact at such a high speed, and I hope to never hear that sound again!

The club I race with (Launch) wants to continue to encourage and support tournament hosts holding tournaments in Region 19, we just want to take away the incentive for teams competing for regional championships to take unnecessary risks with their bigger/faster dogs and teams. Launch would still attend tournaments sanctioned at under 60 feet of runback, but wouldn't run dogs in these events that we feel are unsafe with 50 ft or less of runback, which includes many of the dogs on our Regular Division 1 team. We don't feel that we should be penalized for "doing the right thing" by putting our dogs' safety above our desire to be competitive.

Upon review of all 2015 and 2016 sanctioned tournaments across all regions, I found only 14 tournaments in each year that were qualified for regular division regional points with available runback between 50-59 ft. This rule change would only impact approximately 4% of tournaments each year that have previously been eligible as regular regional points qualifiers (14 tournaments out of 334 total tournaments in 2015, and 14 tournaments out of 342 tournaments in 2016). In Region 19, there were 8 tournament weeks that qualified for regional points in

2016. Only one of these tournament weeks would be excluded as a regional points qualifier with this rule change, leaving at least 7 additional opportunities for everyone to compete for regional championship points.

Change #2 – Add a minimum of 9 feet from the racing lane center line to the ring layout barrier.

This change will add 4.5 feet of space to the ring layout beyond the existing defined width of the racing lanes. While the racing lanes are required to be matted 4.5 feet from the racing lane center line when on a hard surface, the additional 4.5 feet in this new request will add space beyond the racing lane but within the ring layout. First, this additional space guarantees room for box and line judges' chairs that are off the mats and out of the way from dogs who might run outside of the jumps in the racing lanes. Second, this change will protect against buildings with walls, shelves, or other barriers that line-up directly against the mats of the racing lanes. Finally, this change will close the existing 9 ft. variance between the approximate "30 ft. minimum width" identified at the beginning of the ring layout section of the rulebook compared to the absolute minimum of 21 ft. when the dimensions are added together later in the same paragraph, requiring a minimum of 12 ft. from center to center and 4.5 feet on either side of racing lane center (4.5 + 12 + 4.5 = 21 ft.)

Thank you for your consideration of these changes, and for furthering the safety and fun of flyball for all to enjoy!

Beth Leleck
720.320.2830
bethleleck@gmail.com
Launch Flyball Club, Region 19

Discussion:

Change 1 (Increase runback requirement from 50 to 60ft for tournaments to qualify for regional points)

Upon review of data, this would have a devastating impact on some regions.

Change 2 (Add a minimum of 9 feet from the racing center line to the ring layout barrier)

Conclusion:

The Committee is not in favor of this change. NAFA always encourages owners to decide for themselves if the venue meets the safety needs of their dog. Additionally, judges and Regional Directors are responsible for ensuring dogs are not in danger because of ring layout or venue. By design, it is not required that a team runs all tournaments in their region to win the regional championship.

Action Items:

None.

The board supports the rules committee conclusion.

Agenda Item 4) Section 3.6 – Format & Schedule – reducing possible heats per day from 35 to 30

I'm attaching a proposal to NAFA for a rule change. I posted my proposal out on my Facebook and the Facebook friends that responded is overwhelming and they wanted their clubs (club owners) and some individual names attached to it. Thank you for considering.

~Amanda

Re: NAFA Rulebook Section 6.3 - Format & Schedule (b) The tournament format includes: (iv) The Race Schedule shall not call for more than a total of 35 possible heats per day per team. We'd like to propose that Section 6.3 (iv) be changed to: (iv) The Race Schedule shall not call for more than a total of 30 possible heats per day per team.

People are still able to double run their dog if they want to race more than 30 heats but it gives those of us who don't want to run as much a safety net for our dogs of 30 heats per day.

Discussion:

Karen raised the concern that this reduction would be eliminating formats (for example, double elimination) in some cases. The main issue behind this proposal is likely people that double run their dogs. It was felt that a way of tracking which dogs were running too many heats would be the ideal way to tackle this.

In general, the Committee was not opposed to adopting this change. There was a good deal of support for this proposal on FB and in a petition. Are there other voices not being heard as this change would restrict options for formatting, and likely slower teams would be impacted more.

Possible compromise would be adding wording for rulebook....'NAFA encourages tournament hosts to target 30 heats...'

Conclusion:

Need feedback from Dale (and perhaps further from Leerie). Committee suggests a comment period before this be changed.

Action Items:

Leerie motioned to propose a point cap. Steve seconded. Leerie withdrew his motion.

Dale motioned to table this discussion to rules. Leerie seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 5) Section 8.3 Fouling In the Ring clarification

On Mon, Jun 26, 2017 at 10:57 AM, Jonathan Bescher <jjbescher@gmail.com> wrote:

Steve,

I have a proposal and a clarification for Fouling in the ring. Please forward on the appropriate committee.

Changes/Clarification to Fouling in the ring.

Section 8.3 (e) Fouling

If a dog urinates or defecates in the racing ring during a heat, the judge will stop that heat and award that heat to the opposing team assigning them an estimated time. If a dog urinates or defecates in the racing ring at any time prior to the first heat or between heats, the judge will award the next heat to the opposing team, assigning an estimated time to that team. The time will be marked as estimated and will not be used to determine placement.

Proposal - My understanding is the intent of the rule is to award the heat or the next heat to the opposing team

because of the time it takes to clean up. However, there are times before a race, when there is an excused conflict, a team maybe waiting and dog fouls in the ring. By the rule above, this makes the team that fouled in the ring lose a heat, even when the other team has not showed up yet. If the race started on time, the race could have been over and the dog would not have fouled in the ring, or the dog would have fouled in the ring anyways, but it would have been later. Since the team waiting does not know when the other team is going to show up, they don't have a chance to run outside, if they do, then they may not get their warmup in. My proposal is to change it from 'at any time prior to the first heat' to 'once warmups has started'

Question/clarification - In the rulebook, it defines the ring layout. However, the ring layout is different between surfaces. On grass or field turf, the racing ring, is essentially the outside of the racing lanes. When using mats, it is the 4.5' min from the centerline of the racing. We use ring gating or some type of barrier to help keep people/dogs, help contain balls out of the ring, sometimes some sides may not have it because it goes up to the wall. It makes it vague on what area the fouling of the ring has to occur in to make the team lose a heat.

Thanks,
jon
Jonathan Bescher
NAFA Supervising Judge

Discussion:

The intent for this rule is to dissuade fouling in the ring, but more specifically, fouling that delays racing.

Conclusion:

Wording proposal: If a dog urinates or defecates in the racing ring at any time prior to the first heat causing a delay, or between heats, the judge will award the next heat to the opposing team, assigning an estimated time to that team.

Leerie motioned the following wording replace in Section 8.3 (e) Fouling:

If a dog urinates or defecates in the racing ring during a heat, the judge will stop that heat and award that heat to the opposing team assigning them an estimated time. If a dog urinates or defecates in the racing ring at any time once the warmup period has started or between heats, the judge will award the next heat to the opposing team, assigning an estimated time to that team. The time will be marked as estimated and will not be used to determine placement.

John seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 6) Regular and Multi champs for lower divisions

Discussion:

Some proposals, but no clear answer as to how to address issues such as teams having no control over which division they are seeded in.

1. Creating a new (additional) type of regional champs based on average placements for a club.

John motioned to forward to rules for additional fleshing out of terminology. Dirk seconded. Motion carried.

2. Creating additional awards based purely on database stats or nominations; awards that focus on qualities

other than speed.

John motioned to table this and send back to rules for consideration. Leerie seconded. Motion carried. John would like to thank Emma Mak for all the help and work on this.

Finance:

- Dana presented the financial report.

Nominating Committee:

Marketing Committee:

- Finalize with vendor with suggestions of what apparel to sell on their store for the CanAm t-shirt.
- Submit junior participant pin design to vendor for creation.

Disciplinary Committee:

Unsportsmanlike Complaint Received

Steve called for executive session at 2:10 pm.

Exited executive session at 2:30 pm.

The board reviewed DC2017001 and gave approval to proceed to hearing.

Dia – CRN 140129 – Aggression Excusal Removal – Dog has completed # of tourneys to return. Remove letter was accompanied with a letter from judge that indicated no other issues seen.

Leerie motioned to accept the committees’ recommendation. John seconded. Motioned carried.

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date(s)
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:

Angus – CRN 170387 – Aggression Excusal

Buzz – CRN 090662 – Aggression Excusal (under appeal)

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee:

- Next Generation of EJS – Leerie reports that Dave Thomas was contacted to start work on the next generation of EJS; including a having prototype, and who will build it. Dale, Leerie and Dave will schedule continued discussions toward the new generation of EJS.

NAFA/Flyball History Committee: N/A

CanAm Steering Committee:

Ongoing Business:

- Open class trial periods, feedback and options.

Leerie motioned to put three choices for delegate vote.

Effective date 10/1/2018

1. Open class - jump heights and false starts.

. A. Pick a height, no false starts

. B. Same as regular and mb for both.

2. Regular and Multibreed - false starts.

. A. No false starts (single optional practice start between warm-up period and start of each race)

. B. No change.

3. Change -5" jump height from withers to -6"

. A. Yes change

. B. No, stay the same

John seconded. After discussion, Leerie withdrew motion.

Leerie motioned to consider for delegate vote:

“Regular and MB false starts”:

A. No false starts (single optional practice start between warm-up period and start of each race).

B. No change.

Lynda seconded. Motion carried.

Leerie motioned to consider for delegate vote:

“Open class - jump heights and false starts”:

A: Jump height between minimum and maximum and no false starts (single optional practice start between warm-up period and start of each race)

B: Same as regular and multibreed.

Dirk seconded. Dale and Lynda objected.

Steve C - For

Kim D - For

Dirk E - For

Dana H - For

John H - For

Leerie J - For

Lynda M - Against

Dale S - Against

Motion carried.

Dale motioned to consider for delegate vote:

“Open class - false starts”:

A. No false starts (single optional practice start between warm-up period and start of each race).

B. No change.
Dirk seconded. Motion carried.

Leerie motioned to extend the current trial period through 3/15/2018. Dale seconded. The delegate vote results will be known by the end of January. By extending the trial open rules, this will allow clubs to sanction accordingly. Motion carried.

New Business:

- International Flyball Competition – Since the last board meeting, Edwin was interested in an event, a worldwide event to be held in France. Neil went through their rule book. Measuring is similar to U-FLI. Rules are very similar to NAFA. Dogs must be 15 months old to race. Treats/tugs must be placed 50 feet back. Neil would like to investigate further. There was additional discussion surrounding logistics, etc.

Leerie motioned for the board to support Neil in exploring this opportunity. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting broke at 5:30 pm Saturday.

Meeting resumed at 7:45 am Sunday.

Dale motioned to accept the wording for 7.1 as presented. John seconded. Motion carried. See attachment HeightCards7.1.pdf

Dale motioned to accept chapter 4 modified wording as presented. John seconded. Motion carried. See attachment Chapter4MeasuringChanges.pdf

Dale motioned to add wording to “capture a picture of the dog being measured for the owner”. John seconded. Motion carried.

Leerie motioned to complete the action items presented for changes on the C10A and C10 for the 10/1/2017 rulebook. John seconded. Motion carried.

Leerie motioned to adjourn the meeting. John seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8:18 am Sunday.

Measuring Judge Certification – August 27th, 2017 – Pflugerville, TX

Certification for the new role of Certified Measuring Judge was conducted on August 27th, 2017

The Certified Measuring Judges selected by the Board of Directors are:

Jonathan Bescher	Cindy Henderson
Steve Heine	Kurt Johnson