

NAFA BOD Meeting Agenda - September 12, 2022

Chair:

1. AGM virtual or in person – Cost is a concern.
2. BOD Member Participation
3. 30” Jumps

Executive Director

1. Double points for tournaments straddling December 31-January 1
2. Request from competitors in areas that didn't start racing til mid 2022 to extend double points (see attached letter)
3. Guidelines for establishing an Invitational Selection Committee (see attached letter)
4. Report on Multiple Measuring Stations
5. Invitational Updates
6. RD Updates for:
 - a. Region 21
 - b. Region 12
 - c. Region 7
 - d. Region 6
7. CanAm updates
8. Judge/Competitor Issue
9. Measuring Issues

Rules:

1. Updates to rulebook for 2023
2. COI Determination for Judge Committee
3. Changes to Performance Team Declaration

Treasurer:

1. CanAm
 - a. Update on CanAm Sponsors and Vendors
2. Product Endorsement: the owner of Rogue Pet Science asked if NAFA would be willing to “endorse” or “approve” their product.
3. Detailed financial report

Judges:

1. Waiving requirement of number of tournaments for FY22
2. Changing the requirements for a Novice Judge (Getting rid of box judging requirement)
3. COI review of dog's measurements (Sent to rules committee)

Marketing:

1. Creating an Iron Dog Patch

Elections:

1. Do we need to waive or estimate delegate votes for regions who weren't able to play a normal year due to Covid restrictions
2. Nomination opened – Report on nominations

Communications:

1. Follow up on hearing protection article for blog

New Business:

1. Establishing an Invitational Selection Committee

Letter from Joy Adiletta

Hi Jayne,

I received this from Joy Adiletta, Engage Flyball, Region 7.

Double Points in Region 7

The era of double points in response to COVID is likely going to end at the end of 2022 (or so I've heard), and I would like you to propose an extension for Region 7 to the board of directors. This double points was my idea in the first place, and Region 7 was completely unable to take advantage of it for a full year after other regions were able to do so. Open travel across the border wasn't possible until April 2022, so even the two early 2022 tournaments were not truly available to everyone in the region due to the high-cost time-sensitive COVID testing required to enter Canada.

According to my records, Region 7 had an average of 11 NAFA tournaments per NAFA racing year between 2016 and 2019. In 2020, ten total tournaments were planned during the racing year, and only 4 happened with the US-Canada border closing on March 10, 2020 (immediately after the Kings tournament) and not opening until November 8, 2021 with testing restrictions and not opening fully until April 1, 2022. That is two full years that Region 7 could not hold tournaments due to the border closure, which is an overall missed potential 22 tournaments. That's a lot of missed titles, missed times, and many dogs unfortunately passed or aged out in that two-year gap.

A quick check of a few regions in NAFA shows that most regions started hosting tournaments again between April and June of 2021, a full year before Region 7 was able to do the same. That means if double points end on December 31 2022, that Region 7 has had the ability to host tournaments with this

bonus for eight months while the rest of NAFA has had the ability to do so for 20 months. This is not remotely fair, especially given how isolated we are in our region, without other opportunities for flyball without driving (or flying) at least 1000 miles each way. The extended closure in Region 7 has also had the effect (as you well know) of causing multiple clubs to close down or consolidate, further limiting the ability of clubs to be able to host tournaments. It will likely take a couple of years to build back out to the regular hosting level that we enjoyed prior to the pandemic, unfortunately.

I would like to propose to the board that Region 7 tournaments are allowed to earn double points through at least December 31, 2023. I'd prefer it to be until we have been able to host at least 15 tournaments in our region (after the full border opening in April 2022), but I realize that the board may not wish to go with an open-ended request like that. If the board wants to limit this to Region 7 teams, that's fine with me, although honestly if other clubs are willing to make the 1000+ mile journey to one of our tournaments, then I think they've earned double points - and that extra demand might help kickstart our region's racing again.

That's it!

Thank you for listening to my concerns and bringing them to the NAFA board if possible. I'm more than happy to chat with board members or present to them if that would be helpful. Looking forward to seeing you guys again in Salem in a few weeks!

-Joy

I have also received verbal requests for the extension of double points from other region 7 people.

Can this be addressed at our next meeting?

Thanks.

Lynda Mantler

Secretary, NAFA®

From Neil Flood:

NAFA Invitational Proposals

NAFA just completed its first made-for-TV invitational in partnership with AKC and broadcast by ESPN. While the last went off well, it was hastily put together in a mere 6 weeks. As we look to the future, we would like to be more planful and create an experience that our competitors continue to enjoy. We were relatively fortunate that it went as well as it did, and we got 8 competitive teams, on such short notice. I have 2 proposals for the Board of Directors.

- 1) The creation of an Invitational Selection Committee. The Executive Director would chair the committee and propose 4 additional members for the committee. The Board of Directors would approve the membership of the committee. The committee would be a mix of Board member and non-board members. I would advise that the committee not contain more than 2 Board members. Consideration should be made in attempting to selecting members that will not have a perceived to have a Conflict of Interest.

When selecting teams to invite for the invitational, the committee shall consider the following criteria:

- A. NAFA Standing (i.e. the club must be in good standing with NAFA)
- B. The club exhibits good sportsmanship and strives for peak performance. The club would be a good ambassador for the sport of Flyball and NAFA, and the committee feels comfortable putting them on a broadcast to a wide ranging audience.
- C. NAFA Championship Standings and Performance
- D. Regional Standings and Performance
- E. CanAm Performance
- F. Regional and national diversity
- G. Cost for reimbursement (i.e. be cautious of selecting 2-3 teams from Region 7 for an event in Region 11)

I am suggesting the Committee apply the above logic, in roughly the order listed above – certainly 1 & 2 are nonnegotiable. I would advise they use the above list as guiding principles, and not any hard and fast rules. The Board of Directors will empower the group to make the selection and extend the invitations. If teams from the initial invite list decline the event, the committee should be prepared with alternative candidates. The committee should be very cognizant, when inviting alternates, to consider points F & G above. While teams from the same area or region may be invited, the committee should strive to get representation from different areas as costs and acceptance of invites allows.

- 2) The second proposal is for the Executive Director to assemble an informal committee, that they would lead, akin to the CanAm Organizing Committee to do the organization and execution of the Invitational event(s). Membership of this committee would be at the discretion of the Executive Director. The organizing committee could be a mix of Board and Non-Board members. The purpose of the committee would be to assist the Executive Director with creating a successful show. Roles to consider are:

- a. Judges – lineup Head, Line, EJS and Box judges for the event
- b. Equipment – procure equipment, such as mats, jumps etc for the event
- c. Communications – both with teams, and external/social communications
- d. Setup and Teardown
- e. Camping and Hotel arrangements
- f. Scoring and Tournament format planning
- g. Financial planning/budgeting

These are just a few roles for the Executive Director to consider, there could be more.

Rules Committee Recommendations

1. Rule book clean-up (excluding phase 3 measuring changes)

A. Section 8.3 - The Heat

(a) The Run. Dogs may start from a stationary or running start. Each dog is to hurdle the four jumps in succession, trigger the box, releasing the ball, retrieve the ball and return over all four jumps and the start/finish line with the ball in its mouth.

Then, under infractions:

(h) Infractions.

(i) Infractions that require the rerunning of the dog to be rerun after the initial four dogs in the order they initially ran:

1. Early passes will be indicated by the EJS and the line judge and/or the head judge. When running without an EJS system, the line judge will indicate an infraction;
2. Missed jumps;
3. Not carrying the ball over each jump in succession;
4. Does not trigger the box;
5. Dog takes the ball from the cup without first triggering the box;

The situation that appears to NOT be ok in "the Heat" but not expressly listed in "infractions" is:

Dog runs towards box,

ball rolls out of box onto the floor in front of box,

dog triggers box,
picks up ball off floor,
completes run.

RC Recommendation:

Make an addition to (h) Infractions:

6. The dog retrieves a ball which has rolled out of the box before being triggered

- B. Section 8.5 - Dogs and Handlers with Disabilities...subsections go from (c) to (e).

RC Recommendation:

Fix it by renumbering subsections e-g to d-f.

- C. Complaints about minimum age for dogs being hard to find.

Currently it's located in Chapter 5 – Code of Conduct, Section 5.1 – Code of Ethics

RC Recommendation:

Move:

Section 5.1 (d) Minimum age for dogs. No dog under the age of fifteen (15) months may be listed on a time sheet in a sanctioned event.

To:

Section 3.2 – Clubs, Teams, Time Sheets, and Warm-up Only

(Between (f) and (g) under Time Sheets heading)

(f) Submitting time sheets. A current time sheet (NAFA Form C.2) shall be completed and provided to the tournament secretary before the start of racing, to include team name, club number, captain, CRNs, and dog names.

(g) Changes to listed dogs. Each dog on the time sheet, including alternate and warm-up...

Change:

5.1 (c) Mistreatment of dogs. Abuse or severe disciplining of a dog is not in the best interest of flyball.

To:

5.1 (c) Mistreatment of dogs. Abuse, severe disciplining of a dog, or running a dog that is under the minimum age as specified in Section 3.2 – Clubs, Teams, Time Sheets, and Warm-up Only (g) (RR) is not in the best interest of flyball.

2. Rule book clean-up and changes/additions for phase 3 of measuring:

Remove wording that is listed in ~~strikeout~~, add underlined wording.

GLOSSARY:

Height Dog - The dog(s) responsible for determining the jump height in a given heat.

NAFA® Measuring Apparatus — ~~NAFA supplied measuring wicket; or a~~ NAFA approved leveling laser, tripod, and NAFA supplied ruler.

NAFA® Recorded Measurement – A measurement that is witnessed by the regional director at a NAFA sanctioned event and recorded on a NAFA C.9 Form. ~~Starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022):~~ A NAFA Recorded Measurement designated as ‘For M/O Training/Certification’ or ‘For Event Only’ on the NAFA C.9 Form, cannot be used as an Initial, Temporary, or Permanent Measurement; OIR Measurement; or measurement for a NAFA World Record

Initial Measurement – The first in a series of NAFA® Recorded Measurements used to establish a Permanent Measurement. ~~Available starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022)~~

Permanent Measurement – The official height of a dog as a whole number, obtained by receiving a pair of NAFA® Recorded Measurements for the same jump height from two different measuring officials, at two separate events. A dog must be at least 24 months in age to obtain its final measurement for a Permanent Measurement. A dog having a Permanent Measurement has met the requirements of mandatory measuring, ~~and is not required to measure again. Available starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022).~~

Temporary Measurement – NAFA Recorded Measurement for a dog that is younger than 24 months in age. A dog having a Temporary Measurement has met the requirements of mandatory measuring, and is not required to measure again until the dog is at least 24 months of age. ~~Available starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022)~~

Section 1.6 Regional Directors

Responsibilities and Authorities at Events

(f) The regional director’s responsibilities at events are the following:

(iii) observe the measuring of dogs by ~~judges~~ the Measuring Official using the NAFA Measuring Apparatus and provide verbal feedback to the Measuring official during the measuring process. ~~The following paragraph (g) is in effect starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022)~~

(j) The designation of the acting regional director shall be approved by the executive director. ~~During and after Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022), w~~Wherever possible, the acting regional director should be certified to act as a witness to NAFA Recorded Measurements.

Section 2.3 – Measuring Official Status – ~~starting April 1, 2022~~ (a) ~~As of Phase 2 (expected date April 1, 2022)~~-All NAFA® judges are required to be trained and certified as measuring officials.

~~Section 2.5 – Certified Measuring Judges – valid until March 31, 2021~~

~~Note: Certified Measuring Judges will no longer exist starting in Phase 2 of roll out of the new measuring system (April 1, 2022). As of August 22, 2020 board meeting, the restriction that CMJs cannot be board members was temporarily removed.~~

~~(a) The objective of NAFA Certified 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® Certified Measuring Judges.~~

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

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

~~(iv) NAFA® Certified 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. (a) When acting in their capacity as a NAFA® Certified Measuring Judge, they shall only measure dogs outside of their home region, that have been assigned to them by NAFA®. (b) A NAFA® Certified 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 Certified Measuring Judges may not serve on the NAFA Board of Directors during their appointment. (b) Dismissal/Resignation of a NAFA® Certified Measuring Judge. (i) The Board of Directors reserves the right to remove any NAFA® Certified Measuring Judge at any time with or without cause by resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors then~~

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

~~Section 2.3 – Measuring Official Status — starting April 1, 2022~~

~~(a) As of Phase 2 (expected date April 1, 2022) All NAFA® judges are required to be trained and certified as measuring officials.~~

~~(b) A judge with measuring Certified measuring officials certification status shall make it a top priority to foster trust in NAFA’s measuring process. In pursuit of this goal, they must:~~

~~(h) NAFA reserves the right to revoke a measuring official’s certification for cause.~~

CHAPTER 4 - MEASURING

~~(c) If the judge determines that an appropriate Measuring Surface or a NAFA Measuring Apparatus is not available, measuring shall not be for NAFA Recorded Measurements, and shall be for the tournament only.~~

The following alternate version of paragraph (c) is in effect starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022)

(c) If the judge determines that an appropriate Measuring Surface or a NAFA Measuring Apparatus is not available, the NAFA Recorded Measurements shall be designated as 'For Event Only' on the C.9 Jump Heights Form.

CHAPTER 7 – STANDING RULES OF COMPETITION Section 7.1 – Height Cards — valid until March 31, 2022 Note: Height cards will no longer be available starting in Phase 2 of roll out of the new measuring system (April 1, 2022). All existing Height cards will be converted to Permanent Measurements. (a) Height cards are optional. A dog's owner can apply to NAFA® for a permanent height card one (1) year after the dog has earned NAFA® points. Application for a height card, along with the fee listed in Appendix A, must be submitted through the NAFA® mailing address. Dogs that do not meet the eligibility requirements for a permanent height card, may apply for a temporary height card. Temporary height cards are valid until the dog meets the requirements for a permanent height card and a subsequent 90 day grade period. NAFA will assign a Certified Measuring Judge to measure the dog at a specific event. The applicant will be informed by NAFA which event the height card measurement will take place. The Certified Measuring Judge will be issued a C.10 form to record the height card measurement. (b) Height cards issued by NAFA® will be wallet size cards, and all height card records will be available online. (c) Once a permanent height card has been issued, additional cards for the same dog may not be applied for. Lost height cards can be replaced with an identical card for the fee listed in Appendix A. At the discretion of the Board, height cards may be reissued to accommodate rule or design changes. (d) A height card may not be challenged. 53 (e) One owner appeal (lifetime) will be allowed per dog

Section 7.2 World Records

Jump Height Verification

~~(i) During Phase 1: The Height Dog has a height card that supports the jump height used during the heat;~~

~~(ii) After Phase 1:~~

~~1. The Height Dog has a Permanent Measurement supporting the jump height used during the heat;~~

~~2. For any Height Dog that does not have a Permanent Measurement (including dogs under 24 months, or any other dog), the NAFA Recorded Measurement, completed at any time during that tournament day, supports the jump height used during the heat.~~

(i). The Height Dog has a Permanent Measurement supporting the jump height used during the heat;

(ii). For any Height Dog that does not have a Permanent Measurement (including dogs under 24 months, or any other dog), the NAFA Recorded Measurement, completed at any time during that tournament day, supports the jump height used during the heat.

Appendix A

~~Duplicate Height Cards (due to loss) \$10 USD or \$12 CDN.~~

Appendix C

Omit forms C.10 & C.10a

Switch out forms C.13 World Record

Section 2.2 - Barriers The host club shall provide a barrier/backstop at the box end of the run, placed as to prevent missed balls from rolling too far but placed as not to prevent proper observation by the judge or to obscure the spectators' view. A barrier (minimum 24" high) shall extend between the boxes, up to 3 feet in front of the box placement line, and a minimum of 5 feet behind the box placement line ~~to minimize interference.~~

Omit the following table

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Official measuring apparatus	Wicket	Laser measuring apparatus ¹	Laser measuring apparatus
Measuring Height Dogs is optional	Yes	Yes	No
Who measures?	Tournament measuring judge	Tournament measuring official ¹	Tournament measuring official
Measurements towards Temporary or Permanent Measurements can be obtained	No	Yes – the owner must declare this before the measurement is attempted.	Yes – required.
Height challenges	Yes	Yes- unless the dog has a Temporary or Permanent Measurement	No – any concerns with measuring should be discussed with RD, ED, board chair. NAFA will follow up as appropriate.
Height cards available	Yes	No (existing height cards are converted to dog's Permanent Measurement)	No
Height cards required for NAFA World Records	Yes	No – all height cards are converted to Permanent Measurements for Phase 2. (See Section 7.2 - World Record Times (CP&P) for requirements regarding Height Dogs).	No (See Section 7.2 - World Record Times (CP&P) for requirements regarding Height Dogs).
Certified Measuring Judges	Yes	No	No
What can a Permanent Measurement be used for?	N/A	Tournament jump height World records	Tournament jump height World records

¹An exception may be granted when no measuring official certified to use the laser measuring apparatus is available and previous approval has been received from the ED. Wicket measurements may be used only for the event and may not be NAFA Recorded Measurements.

Remove current section 4.3 Section 4.3 – Legacy Measuring System – valid until September 30, 2022

Proposed changes to Chapter 4 Measuring sections:

Chapter 4 – Measuring

Section 4.1 – Measuring Process

Section 4.2 – NAFA Recorded Measurements

Section 4.3 – Mandatory Measuring

Section 4.4 – Permanent Measurements

Section 4.5 – Owner Initiated Remeasure (OIR) Process

Section 4.3 – Mandatory Measuring (previously 4.4)

Mandatory Measuring Requirements

(a) ~~As of October 1, 2022, mandatory measuring of Height Dogs is in effect.~~ All Height Dogs at least 24 months in age shall be required to obtain a NAFA Recorded measurement at each NAFA event until they obtain their Permanent Measurement. Until they achieve their Permanent Measurement, Height Dogs will set the jump height based on ~~their latest~~ that tournament week's NAFA Recorded Measurement.

(b) All Height Dogs between 15 and 24 months in age shall be required to obtain at least one (1) NAFA Recorded Measurement as their Temporary Measurement before running as a Height Dog.

Mandatory Measuring Exceptions

~~Starting in Phase 3 (Expected start date October 1, 2022).~~

(c) The following are granted exceptions to mandatory measuring requirements in paragraph 4.4 (b):

- (i) Dogs ten (10) years in age or over. Dogs ten years in age or over are exempt from mandatory measuring; however, failure to jump their correct jump height when used as the Height Dog is considered unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (ii) For an event in the same tournament week. When there are two or more NAFA events in the same tournament week, a NAFA Recorded Measurement from that tournament week's previous event(s) may be used for the remainder of the tournament week (even if the measuring official is different for the subsequent events).

Failure to Comply with Mandatory Measuring

(d) Dogs that do not qualify for mandatory measuring exceptions (Section 4.3(c)) and do not meet the requirements in (Section 4.3(a) and (b)), shall not be considered a Height Dog and will set the jump height at the maximum height stated in 8.2(a).

~~Section 4.4 – Introduction of Mandatory Measuring – starting October 1, 2022~~

CHAPTER 5 - JUDGES

(d) Line judges shall:

(i) record which dogs participate in every heat and record win/loss using the NAFA Time sheet (Form C.2);

(ii) verify the jump heights are set correctly for each heat based on the Height Dog and class of racing (e.g. Regular and Multibreed classes).

(ii) indicate with a signal when an infraction has occurred.

Section 2.3 - Jumps

(a) The host club shall provide two sets of regulation flyball jumps for the duration of the tournament.

(i) The jumps shall be white except for the uprights, which may be any color. The jumps shall have an inside width of 24 inches or 30 inches, with uprights not more than 36 inches high nor less than 24 inches high. Logos and/or lettering on the cross-boards will be permitted but must be located between 2 inches and 6 inches high and 2 inches inside of each upright. All jumps shall be either 24 inches, or all jumps shall be 30 inches for the entirety of the event.

3. Conflict of Interest (COI) for Measuring:

The Rules committee was charged with answering the following in regards to measuring:

- 1) Should the judges committee be voting on pass/fail for measurements submitted via video?

Discussion:

The committee unanimously agreed that any measuring videos submitted for review should be determined to be a valid measure for an initial, temporary, or permanent measure, or not valid for an initial, temporary, or permanent measure.

- 2) Do we need to require all Conflicts of Interest (COI) be videoed and sent in for review?

Discussion:

All members of the committee agree that any time there is a conflict of interest, a video of the measurement should be submitted for approval.

- 3) What if there is no conclusion reached from the video submitted?

Discussion:

The committee agreed that any video that results in no-conclusion being made by the review committee should not count for an initial, temporary, or permanent measure and should only count for the event at which it was taken.

- 4) What if a determination is made that there is a COI?

Discussion:

The rules committee agrees that if the review committee determines there is a conflict of interest (after an event) and there was no video submitted, then the measurement can be used for the event only and cannot be used for a world record, and will not count for an initial, temporary, or permanent measurement.

Recommendation: Alter the following wording in the rule book:

Section 4.2 – NAFA® Recorded Measurements

(c) For NAFA Recorded Measurements, the judge measuring official and regional director should work together to ensure:

(iv) there is no conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest. ~~For example, if the measuring judge and handler are members of the same club, it is recommended that a video recording of the measurement be submitted to the Judges Committee for review.~~ In order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, whenever a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest occurs between the owner/handler and the measuring official, measurements shall be video recorded and sent to NAFA for approval. Examples of conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to: family members, same flyball club,

or other close relationship. If videos are not approved, the measurement shall be recorded as “for event only.”

CHAPTER 4 - MEASURING

Section 4.1 – Measuring Process

(o) NAFA reserves the right to require a dog to be measured for cause.

Performance Teams:

The committee received the following a proposal from Meagan Langs:

Formal Proposal of Changes to Performance Teams:

1. Current Rule book language is overly complicated when looking up Conversion to Performance. Move Performance rules into its own section. The current rules are in the Changing Clubs section but then say any Regular or Non-Regular Class, then really only discusses Multibreed.
2. **Once Performance has been approved the team will follow the rules of the Open Class. (This is done to award all dogs the same protections that were available previously and it is NOT being done to “devalue” the need of a height dog or a Veteran dog. Once a team is running performance regional placements and awards are not available so forcing the height dog requirement is overly burdensome for no real reason.)**

Optional Addition:

3. Conversion to Performance within the racing day, should be permitted with TD approval if an unforeseen circumstance has occurred and the team has dogs already listed on the team line up sheet and they can continue to run but cannot follow the rules of the class for which they originally entered. All previous wins would be converted to losses.

Discussion:

The committee reviewed the proposal and agrees that the current wording should be reviewed, reorganized, and simplified. The committee agrees with eliminating the height dog requirement on a Performance Team and agrees with adding the Regional Director into the approval process for when a team requests conversion to a Performance Team. The committee would like to see the wording reviewed, reorganized, and updated, however, admits that there is not time to adequately accomplish this task before October 1.

Recommendation: Add underlined wording:

Section 7.5 – Changing Clubs

(c)

(ii) When a team in the Multibreed Class declares performance, the requirement of four different breeds set forth in Section 6.2 – Classes of Competition (d) (CP&P) does not apply. When a team in the Regular Class or Multibreed Class declares performance, jump heights shall be set at any height not below the minimum and not exceeding the maximum height stated in Section 8.2 – Jump Heights (RR).

(iii) Conversion to Performance Team Entry. With the permission of the tournament director and Regional Director for cause shown, a team entered in a regular or non-

regular class may be converted from its original status to a performance team entry prior to the start of the tournament. The intent of this conversion privilege is to allow teams that have already entered a tournament but who, for unforeseen reasons, find themselves unable to field a complete team, to run for points with a dog or dogs from another club. "Cause" shall include but not be limited to circumstances such as dog injury, illness, or other unforeseen situation. A team may not enter a tournament as a performance team. Abuses to the Performance rules will be subject to disciplinary action.

Loaded balls – Steve Heine

Is smearing a ball with peanut butter to encourage a dog to carry the ball over the finish line permitted?

Discussion:

This is not currently an infraction in the rule book unless it distracts a dog on the opposing team. The majority of the committee agreed that if the ball fell within the rules Section 1.2 - Balls, and was not a distraction to other dogs, there was no cause for intervention. The majority of the rules committee feels enforcing a rule prohibiting "loaded balls" in a fair and unbiased manner would be difficult.

Meagan felt that a ball with peanut butter was the same as a ball with a squeaky, and should not be allowed.

RC Recommendation:

No rule book changes at this time.