

Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, April 25, 2022

Held via Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Emily Allred
Jonathan Bescher
Kathy Haney
Cindy Henderson
Leerie Jenkins
Meagan Langs
Emma Mak
Lynda Mantler
Jayne McQuillen

Executive Director: Neil Flood
Recorder: Karen Oleson

Jayne called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm CST.

Officers' Reports

Chair's Comments:

1. Welcome.

Jayne brought the board's attention to an updated agenda which was distributed to the board earlier in the day.

2. CanAm 2022 Entries open June 1 and close August 24.

Open/Close dates will be posted to social media after the board meeting.

3. Committee Updates

No changes have been made to the Committee assignments. Bob Hall was approached for participation on the Technology Committee; however, he has other commitments at this time.

Executive Director's Comments:

1. Update on AKC/ESPN Invitational & also future potential updates (pick top 5, college campus?)

- AKC is finalizing the building agreement in North Carolina. They will also procure a hotel block for competitors' use. They have asked for NAFA's input regarding what to do for awards. Neil asked for input from the board. Suggestions from the board included having something for everyone; something nicer for the winners; medals for all competitors; award and Grand and Reserve Champions.
- Spectators will be allowed at the invitational
- Masks will not be required at the event.
- Neil will work with the production team regarding set design.
- We do not have information about camp sites on the grounds at this time.
- Jonathan reported that the two EJS sets from R9 will be transported to the invitational, however, noted that if additional displays are needed, we will need to procure them.
- There was a question about TVs for the APES. At CanAm, the production company brought their own TVs.
- We get the building at 8am on Friday.
- The racing schedule will be finalized in the next few weeks.
- Cindy noted that AKC/ESPN would like to have a competition on the west coast. They prefer college locations and would like NAFA to name 5 cities at which to hold more events. The Midwest is also a desirable area for holding events.
- Board discussion followed with opinions about what area near the Rockies and west of the Rockies would be accessible to the most clubs; a way to get the west, NW, SW etc. in one spot. There was discussion about where a good place to host would be in the southwest.
- Neil will ask about the possibility of the event being broadcast on TSN.

3. Clarification on Regional/NAFA Championships

Competitors have been asking if Regional Champions will be awarded this year. There is currently no disagreement from the board that NAFA expects to award Regional and NAFA Championships for FY 2022. We understand that Regional Champions may not be awarded in all regions due to the number of tournaments held.

4. Long term plan for wicket/equipment

Neil asked the board what they would like Regional Directors to do with wickets when they become obsolete to NAFA. The board agreed that the wickets should not be sold for personal gain and prefers they are donated to a training center.

5. Issues with small tournaments and the minimum NAFA fees

An RD has asked about the need to pay the minimum NAFA fees for small events when an EJS is used.

The board discussed how this should be handled. If host clubs would like to use the EJS and their event(s) will not generate \$360 USD in NAFA fees, they can email the ED (Neil), Chair (Jayne) or Treasurer (Cindy) directly with a request to

have the minimum lowered. This would be for the rest of FY2022 and the tournament would have to be open to at least 10 teams.

Karen will create wording to be emailed to host clubs when their event closes, notifying them that they can email Neil requesting a reduction in the minimum fee if their event(s) will not meet the minimum and they would like to use an EJS.

Karen will reach out to the clubs that have already paid the minimum fee and notify them that they can email Neil with a request for a credit.

6. Judge Retirement

Neil announced to the board that Todd Heineman, from Region 3 has retired after 27 years of judging for NAFA. Neil presented Todd with a plaque and a gift from NAFA. Neil asked the communications committee to put out a statement thanking Todd for his decades of service and contribution to the sport of NAFA Flyball.

Jayne took the board into Executive Session at 7:00 pm.

Jayne took the board out of executive session at 7:13 pm.

The board discussed conflicts of interest.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Update on transition of the treasury

There is no Profit and Loss available at this time. The bank balance is \$170,000. Shipping costs remain high and the Finance Committee is working on streamlining the General Ledger.

Secretary's Report:

1. Minutes of the February 21, 2022 BoD Meeting were approved on March 14, 2022.

Election Committee:

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee:

1. Updated Projections for Measuring Certification of all Judges.

There are eight judges who have not yet watched the videos. Thirteen of 44 approved judges are approved to measure using the laser. Five Supervising judges have not yet

been certified. Progress towards judges getting certified has been slow. Jon noted regions that do not have an in-region judge that is certified to measure using the laser measuring apparatus. The committee is confident that the majority of judges will be certified by July 1, 2022. All regions have had events at which the laser measuring apparatus has been available to observe and practice with.

2. Information on measuring dogs with physical disabilities

A question arose when a 3-legged dog was presented for a practice measure. The judges committee confirmed that nothing special needs to happen as the rule book states “reasonable accommodations” can be made for a dog with physical disabilities.

The board recessed at 7:36 pm. The meeting resumed at 7:48 pm.

Rules Committee:

1. Proposal for young dogs utilizing warm up slot

This proposal was tabled from the January meeting for the new board and Rules Committee to consider.

The committee does not recommend changing the wording at this time.

No motion was made.

The main concerns were:

- Ideally, this would be done thoughtfully and safely for dogs under 15 months of age, but there would likely be some that try to:
 - Maximize warm up heats
 - Push the training needed to successfully participate in warm up to a younger age
- The minimum change to 15 months for racing didn't happen that long ago, and a change for this might send a confusing message. Preference to keep it the same age as actual racing to keep it simple.

2. Clarification of 'interference'

Review of definition of 'interference' in the rule book to see if clarification is needed – as a result of the discussion of the use of APES system at CanAm during January BoD meeting

The committee does not recommend changing the wording at this time

No motion was made.

Rules Committee Recommendation: A majority of the RC feels there is not an immediate need to change the wording. The competitor raising the issue from CanAm thought his team should not be called for interference because they'd already won. However, interference can still be called because the heat was not over, and that is clear in paragraph (f).

There was some thought that the working of the rule could be improved but that is a larger discussion.

3. Suggestions for promoting Multibreed

The committee does not recommend changing the wording at this time.

No motion was made.

Rules Committee Recommendation: We discussed the ideas presented but it was thought that the ideas water down the idea of multibreed. The idea of adding new titles for multi was raised, but there are plenty of incentives to run the class already. Open has taken entries away from the other three classes, but it has increased NAFA's overall entries.

The RC doesn't recommend any changes at this time. A possible future idea that had some interest from a few RC members: offering open multi.

4. Phase 2 Measuring

Emma moved to start Phase 2 measuring on July 1, 2022. Jonathan seconded.

Discussion:

During Phase 2, permanent measurements can be obtained, however measuring is not required. The laser level becomes the only valid measuring device. There was discussion about how this timing affects measuring at CanAm. The plan is for Phase 3, mandatory measuring to start October 1, 2022.

The motion carried with no opposition.

Finance:

Nominating Committee:

Marketing Committee:

1. The committee will begin the CanAm T-shirt design and Junior Participant contests in May.

Disciplinary Committee:

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date
Bonnie Szoka	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	05/01/2020
Grizzly, 160097	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Preacher, 140875	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Snickers, 150646	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Strut, 110221	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Whisper, 110704	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Prank, 140408	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Ripple, 120746	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Daisy, 120612	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Envy, 120477	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Scout, 110222	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Torch, 100047	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Zonda, 090536	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Style, 090142	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020

Tonka, 080349	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
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
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	1998
Dave Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	1998
Cheryl Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	1998
Jennifer Nelson	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	1998

Review Panel:

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee:

1. Update on website upgrade

Emma sent out an email about the website migration and asked for feedback.

2. EJS

Neil gave a quick update on where the new EJS light trees are being used.

Communications Committee:

CanAm Steering Committee:

Jonathan announced the five judges that have accepted invitations to CanAm.

Cindy reported that vendor and sponsorship forms have been finalized and vendors/sponsors are being notified. She asked that notification be posted to social media that division sponsorships are available.

Jayne will have a conversation with Kim Davis and Leerie to get the CanAm web pages updated.

NAFA Blog Committee:

1. Content help needed

Jayne asked for board members to assist with writing content for the NAFA blog to help promote CanAm.

Getting to know CanAm Judges. Jayne will compile a questionnaire for judges and send to Jon.

Old Business:

The new rulers are better and can be used to measure on the floor. They are accurate and much more rigid. Rulers have been distributed to Regions 7, 9, 12, 8, 2. Rulers need to be shipped to the remaining regions. Neil discussed distribution of the rulers in the US and in Canada.

New Business:

Leerie moved to adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.