

## Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, January 21, 2022

Held via Zoom Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Jonathan Bescher  
Steve Corona  
Kathy Haney  
Leerie Jenkins  
Dana Hanson  
Cindy Henderson  
Emma Mak  
Lynda Mantler  
Jayne McQuillen

Executive Director: Neil Flood

### **Officers' Reports**

#### Chair's Comments:

1. Welcome.

Meeting called to order at 10:09 am CST. Steve thanked the board members for making time during the day to attend.

2. Thank you! This is my last meeting as chairperson. It has been a wonderful six years. I have learned so much and gained a great amount respect for everybody involved at the board and RD levels. I am looking forward to serving NAFA in any capacity I can and will be staying on with the CanAm steering committee.
3. 2021/2022 Election Results.

Board of Directors:

Kathy Haney (Region 16)  
Meagan Langs (Region 6)  
Emily Rose Allred (Region 9)

The Board of Directors elected the following officers to the Executive Committee:

Jayne McQuillen - Chairperson

Emma Mak – Vice Chair

Lynda Mantler - Secretary

Cindy Henderson – Treasurer

Clyde Moore Memorial Hall of Fame. Top 2 dogs get elected with minimum 35% of the ballot

Stingray, Sue Bonofiglio, Ruff Euff, Region 13

Zoya, Curtis and Stacy Smith, Alaska Dogs Gone Wild, Region 18

Judge of the Year: None

**REGIONAL MVPs:**

Region 4, Frost

Region 6, Rocket

Region 9, Hotblack

Region 14, Rook

Region 15, Trip

Region 16, Kyon

Region 18, Outlaw

Region 19, Guinevere

Region 21, Fender

There were no nominees in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8,10,11,12,13,17, 20, 22

Steve took the board into an executive session at 10:14 am

Steve took the board out of executive session at 10:26 am

The board ratified the election results and elected officers.

Executive Director's Comments:

1. Executive Committee Meeting to Appoint TD Canada Trust Signers.

An executive committee meeting held January 11, 2022 approved Emma and Lynda as signers on the Canadian bank account in order to transfer funds from that account to the account in the US.

2. Neil would like to add a position to the ED staff, Social Media Coordinator to be held by Steve Corona. Steve is willing to fill this role as a volunteer. Duties will include monitoring Facebook, drafting communication messages, acting on opportunities for social media publicity, addressing media requests and being a member of the appropriate board committees such as the Marketing and Communication committees. Leerie moved to accept Neil's recommendation, Jayne seconded. Motion carried with no objections.

Treasurer's Report:

The cash balance is sufficient at this time.

The first three months of FY 2022 are vastly different than the same period last year as there were no tournaments.

There were 44 tournament days in the first quarter of FY 2022.

There were 140 CRNs issued and four new clubs registered.

The honoraria are consistent from quarter to quarter.

Participant awards (plaques, certificates, mailing costs), were a substantial cost of \$4412. As these awards were not sent out in 2020, there was a backlog that were mailed during the fiscal quarter.

Shipping costs of approximately \$4,000 comprise largely the cost of getting lights back to their locations after the CanAm event.

CanAm event performance was reviewed. Still to be collected is reimbursement from AKC TV for facility rental reimbursement.

### Secretary's Report:

1. Minutes of the December 13, 2021 board meeting have been approved and were posted on January 12, 2022.

### Election Committee:

1. 2021/2022 Election Statistics.

304 ballots were sent out.

185 were voted on which is just over 60%.

45% of the votes were cast on mobile devices.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

### Judges Committee:

1. Measuring Re-certification of Judges and Remediation Steps.

The judges committee met January 17 to discuss consistent handling of measuring videos submitted by approved judges and viewed by supervising judges. Any deficiencies identified are relayed to the approved judge and asked to submit new videos.

Deficiencies noted in videos submitted by supervising judges will be discussed with that judge, the head of the judges committee and one or two board members and more videos may be requested.

Steve took the board into executive session at 1:42 pm

Steve took the board out of executive session at 1:55 am

The Judges Committee will be sending a message to the judges to clarify that the videos are being reviewed for the entire measuring process. If there are any questions or concerns with videos there will be follow up calls with the judges to discuss them.

2. Ruler Update.

On behalf of the Judges Committee, Jon moved that new rulers are made so that they are consistent in the measurements, increase the length to 24" and made from more rigid material. Leerie seconded.

Discussion: A lot of effort has gone into the new measuring system. While keeping an eye on costs, the rulers need to be correctly calibrated and are worth the expenditure. Cindy will get quotes from several different companies.

Motion carried with no objections.

Rules Committee:

The rulebook will be updated to reflect the new jump width.

Finance:

Nominating Committee:

Marketing Committee:

1. Judges Tenure Pin Final Rendition.

A revision to the pin design was sent out to the board for review. The revision is an adjustment to the shape of the tab at the bottom to appear more incorporated with design. The pins will be awarded after 5 years of service then every 5 years thereafter; 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years.



2. Mylogoshop, the company that supplies shirts for CanAm, will be issuing a cheque to NAFA in the amount of \$2380 for commissions on the shirt sales. This is for 2020, \$840 plus 2021, \$1540 = \$2380.

The board recessed for a break at 11:20 am

The board reconvened at 11:30 am and moved to Bob Hall Demonstration of Flyball Manager Scoring Application.

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:

1. Infinity – CRN 150108 – Aggression Excusal.

The handler has been notified and no appeal has been received.

**Special Committee Reports**

Technology Committee:

1. Updates for New Measuring System.
  - Tournament sanctioning will include measuring official and jump width fields as of April 1.
  - C9 Jump Height Report will be adjusted to indicate which measurements can count towards temporary or permanent measurements.
  - Dog points detail page will show temporary or permanent measurements. First measurement towards permanent measurements will also be captured on that page.

- Judges reports will be adjusted for the new measuring requirements.
2. Possible Upgrade to Allow Hosts to Upload Scoring Themselves.  
Tournament director or tournament secretary would have access to upload results.
  3. Multi-Breed Points Have Been Added to the Dog Points Summary Page.
  4. Bob Hall Demonstration of Flyball Manager Scoring Application.

Bob wrote the original version, Flyball Master and has since rewritten the software and it is now called Flyball Manager. The application has been used primarily in Region 13. Currently, the software is for round robin tournaments. Elimination rounds capability will be in an upcoming release.

Right now, the software does not technically support multi ring tournaments though input from C2s can be entered at the head table from two rings.

Bob explained the features of the program, such as calculating the number of heats when setting up the tournament format, keeping track of breakouts, schedule generation including flipping lanes, scheduling breaks, showing club and team breaks, producing a running tally of dog points on the results labels, labels can be viewed on a mobile device, all scoring input can be done via a Bluetooth keypad, capability to broadcast which teams are in the ring and on deck and in the hole, heat counter

The software is written in Livecode.

The fee to use the software is \$10 per ring per day.

The presentation was well received. Interest in using the program at CanAm was expressed. The technology committee will be tasked with a follow up discussion with Bob.

The board would be receptive to viewing demonstrations from other scoring software developers that wish to give a presentation to NAFA.

The board recessed for a break at 1:22 pm. Kathy left the meeting.

The board reconvened at 1:36 pm and resumed with the Judges Committee agenda items.

#### Communications Committee:

#### CanAm Steering Committee:

1. Email to Board from John Rohling January 18, Regarding Use of APES at CanAm.

CanAm and use of APES

*I have been participating in Flyball since 1994. I was very disappointed at how poorly the APES worked and/or how the judges interpreted what they had seen. Before sending this to the NAFA Board, I waited for the chance to watch the replay of the Can Am on ESPN 2. I wanted to see from a different point of view of what transpired and if something happened differently than I witnessed. To my dismay, it did not.*

*I want to start by saying that I love Flyball and I love dogs. I have shared this time with my family and it has been a large portion of half of my life. I, like you, am dedicated to the sport and do it voluntarily. I am writing to help make the sport better and not taking personal shots at people as we are all trying to do the best we can.*

*However, I have to address the APES and its negative impact it had on my team's performance and experience at this year's Can Am. I believe it was the 3rd heat of the first round of the Can Am. Our 3rd dog (height dog) came back through the lights and was flagged from the APES monitors in the run back for dropping his ball. I was captaining and the dog DID NOT drop his ball. By the time that the chain of judges made us aware that there was a dropped ball we had no idea who it might be as I saw all 4 dogs carry their balls across the line. The other team had a passing foul so they needed to re-run as well. When I asked the line judges (there are two of them) who dropped the ball they could not tell me and said that the judge by the monitor called it. We just guessed and re-ran the dog we thought may have dropped it because of the timing of the flag. The ESPN video never showed the dog drop the ball either. We were told that we should get someone to watch the monitor judges and let us know if there was a flag. We are a small team. To ask a stranger from another team and put this responsibility on them seems totally ridiculous. This is making the APES a whole other facet of the game that you have to overcome. We did win that heat and the race as the other team did not complete their re-run.*

*What are the judges looking for on the overhead view of the dog? If a dog is 'snow-coning' the ball it may look like it is falling out. This would hold to be true on a smaller (height) dog that has a smaller mouth. Not sure if this is what they are even looking for but the 'overhead' angle is not an accurate shot to see if the ball is dropped. This angle should be from the side. If there are two NAFA trained judges at the line, wouldn't that be enough? I understand that this system was put into place as dogs in the past dropped their balls early and were not getting flagged for it costing teams to lose heats and races. But to install a system that is penalizing dogs that aren't even dropping their ball is even worse. How can one overcome phantom made up penalties?*

*Shortly after running, I ran into Jonathan Bescher. As we were watching Multi-breed run he asked me what I thought of the layout and running in the arena? I said it was fine but I was more concerned with the APES. I made the point to say that I'd rather bring this up after we won and not after a loss so it didn't sound like 'sour grapes' from me. I shared the scenarios with him brought up in the prior paragraph.*

*We now were in the second round of the Can Am. In the 2nd heat our same dog was flagged AGAIN for dropping the ball. The ESPN video did not show the dog drop the ball. We were out-ran on that heat but the pleading with the APES judges and explanation of why totally took us out of our game. I noticed that the APES has taken all responsibility away from the line judges. All they do is watch for the passing light to come on and/or a false start. What else can they watch for? Are they really even necessary? Might we have come back and beat Skid Marks SBD (Can Am Champion)? We will never know. We had an early flag in the 3rd heat taking the pressure off them and we lost.*

*We then got the opportunity to run against Omaha for 3rd place. We get out-ran on the first heat and on the second heat the APES flagged our height dog for the third time! The*

*ESPN video shows the dog well over the line with the ball in his mouth and I even went to look at the monitor as most of the time the image was already deleted before I could get over there. I could see the ball hanging out of the front of the dog's mouth. Again, what are the judges looking for? Being down 2-0 we outran them in the third heat. In the fourth heat we outran them as they had a passing flag. While Omaha was re-running their 5th dog to complete the race, one of our dogs did a victory lap and ran down by their dog and jogged back with it. I was telling my team to line up as it was 2 to 2. The head judge, Jonathan Bescher and Steve Corona had a meeting by the line judge and then called us for interference. I was in disbelief that such a call would be made while a 5th dog was doing a rerun. Our dog did not interfere, it was not aggressive, nor did it affect the outcome of the race. We already won the heat. Even Ashley, the ESPN announcer, said that the loss was on a 'technicality'. I wasn't watching when the dogs ran back so I didn't say a word to the group of judges and I patiently waited to watch it a week later on ESPN 2. In the NAFA Rule Book, Interference is defined as 'impeding the other team's dog from running its race' (rule below). The dog that was doing its rerun never even looked at our dog until it completed its race past the start/finish line. Under the rule, I do not understand how this can be an infraction?!*

*(f) Inside Interference. If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat, the team causing the interference will forfeit the heat. This includes interference in the racing lane, in all in bound areas, and in the area where dogs are waiting to run. Interference is defined as impeding the other team's dog from running its race. A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference. In the event of interference, the judge will assign an estimated time to the team that was interfered with. The time will be marked as estimated and will not be used to determine placement. If a dog crosses the start/finish line after it has already successfully completed the course, it is not an infraction.*

*My team would ask that the use of APES in the Can Am would be reviewed. Why would you put in something that isn't used in everyday racing that isn't even perfected? NAFA trained judges should be more than adequate to call dropped balls at the line. We worked very hard this past year to improve our team under the shadow of Covid. We traveled to a number of tournaments (since a lot were shelved because of the pandemic) to get more real racing experience under*

*our belts. Our team straddles a state border and a lot of resources are put in every time we get together.*

*On a personal note...some items that I think could improve the Can Am*

*Multiple teams from the same club should not be allowed to qualify in the Can Am (just one). To me the idea of the Can Am is to submit your best team (4 or 5 dogs) and put them up against the rest of the qualifiers (2 teams qualifying for the Can Am make up 25% of the field). One qualifier will allow a variety of teams to qualify and not just cater to big clubs with a lot of handlers and dogs (UFLI uses this philosophy). If teams keep getting bigger they could have 3 or more teams qualify. At a minimum, same clubs should start in the same side of the bracket so they CANNOT race each other in the final.*



*To get ESPN involved and have it broadcast is great for our sport. The ESPN Flyball lanes and set looked awesome! I know ESPN didn't like the Pavilion lighting but I would set up the ESPN lanes/set in the Pavilion. Here is why?*

*The footing and set up is better in the Pavilion.*

*Faster times will be run (very doubtful to see a World Record run in the Coliseum).*

*Let everyone have a chance to run on the cool ESPN set.*

*It is more like 'real' Flyball and the dogs will be used to it. There are considerable variables by staying in the Pavilion versus going to run in the Coliseum; in the A/C, on a new/different surface, stuck in the corner waiting, and the on-deck dogs cannot watch to get excited.*

*Running in the Pavilion makes it more accessible for 'Flyballers' to go and watch. It will be more exciting and loud and will be like 'real' Flyball.*

*Go Flyball!*

*John H. Rohling*

The concerns regarding APES were discussed. The board believes in the APES and we will ensure that we continue to remind teams of how it is used at CanAm championship captain's meetings.

The feasibility of a review using the full screen of the image in question will be explored for the next CanAm.

Interference: During discussion, it was agreed that the rule book wording could be updated, however the intention of the rule was satisfied.

Facility, set up the ESPN lanes/set in the Pavilion. The lighting in the Pavilion was not suitable for recording purposes. ESPN found that it was actually cheaper to rent the Coliseum than to correct the lighting in the Pavilion. This was a smaller CanAm than normal, however the space that the extra lighting and equipment took up at the Coliseum ring could have prevented another ring being set up had it been in the Pavilion. From a COVID safety perspective, having spectators seated and not standing close together at the ring was safer.

The board discussed whether multiple teams from the same club should be allowed to receive CanAm class invitations, and/or should multiple teams from the same club be placed into the same side of the elimination bracket, and the impact of such a decision. It was decided not resolve this at the meeting as there is ample time to make a change before CanAm and the new board can discuss this.

Steve left the meeting at this point.

Special Measuring Committee:

Old Business:

## New Business:

1. Online Question from a Competitor: Can you confirm that lowering the base heights to 5" isn't currently on the table (to allow for 6" jumps with a 1" slat)?

Clubs can use a 5-inch base with 2 one-inch slats on top. There are no plans to change the minimum jump height of 7 inches.

2. Neil Flood asked that the following suggestions from Meagan Langs be included for future Committees to discuss:

The Rules Committee will discuss and bring some ideas regarding multibreed, awards and classes of racing to the next meeting.

An RD Facebook page would be a good place to share and disseminate information regarding tournament formats.

The board discussed Meagan's ideas, and deferred them to the new board. We look forward to Meagan's input as a board member.

Neil,

*I have some ideas I thought I would share with you to help grow the sport and possible ways to bring back multi breed division into things again and a rule change. I am not sure the status of multi in your area but Covid and aging dogs have just about killed multi in our area. I am not hard set on these ideas but thought of two things we might be able to do that could grow the division again.*

### *Bringing back Multi Division*

*One option I thought of was to make it so that there could be only three different breeds vs four running on a team. This would give wayyyyyy more teams the ability to field a multi breed team. This would mean you could do two mixed breeds and two other purebred dogs. For example two border whippets, a border collie and a jack russle terrier. The other option I thought of would be to say that you could have three different breeds but you could have one duplicate pure breed dog. So you could run two border collies a mixed breed and a lab. You just couldn't duplicate the mixed breed dog.*

### *Growing the Flyball community*

*People love recognition and awards but are there more awards we could give out (paper certificates) to acknowledge clubs or people highly involved in the sport. Fastest club in — state or providence or region for 2022. Most active club in region — for 2022, Fastest team for 2022..., most consistent club... the list could go on and on. I am just randomly throwing ideas out there.*

*If we were able to find a way to have the stats directly upload from the team runs from the lights system then we could even have breed databases like Ufli and give out yearly rewards like fastest border collie for 2022, fastest Pomeranian....*

*I say paper because they are cheap. And because it is something small we can do to entice people. More than once my team has attended a Ufli tournament so we could get the fastest — breed award for a specific year.*

*I also like the idea of providing singles. I think it would be a great way to get green dogs up and running. Our team has gone to Ufli tournaments to help train up green dogs so they can run singles and pairs. Why not have singles at least available for nafa dogs?*

*I would love to see the seeding of all the tournaments happening around North America. Could we make some sort of group or database for RDs or captains to see what other things are being done and tried? In our area everyone does 24 heats double round robin. What are other teams doing? Maybe there is a format that we haven't tried that would be fun to run!*

*I really like that in Facebook we see and get to know people more than we do on a group email list. If nafa is against using Facebook is there another venue that we could use to get to know the other rds more so we could learn from each other?*

*A rule change I thought of:*

*I would like the hosting club to have to finalize seeding within two weeks of the closing date of their tournament. They should have to post the seeding at that time for all to see. More than once I have worked on a schedule based on a seeding that had an error made by the hosting team once the seeding was posted with the schedule a week or so before the tournament. Making the host team post the seeding early gives teams time to finalize line ups and practice. It also insures the rd is helping with a schedule that has the correct information on it.*

3. The Annual General Meeting plans discussed.

Neil discussed what he will cover during the AGM portion of the meeting. Board members offered to be available to help.

4. NAFA Website.

Emma and Leerie are working on cataloguing the current website pages and taking stock of changes that are needed. That work will help determine what it will take to convert those pages and/or develop a new page. Ideas from board members on features the website should have and how it should look are welcome.

Steve rejoined the meeting

5. EJS.

The focus has been on the light trees and more have been produced. This will be an agenda item at an upcoming meeting. Further development will be dictated by funds available.

Lynda moved to suspend the meeting, Cindy seconded. Motion passed with no opposition

The meeting was suspended at 4:32 pm Friday, January 21, 2022.