

Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, March 22, 2021

Held via Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 Travel Restrictions

Attendees:

Board Members:

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

Executive Director: Neil Flood

Guest: Karen Oleson

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm CST.

Officers' Reports

Chair's Comments:

1. Steve welcomed the board members to the meeting.
2. Review of policies and procedures prior to Phase 1 (Transitional Flyball) re-opening.
 - Rulers, tripods, and laser levels will be available at upcoming events.
3. Pins for Judges signifying years of service (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years).
 - Steve presented an idea for a judge's service pin where a judge serving at least 5 years will receive a pin.
 - The idea was met with positive reaction from the board and will be sent to the Marketing Committee for further development.
 - Current judges will receive the most recent pin they earned.

Executive Director's Comments:

1. Region 7 Interim Co-RD due to US/Canada border closure.
 - Currently the US/Canada border is closed with no date for reopening.
 - Neil asked the board to approve his appointment of Lynda Mantler as Co-RD acting in Region 7 north of the US/Canada border.
 - The Region 7 measuring wicket is kept on the US side of the border. Events taking place in the region in Canada will utilize the new measuring apparatus and measurements will be for the tournament only (see Chapter 4 – Measuring (c))

Jon moved to approve Lynda Mantler as Co-RD for Region 7, Leerie seconded.

Discussion followed regarding the amount of time a Co-RD would serve this region. Neil noted that the region is currently in dire need of a Co-RD as the region straddles the US/Canada border which is currently closed.

The motion passed with no opposition.

2. New Measuring Apparatus

- Laser levels and tripods are being sent out to RDs in regions with upcoming events.
- Neil continues to work on obtaining acceptable tables.
- Mike Smith has been shipping rulers to the US RDs and will send a package of rulers to Canada for distribution there.
- It was noted that clear instructions regarding the use of the laser level are needed so that the laser is used while in a self-leveling mode.

3. Shipping

- Shipping EJS is very expensive. Neil encouraged the board to seek out ways of having lights hand carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dana Hanson

1. December 31, 2020 Financials

- **Insert Public Financial Reports**
- Dana reported that he and Karen have taken time to clean up entries in the books that were either recorded in error or had not cleared.
- Discussed other debits and credits.
- Dana recommended waiting for a total cost before determining exactly how the new measuring apparatus will be accounted for.
- Honorariums were discussed.

Secretary's Report: Lynda Mantler

1. Minutes of January 15, 2021 Board Meeting approved.
2. Minutes of January 16, 2021 AGM approved.

Election Committee: No Report

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee: Jonathan Bescher

1. Procedure for Judges to upload measuring training videos.
 - The board discussed ideas regarding how judges will upload videos for certification. Ideas for temporary storage included a private YouTube Channel.

Rules Committee:

1. Wording clarification for setting jump heights.

Rules Committee Recommendation: correct the wording as outlined below:

Proposed changes:

Add Height Dog to the glossary.

Height Dog: The dog competing in the heat whose height measurement is used to set the minimum height of the jumps.

Adjust wording in Section 8.2.

Section 8.2 - Jump Heights

(a) Except as provided in paragraph 8.2(c) and (d) below, jump heights shall be set no lower than six inches below the height at the withers of the height dog, to a minimum jump height of 7 inches. Maximum jump height shall be 14 inches. All 4 jumps should be set at the same height.

Emma moved to accept the recommendation of the rules committee. Leerie seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.

2. Proposal for optional Honorary Awards for Retired/Deceased dogs impacted by the pandemic.

Rules Committee Recommendation: In line with awarding double points for the fiscal year starting October 1, 2021, the Rules Committee would like to have some way that competitors can honor retired or deceased dogs that missed out on awards due to the pandemic shutdown. We propose the following:

Plan for Optional Honorary Awards for Retired/Deceased Dogs Impacted by the Pandemic

1. The awards shall be honorary awards and the word “Honorary” will appear on the award prior to the title (Honorary Hobbes Award; Honorary Flyball Master etc.).
2. No titles will be awarded automatically. Any title award may be requested up until September 30, 2023, for dogs that have retired or passed away since the shutdown began until that date.
3. Each award request will be reviewed for applicability and eligibility using a set of requirements agreed upon to determine eligibility.

Suggestion:

Based on the points earned in the last three fiscal years, would the dog have been reasonably likely to achieve the award if able to race normally during the pandemic shutdown and Phase 1?

4. Date earned can be picked by the requestor.
5. The award and shipping will be purchased by the requestor.
6. The award will not be recorded in the NAFA database.
7. Points will not be added to the dog’s database records.
8. The Iron Dog award is not included. There was a suggestion to have the wording changed so that the “Achieving 20,000 Points in Racing” is removed. This would incur an additional set-up charge. See table below for suggestion wording.

Current Wording Example for Honorary	Suggestion
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Plaques	
Honorary ONYX Award Presented In Honor of Achieving 20,000 Points In Racing Presented to Fancy Dog Name & Handler(s) Name(s) August 16, 2014 Presented By The North American Flyball Association	Honorary ONYX Award Presented on March 8, 2021 To Honor Fancy Dog Name & Handler(s) Name(s) Presented By The North American Flyball Association

Emma moved to accept the rules committee recommendation with no end date and specific award wording to be determined later, Jayne seconded.

Discussion:

The board discussed the end date of the Honorary award. There was support to eliminate the end date.

The board discussed, at length, different ways to word the honorary awards. Emma suggested the wording be worked out after the meeting. There was general agreement to this.

Leerie asked for the motion to be amended to exclude wording in 3.

3. Each award request will be reviewed for applicability and eligibility

Emma and Jayne agreed to the amendment of the motion.

The motion carried with no opposition.

Finance:

Nominating Committee: No Report

Marketing Committee: No Report

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. No excusals submitted for review.

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee: No Report

Communications Committee:

1. Articles on NAFAblog covering topics related to participating in flyball during the pandemic and feature on Annie Taylor.
 - a. The articles were well received.

CanAm Steering Committee: Nothing additional to report.

Ad hoc Committee regarding procedures for Unsportsmanlike Charges: Lynda Mantler

Committee is continuing to revise wording.

Special Measuring Committee: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

New Business:

Cindy expects to have training videos available for review in the next few days.

Leerie requested Jon be allowed to train judges to use the new measuring apparatus when he travels to Iowa to measure dogs for height cards. There was general board agreement to this and it was felt this would be an efficient use of Jon's time.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

NAFA Rules Committee Recommendations March 22, 2021

1. Wording clarification for setting jump heights. – Karen Oleson

In the current wording, "...jump heights shall be set at a **minimum** of six inches lower than the height at the withers of the smallest dog on the team (running, not stand-by)."

Problems:

1. "minimum" is ambiguous – the wording could be misinterpreted as meaning you could set it at seven, eight, etc. lower than the height at the withers...
2. The wording does not specify that the jumps must be set by the dog being used to set the jump heights. The smallest dog participating in the heat may have been unmeasurable which would set the jumps at 14".

Rules Committee Recommendation: correct the wording as outlined below:

Proposed changes:

Add Height Dog to the glossary. We use "height dog" elsewhere in the rule book to indicate the dog which is used to set the jump height during a heat, however it is never defined.

Height Dog: The dog competing in the heat whose height measurement is used to set the minimum height of the jumps.

Adjust wording in Section 8.2

Section 8.2 - Jump Heights

(a) Except as provided in paragraph 8.2(c) and (d) below, jump heights shall be set *no lower than* six inches below the height at the withers of the height dog ~~smallest dog on the team (competing in the heat running, not stand-by)~~, to a minimum *jump height* of 7 inches. Maximum jump height shall be 14 inches. All 4 jumps should be set at the same height.

Karen Oleson's full letter:

"Good Afternoon,

Below is a clarification for the committee's consideration. The intent and meaning of the rule do not change, just wording to clarify the rule.

Current wording:

Section 8.2 - Jump Heights

*(a) Except as provided in paragraph 8.2(c) and (d) below, jump heights shall be set at a **minimum** of six inches lower than the height at the withers of the smallest dog on the team (running, not stand-by), to a minimum of 7 inches. Maximum jump height shall be 14 inches. All 4 jumps should be set at the same height.*

As written, I have two issues with the wording.

- 1) What "minimum" refers to is ambiguous. It could be misread as referring to the number of inches deducted from the dog's withers height.*
- 2) The wording does not specify that the jumps must be set by the dog being used to set the jump heights. The smallest dog participating in the heat may have been unmeasurable which would set the jumps at 14".*

I propose the wording state what is truly intended.

Proposed changes:

Add Height Dog to the glossary. We use "height dog" elsewhere in the rule book to indicate the dog which is used to set the jump height during a heat, however it is never defined.

Height Dog: The dog competing in the heat whose height measurement is used to set the minimum height of the jumps.

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(a) Except as provided in paragraph 8.2(c) and (d) below, jump heights shall be set *no lower than* six inches below the height at the withers of the height dog ~~smallest dog on the team (competing in the heat running, not stand-by)~~, to a minimum jump height of 7 inches. Maximum jump height shall be 14 inches. All 4 jumps should be set at the same height.

Thank You, Karen O"

2. Proposal for optional Honorary Awards for Retired/Deceased dogs impacted by pandemic. – Mike Smith

Mike Smith submitted a proposal for awarding extra points to dogs that have passed away before being able to return to flyball racing. His proposed plan was to double the points earned in a set amount of time (he suggested five months) before the pandemic shutdown tournaments.

Rules Committee Recommendation: In line with awarding doubled points for the fiscal year starting October 1, 2021, the Rules Committee would like to have some way that competitors can honor retired or deceased dogs that missed out on awards due to the pandemic shutdown. We propose the following:

Plan for Optional Honorary Awards for Retired/Deceased Dogs Impacted by Pandemic

- 9. The awards shall be honorary awards and the word “Honorary” will appear on the award prior to the title (Honorary Hobbes Award; Honorary Flyball Master etc.).
- 10. No titles will be awarded automatically. Any title award may be requested up until Sept 30, 2023, for dogs that have retired or passed away since the shutdown began until that date.
- 11. Each award request will be reviewed for applicability and eligibility using a set of requirements agreed upon to determine eligibility.
Suggestion:
Based on the points earned in the last three fiscal years, would the dog have been reasonably likely to achieve the award if able to race normally during pandemic shutdown and Phase 1?
- 12. Date earned can be picked by the requestor.
- 13. The award (and shipping) will be purchased by the requestor.
- 14. The award will not be recorded in the NAFA database.
- 15. Points will not be added to the dog’s database records.
- 16. The Iron Dog award is not included.

There was a suggestion to have the wording changed so that the “Achieving 20,000 Points in Racing” is removed. This would incur an additional set-up charge. See table below for suggestion wording.

Current Wording Example for Honorary Plaques	Suggestion
<p style="text-align: center;">Honorary ONYX Award Presented In Honor of Achieving 20,000 Points In Racing Presented to Fancy Dog Name & Handler(s) Name(s) August 16, 2014 Presented By The North American Flyball Association</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Honorary ONYX Award Presented on March 8, 2021 To Honor Fancy Dog Name & Handler(s) Name(s) Presented By The North American Flyball Association</p>

Mike Smith's full letter:

"To the NAFA board of directors:

Some time ago there was talk about giving points for dogs based on an average of what they accumulated in the months prior to the covid-19 ban from flyball in mid March 2020. I was not in favor of this as I did not want my dog, Red, to get his Hobbs award this way. I would rather him earn it by running the number of heats to get those needed points. This idea was abandoned and I thought, along with many others, that we would return to flyball soon.

However, as covid-19 spread much worse across country, flyball has been reinstated but only after a little more than a year. I recently learned after the AGM that the board decided to double points for dogs running starting October 1st 2021 until the end of the NAFA racing year. I learned this was done to compensate for the loss of a racing year for those dogs that could have been earning points. This has received very positive responses from around the flyball community. However, I was wondering if the board would consider for those dogs that passed away during the covid-19 ban to look back at the dogs history and double up on the points they earned prior to the ban. These dogs will not be able to take advantage of the doubling of points in the next year of course. My dog suddenly passed away on the tail end of his prime years 5 months after the ban was instated.

I was wondering if the board would consider looking back at my dog's flyball career at the five months before the ban and doubling up on those points earned during this time. Hopefully there were not many dogs that passed away as mine did but it would be a nice gesture for those owners like myself who cannot take the advantage of the doubling of points for next year. I will be open and honest here as this would get my dog's Hobbs Award but I know in my mind and heart there would be an asterisk next to his award. (Much like the asterisk that was placed by Roger Maris's home run record back in 1961.) I would have much rather have my dog earned it by running in those number of heats but sense the doubling of points is being made to make up for this year's loss, I then began to wonder if the board would consider something like this for dogs that have passed away.

I respectfully will agree to any decision that is made as I always try my best to adhere and enforce all rules of flyball that are made by the board.

*Thank you very much for your time.
Mike Smith"*