

Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, September 28, 2023

Held via Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Board Members:

Jonathan Bescher
Kathy Haney
Cindy Henderson
Paula Johnson
Meagan Langs
Lynda Mantler
Jayne McQuillen
Dana Nichols

Emily-Rose Allred was unable to attend

Executive Director:

Steve Corona

Jayne called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm CT.

Rules Committee:

The rules committee items were addressed first as Dana was joining the meeting from overseas.

Dana moved to amend the C.3 Tournament Sanctioning form in order that the online form matches the paper form. Cindy seconded.

Discussion: The jump width needs to be added to the paper form.

The motion carried with no opposition.

List of Changes for the 2024 Racing Year

1) Measuring

a) Section 4.2 – NAFA Recorded Measurements

- Replace 4.2 (a) with “A dog must be at least 15 months old and have a valid CRN to have its height recorded on the tournament Jump Height C.9 form”

b) Section 4.4 –Permanent Measurements (RR):

- (b) Getting a Permanent Measurement: Replaced “their final” with “an initial and/or

final” in 4.4 (b)(iv)

- (c) How to get a Temporary Measurement for a young dog: Added “Any remeasure will replace the prior Temporary Measurement.” to 4 (c)(ii)

(1) Removed 4(c)(iii): “The Temporary Measurement may be used as the Initial Measurement towards a Permanent Measurement”

c) Changed all references to “judges” in their measuring capacity to “Measuring Official(s).”

2) General Clean-up

a) References to the Executive Director and the Treasurer were changed to gender neutral language

b) General clean-up of rulebook wording in Section 6 (b), Section 7.6 (f), section 8.3 (h)(iii)

c) New form C.3, includes addition of jump width selection in “Venue Specs”

d) Form C.7 and C.9 updated with “Measuring Official(s)” language

e) Form C.9 changed to include “For Event Only” at the top of the form instead of requiring a check next to each dog on the form

f) Form C.22 updated with current NAFA address

Thank you to Katie Weibrecht and Leerie Jenkins who did the actual updates to the word file and made the PDF so that it will be available before CanAm.

Officer’s Reports

Chair’s Comments:

- Welcome to new BOD member Paula Johnson, region 2.
- Update on new COI Special Committee. It has taken a burden off the Judges Committee. Thank you to Leerie Jenkins for heading up the committee.

Executive Director’s Comments:

1. Exceptions/Requests. Requests for 2 and 3 team divisions have been granted for smaller tournaments where the spreads between the teams is greater than what makes sense for the seeding.

Jayne took the board into executive session at 7:17pm

The board exited executive session at 7:43pm

The ED asked the board for guidance on developing language to have a review process for RDs every 3 years. The board tasked rules committee to examine what language might need to be added to the rules.

Treasurer's Report:

A profit and loss statement was sent out to the board.

- We are up about \$15,000 year over year
- CanAm income and expenses are not in yet. Some teams and vendors still need to pay.
- Tournament entry fees are up year over year

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the last meeting July 11, 2023 have been approved and published.

Election Committee:

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee:

1. Waiver of 3rd assignment for Monica Johnny, Dale Smith, Mike Devine.

Monica and Mike have judged 2 tournaments and have satisfied their measuring assignments. They would like to continue judging but have not been able to complete the 3rd assignment. Monica was the head judge at Crufts. Mike has been a big help in region 10. Between work and the spacing of where the tournaments were, it was not possible.

Dale normally judges 3 tournaments a year and is one of the longest serving judges. COVID prevented him from completing the 3rd assignment. He continues to help with NAFA technology and assists judges with the EJS.

Dana moved to waive the 3rd judging assignments for Monica Johnny, Dale Smith and Mike Devine. Lynda seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

2. Six judges are retiring at the end of the Fiscal Year:

Katie Althotz

Bill Carter

Jennifer DuRocher

Stacy Waites

Stephanie Trevino

Laura Sheldon

As head of the Judges Committee, Jonathan would like to thank them for their time and commitment to NAFA. It is greatly appreciated by the Judges Committee, NAFA and the competitors.

3. Jayne suggested that CanAm could be an opportunity to connect with potential judges. Perhaps host a time when people that may be interested in becoming a judge can talk with current judges about the experience; have a Q & A session. Discussion with ideas for how to make this happen ensued.
 - Friday may be a good time to do this as there are fewer rings running so it will not be a busy day for the judges.
 - A location and time will need to be chosen and communicated out.
 - A short version of the judges program could be made available along with information about how to get started.
 - Judges that have volunteered for relief could be utilized for this.
 - Some line judging assignments could be completed by potential new judges signing up.

Cindy and Paula will confer about how to arrange this judges job fair.

Finance Committee:

Report included with Treasurer's Report

Nominating Committee:

- There are 3 positions up for election and 3 nominations have been received.
- Terms are ending for Lynda, Paula and Jayne.
- Nominations for JOY and HOF have been very limited. A reminder will be sent out.

Dana left the meeting.

Elections Committee:

Kathy and Steve will contact Big Pulse to start the election process.

Marketing Committee:

1. Junior Participant Pin Contest.
 - The winner is Theia Forseth, age 11 from Animal Inn, Region 3, MN, ND, SD.
 - Pins have been ordered and will be available for distribution at CanAm.
 - All RDs have been emailed to determine how many pins will be needed for each region.
 - There were 2 runners up in the pin contest. Jonathan has been working to have their designs featured on t-shirts being supplied to Junior Participants running in the Junior Participant, Non-Regular Class CanAm.

- (c) **Non-Regular Class.** A Non-Regular class (Pee-wee, four-of-a-kind, etc.), is any class other than the NAFA® Regular, Open, Veterans or Multibreed class and must be approved by the executive director

2. CanAm Shirt Contest

- We received an amazing 11 entries. With so many entries, it was difficult to choose so a ranked voting system was used to narrow the field and determine a winner.
- The winning design was submitted by Sherry Cowart from Rocket City Racers, Region 14, AL, GA, MS, TN.
- The CanAm webstore is now open. The last date to order is October 8.

3. Online Store. Will be revisited after CanAm.

Disciplinary Committee

- Lorenzo 200167 excusal. No appeal has been filed.
- No appeals to review.

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date
Terry Griffin	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	09/21/2022
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
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 – no report

Special Committee Reports:

Technology

1. Blue 3 batteries will be replaced at CanAm
2. CanAm Heat Trackers

They are completed and are being tested. Jon will bring them to CanAm along with the old heat trackers.

4. Database change for judges

Judges need to measure 5 dogs in the fiscal year to satisfy judging requirement. The reports for the judges still show the old requirement of 1 dog measured per year so this needs to be amended.

Communications Committee

- The posts for nominations and CanAm vendors are up to date.
- Communication regarding the new building will be sent. Create the document once and then post the link to it in various locations; website, Facebook, blog site.
- Judges' biographies still need to be posted.

CanAm Steering Committee

1. Incredible turnout will require shifting some crating and vendor space.
 - Friday entries: 68, Saturday entries: 183, Sunday entries:181
 - We are working with a blank slate in the new building; crating, ring set up, electrical drops, dog potty area, upper and lower levels, vendor spaces.
 - Seeding is published
 - Some movement will be more congested because of where the exits are situated.
 - Cindy Highberg, Total Event Services will be supplying refreshments for workers in the ring and the hospitality room.

The board took a recess at 8:30 pm.
The board reconvened at 8:45 pm.

Jayne took the board into executive session at 8:45 pm.

The board exited executive session at 9:28 pm.

The board discussed financial for CanAm this year and how to curb expenses.

- Jayne: Thank you, Cindy, for an amazing job with vendors.
- Cindy: There will be 26 vendor booths. Make your way upstairs to see them.
- Jayne: Lynda, fantastic job with finding workers. All the table and line judge positions are filled for all 3 days.
- Lynda: Very happy to have all the positions filled. The last time all positions were filled was 2019. We still need people to provide breaks to the dedicated workers. One thing done differently this year was to ask people to relieve one position for the day. There will be a roster at the pit area to show where breaks are needed so it's easy to see in the event, I am not at the pit area. Then people will not have to look for me.
- Jonathan: Will also ask judges who have volunteered to provide relief to consider providing relief on the table or on the line. 20 Judges have offered to provide relief judging.
- Jonathan also requested to have the names of relief workers who have been assigned to each position posted at that ring.

2. Potty areas, handicap parking areas

- There is less grass near the building than what we are used to. Bigger areas are across the parking lot.
- We will need to make our own artificial turf area.

Invitational Selection Committee

1. AKC/ESPN Invitational.

- We will be talking with AKC/ESPN after CanAm.
- They are planning for an April date.
- A site has not been chosen.
- Trying to focus on a venue in the middle of the country to the west coast.

Old Business

1. NAFA representation at the Flyball Open World Cup 2024.

- The world cup did not get much traction.

- Three clubs were interested and 2 of them pulled out.
- There was very little time to plan for the FOWC.

New Business

Steve: What is the contingency plan if there is ever a tournament where the judge cannot make the tournament and there is no judge available.

There is no precedent for this situation.

Meagan: We should not have a blanket solution for this because it will not work for every situation. She does not like the idea of non-judges stepping in to judge.

Jayne: Maybe the plan should be to consult with the RD and judges in the region to come up with a suitable replacement judge. If no one experienced is available, have box judges to assist.

Cindy: We don't necessarily need a solution in the rulebook. It is more along the lines of having guidelines to help the ED make the best decision; as you evaluate the situation, consider the RD, consider having box judges.

Steve: Does not think there needs to be a rule, we just need to have a bit of a plan so that thought about what to do has been given in advance.

Lynda: RDs need to be aware of possible solutions equally. It depends on when the judge becomes unavailable. If it is the day before the tournament, there could be more options than if it happens the day of or during the tournament.

The consensus is that a tournament judged by someone who is not a judge should not qualify for regional points or world record. NAFA points would still be awarded. It is a rarity and most people would understand the reasoning behind this. Costs must be considered if paying to bring a judge in.

Jon moved to adjourn. Lynda seconded. The motion carried with no opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Profit and Loss Statement Attached



ProfitandLoss_2023
-09-28.pdf

