

## Proposal for NAFA Participation at Future Flyball Open World Cup Events

The NAFA World Cup Committee has met a number of times dating back to 2017. From these meetings there were a number of discussions surrounding NAFAs attendance at upcoming FOWC events. (1) First, and foremost, the committee feels NAFA should make every effort to support future events, and ensure participation from not just from a NAFA club, but more specifically send at least one representative from Canada and the United States. There could be significant work to assist in raising funds, and assisting in securing sponsorships to aid clubs in going, but it is the feeling of the committee that these are worthwhile endeavors.

(2) With respect to *how* NAFA will select clubs to represent both nations, there was significant discussions and debate. After considering a number of options, the committee felt the best method would be for interested clubs to apply for consideration. By creating an application process, NAFA need only evaluate and consider clubs that are interested in going, and are aware of the requirements to attend the event. The criteria and items of consideration on the application can be found below in Appendix A. NAFA would create an “Open Application” period in which clubs could request applications. At the closing of the application period, the Executive Director would create a World Cup Selection committee to evaluate the merits of each clubs applications. The committee would be tasked with suggesting to the Board of Directors which club(s) should be selected for the FOWC. The final approval would reside with the NAFA Board of Directors.

It is the suggestion of the committee the World Cup Selection Committee be comprised of 4 senior RDs and two judges. The committee is suggesting that we use the last 2 years Judge of the Year winners. The Executive Director would chair the committee. The selected members of the committee would be expected to operate in an unbiased capacity, and should a conflict exist, the ED would be responsible to identify a suitable alternative.

The World Cup Selection Committee would be tasked with selecting the club(s) with the highest competitive capabilities, that concurrently demonstrate a high degree of sportsmanship and behavior that is consistent with NAFAs core values and code of conduct. Clubs that are not in good standing will not be considered.

(3) A third item is the application submission timing. It is the committees feeling that teams would need approximately 8 months lead time to prepare for the FOWC – so they are prepared financially and logistically. If the FCI holds the event in August for the next event, we would anticipate applications would be available in the preceding November, and due to be submitted by January 1<sup>st</sup>. The committee would have a couple weeks to make a suggestion to the BOD in time for clubs to be announced at the AGM. This schedule is of course entirely subject to change based on the FCIs selected date for the event.

(4) The application must contain which country the club intends to represent in the cases where members of a given club reside in both the US and Canada. This is particularly applicable in regions 2 and 7 which span both sides of the border.

(5) An outstanding item that still must be created is the application itself. If the NAFA Board of Directors is supportive of our proposal, one will be created and delivered to the BOD for approval before the AGM meeting.

(6) After selection of teams for the event, the roster of dogs representing the club must meet all NAFA rules and regulations. While the FOWC is not an official NAFA event, it is the FCIs intention that the event be treated with respect and that true clubs are representing countries and not “all-star” teams. Proposed dogs should be submitted to NAFA before the event for awareness and transparency.

(7) The committee is recommending the creation of a new title/award. This award would be called the “International Flyball Dog”, and would be awarded to any dog that participates in the FOWC. We would NOT track points, or create separate tiers. It would be similar to the Iron Dog award – a single acknowledgement of merit.

(8) As you consider the consideration items listed in appendix A, it should be stated that, at this point in the time, the committee is not recommending specific “values” assigned to each item. We are very early in the process and establishing a specific formula at this point in time has the potential to yield unintended results. The Selection committee has a very clear mandate, and it is our feeling that, at least in the early years of this process, the goal can be achieved with close and thoughtful consideration applied by an unbiased committee.

## Appendix A

Items for consideration on applications, and explanations as necessary

- NAFA Championships/placements
- Regional Championships/placements
- “Strength of Schedule”: results and the level of competition are important. Some regions can be incredibly difficult, and 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place can be significantly harder than winning in others.
- Tournaments hosted: demonstrates support for NAFA and the sport
- Tournaments entered: demonstrates support for NAFA and the sport
- World Records: demonstrates an ability to run fast, but should be supported with a demonstrated ability to also win events.
- Avg 6 Fastest Times from a NAFA season: this takes into account placement and is a good benchmark for winning, and winning with speed
- Out of region results: is the club good at travelling out of their home territory and placing well?
- An open form text field that the club can state their merits and why they should be considered.

From the above items, time frames are important, and more recent accomplishments will carry more weight than those further in the past. For example: a NAFA championship in 2010 would be less significant than a runner up in the NAFA standings in 2017 and 2018.