

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, January 13th, 2017, St. Petersburg, FL:

Attending: Jenn Bell, Steve Corona, Kim Davis, Dirk Elber, Sam Ford, Dana Hanson, John Hendriks

Dale could not attend due to work commitments, but will call in if possible. Dave Walt could not attend.

Officers' Reports

Chair's Comments:

Neil opened the meeting at 8:30 am.

Welcome to the first meeting of 2017. Thanks to everyone for making my first year fairly easy.

- Announcements of Regional/NAFA Champions for future years. We've always waited to announce until this meeting. No reason not to announce around November.
- Sam mentioned the later CanAm is held, that could allow results to be announced earlier. Karen get results and then Dale checks. The board would have to ratify results. And we can schedule a teleconference to ratify the results. Depending on tournament results, will determine on whether it could be announced at CanAm.
- We will make it a priority to get the results out and get the announcements out sooner.

Executive Director's Comments:

Sam – we've had an Interesting year, everyone knows what we've been up against with controversies along the way. We have managed to address some of them and have some cooperation among them.

Region 6 regional director has resigned. No direct replacement at present.

We are within shouting distance of being at breakeven point for CanAm. There is some additional information still to come. We've made real progress in getting equipment and expanded our ability to host CanAm without being a burden on others to provide equipment.

We have more wireless commitment and electronics that are owned and operated by NAFA. We are still borrowing TVs for now. Going wireless, we are going to reduce cost.

We still have people asking why don't we move CanAm to our back yard? Biggest problems – the cost of site in all these locations and the site itself. Reasonable hotel costs and our bigger footprint in Indianapolis - that would mean moving three semi truckloads worth somewhere else.

Discussions around possible other sites, site costs, vendors. One big issue is people crossing the border into Canada, so many people have no idea how to do so.

We need to make sure everyone knows the reasons why we are in Indy and publicized to all parties; vendors, site is the right price, it's centrally located, storage for the equipment – it all rolls into the price of CanAm.

CanAm awards seemed to be well received this year.

Need to work on timing on Sunday, but it's paramount to adjust. Keep working with security as well.

Vision will be to have a "NAFA" focused secured area and a general secure area.

Also, RVs are getting bigger. Costs go up once RV spots are full and site won't open the next area until the first one is full. We must plan better on where people should park.

Vendors drawing the names for winners of their product taking too long at awards ceremony. We will change that procedure.

Discussion around how to shorten racing on Sunday. We need to find different ways to change out for lunch. Maybe only switch out two rings? Then also shut down and remove green and yellow on Sunday. And address closing the red and blue rings for cleaning for championships.

Get people together to talk about CanAm. Color code pallets per ring and everything staged per ring. Also watch out when changing parts out for EJSs. Head tables to keep a running list of problems, and solutions. Looking to create a light coordinator for CanAm and how to coordinate that. Colored ring tape on light boxes as well.

Send an announcement out that if you're getting a set of lights from CanAm, that you have permissions to use them in a practice situation and to make sure they are complete and working before your upcoming tournament.

Everyone wants to watch the championships, but workers are there not being used during this time and should be utilized. The workers are there for rolling mats and placing on pallets. They cannot be used for packing the jumps.

Crown needs contacting concerning a mats issue. Crown should be at CanAm net year. A brand-new mat had to be changed out on Sunday. Eight new mats will be needed.

Electronics should be going down in cost. All will be wireless. This should result in not as much lift work, and was done in one day vs two.

We also need to a better job with camping behind Hooks regarding power and camping costs.

We will work with drop people on getting into building and distributing accordingly throughout the building.

Sam – This is my last board meeting and I'd like to express my appreciation to all the board members and all the prior board members I've served with. It's been an honor to sit around the tables with you all. We have done this for many years and in lots of different board positions and too many places that I can't even remember them all. I'd like to express my appreciation for Dale Smith as well. Thank for you letting me work on this, I am exceedingly happy with our new Executive Director.

Treasurer's Report

- Dana went over treasurer's report. See attachments. CanAm revenues close to expectations, with most expenses coming in as expected.

Secretary's Report

- N/A

Meeting broke at 11:07 am.

Meeting resumed at 11:15 am.

Election Committee:

- Elections Results

Neil asks to enter executive session at 11:22 am to ratify election results.

Exited executive session at 12:10 pm.

The board ratified election results.

The board appointed Lynda Mantler to serve the balance of Neil Flood's term.

The board elected the following officers:

Steve Corona - Chair

Dale Smith - Vice Chair

Dana Hansen - Treasurer

Kim Davis - Secretary

Meeting broke for lunch at 12:15 pm.

Meeting resumed at 1:30 pm.

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee:

- Letter from Jonathan Bescher regarding Supervising Judge criteria. Jon has asked that this be reconsidered. The board discussed his request and suggests he resubmit his application.

- Patricia Howell (Linden, VA) - Apprentice to Provisional. Dirk motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

- Timothy McElligott (Fairport, NY) - Provisional to Approved. Dirk motioned to accept the judges committee recommendation. Jenn seconded. Motion carried.

- Regarding Curtis Smith's letter, the board confirms what he has submitted.

Rules Committee:

- New Wording for Measuring
- Rule Change from Stephanie Minnella regarding interference
- Question Regarding positioning of EJS in relation to start/finish line
- Conflict of Interest Wording

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- Proposed New Wording
- Chapter 4 (e)
- The dog's height shall be measured from the ground to the top of the withers with the dog standing in an upright position as indicated by illustration 4.1. The handler may steady the dog if necessary, but shall not physically support the dog during the measuring process. **The front legs will be vertical, so as to draw a line perpendicular to the ground that runs from the withers to the point of the elbow and follows the rear of the leg to the floor. The dog's head must be in an upright position with the dog's jaw line parallel to the floor.** The back legs will be positioned with the hocks perpendicular to the ground and spread no wider than the width of the dog as shown in illustration 4.1.
- Discussion is ongoing with no clear consensus on wording. There is one illustration of the proposed stance and we are awaiting other illustrations to complete this section of the requirements for measuring.
- Conversation took place regarding other options for measuring. Nothing to report on other options.

Dirk motioned to accept the wording. It will go to the head of judges to work with judges with a goal of being implemented by March 15th. Jenn seconded. Motion carried.

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- Proposed Rule Change

- Hi John,

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- Dirk suggested that I send this to you to consider as an update to the NAFA rulebook.

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- This is specifically surrounding section 8.3(i) "The Heat," which currently reads:

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- (i) Safety Hazards/Outside Interference. If, in the opinion of the head judge, a safety hazard exists during the running of the heat, the heat shall be stopped and restarted. Lineups may be changed without penalty.

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My initial thought was surrounding incidents where a team's infraction (early pass) actually causes a jump to be knocked over and the heat to be blown dead and re-run. This situation seems especially unfair to re-run when the other team has a clean run, since in this case the infraction (early pass) directly led to the jump being knocked over, which led to the heat being blown dead. But the more I thought about it, the more I thought the same could be said of any heat that needs to be blown dead by the judge for a safety issue.

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- Under the current rules, if the judge chooses to stop the heat for safety reasons, the heat is re-run. However, if Team A had no infractions in the heat up to that point, and Team B had a flag, Team B essentially gets a "freebie" on that infraction since the heat will be re-run. Similarly, if Team A has a flag and Team B has a clean run going, then an outside dog runs into the ring and the heat has to be blown dead by the judge, Team B should get the win.

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- I completely understand wanting to stop any heat at the judge's discretion for any reason when safety is at stake. However, when one team has an infraction and the other team has a clean run going, it doesn't seem fair that the team with the infraction gets a "do-over" of that heat, with no penalty for that infraction. What really crystallizes this for me is thinking about what happens if a jump is knocked over and the heat is NOT blown dead by the judge. In that instance, if there was an infraction by the team with the knocked-over jump, that team would have to re-run the infraction to complete the heat.

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- My proposal would re-word section (i) to award a loss to a team that has an infraction when a heat has to be blown dead due to a safety issue and the team in the other lane had no infractions. If both teams were clean, or both teams had infractions, then the heat would be re-run, as it is currently.

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- (i) Safety Hazards/Outside Interference. If, in the opinion of the head judge, a safety hazard exists during the running of the heat, the heat shall be stopped and restarted, provided both teams have no infractions. If one team has an infraction when the heat is stopped, the win will be awarded to the team with no infractions. If both teams have infractions when the heat is stopped, the heat shall be re-run. Lineups may be changed without penalty.

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- I am guessing the wording could be improved to be more clear, but hopefully at least the idea is clear. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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- Thanks!

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- Stephanie Minnella

- X Flyball

Recommendation:

- **The Rules committee unanimously recommends to not go forward with proposal.**
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- Question Regarding positioning of EJS in relation to start finish line.
- Discussion
- With different surfaces being used at NAFA tournaments ie, grass, dirt, matting, it is not possible to create a tolerance that will work in all cases.

Recommendation:

- **No tolerances for EJS will be stated. Tolerances will be dictated by the surface being utilized.**
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- Conflict of Interest Wording
- Section 1.6 (f) The regional director shall comply with the NAFA Conflict of Interest Policy stated in Chapter 9.
- Section 5.7 (d) Review Process – Once received by NAFA, the completed C.12 form shall be distributed to a Review Panel consisting of the executive director, the Chair of the Board of Directors, and the Chair of the Judges Committee. Members of the Panel shall be impartial and shall have no conflict of interest with the dog owner or any other party involved (e.g. shall not have family or club ties with the dog owner or any other party involved).
- Section 7.1 (e) (vii) c. Members of the committee shall be impartial and shall have no conflict of interest with the dog owner or the dog's club (e.g. shall not have family or club ties with the dog owner).
- Section 7.7 (g) (iii) Members of the committee shall be impartial and shall have no conflict of interest with the dog owner or dog's club (e.g. shall not have family or club ties with the dog owner).
- *When representing NAFA in any capacity, it is important for board members, regional directors, and officials to be able to make decisions free from influences that compromise judgment, allowing them to act with integrity and exercise objectivity. It is equally important that these individuals not only be objective and impartial, in fact, but also that they appear to be objective and impartial. They should avoid facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable and informed third party with knowledge and relevant information to conclude that their integrity or objectivity had been compromised.*
- *Some kinds of situations that could lead to such conclusions are where an official is rendering a decision in a matter involving a family member, a team member, or the dog belonging to either. Equally likely to create the appearance that an individual is not impartial or objective is where there is a history or recent event creating animosity between a family member or team member and the individual, team, or dog for which a decision is being rendered. These examples are cited for reference only and are not intended to describe all situations that could create the appearance that a representative's integrity or objectivity has been compromised.*

- Where a board member, regional director or other NAFA official either lacks the ability to be objective and impartial in a situation or would appear to lack objectivity and impartiality as described above, he must refrain to the full extent practicable from participating in the decision making or rendering a judgment.

Neil asks to enter executive session at 2:03 pm.

Exited executive session at 2:15 pm.

The board is supportive of the changes but has asked the rules committee to re-evaluate their suggested wording before becoming effective.

#5

- Letter from Aaron Robbins

Neil asked to enter executive session at 3:00 pm.

Exited executive session at 5:25 pm.

The Board of Directors took under consideration suggestions submitted to improve the Height Card process and Height Card Challenge process. Based upon this input, the Board has undertaken a review and simplification of the entire Height Card Process which will lead to a revision of the current procedures. Pending these improvements all Height Card Applications and all Height Card Challenges are suspended. Development of this process will be presented in the near future.

Finance:

The finance committee met Sunday, January 8, to review financial statements and schedules to be presented at the Board meeting. Materials distributed during the Treasurer’s Report were reviewed and modified based on input from the committee members.

Nominating Committee:

Thank you to Kyle Mankes and Emma Mak for their work on the election and nominating committee this year.

Marketing Committee:

Set date for Total Event Services to start working on hotels for 2017 CanAm Classic – April.

Set date for Junior Handler pin contest start date – June 1st.

Set date for CanAm Classic t-shirt design contest start date - June 1st.

NAFA YouTube ‘Flyball Channel’ created for World Record and CanAm Classic videos.

Disciplinary Committee:

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date(s)
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

Junior, 000165	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	07/13/2002
Tucker, 960374	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	06/24/1996
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	Indefinitely
Dave Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Cheryl Mueller	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Jennifer Nelson	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely

Review Panel:

Neil asked to enter executive session at 5:34 pm.

Exited executive session at 5:38 pm.

The board discussed the aggression excusal.

- Letti 15059 Non-Aggression Excusal
- Chum 051169 Aggression Excusal
- RJ 110219 09/10/2016
- Coco 130451 09/11/2016
- Hank 120935 08/21/2016
- Request to expunge for Sevyn, CRN 130185. Dirk motioned to expunge. Dana seconded. Motion carried.

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee:

Wicket discussion.

NAFA/Flyball History Committee:

N/A

CanAm Steering Committee:

N/A

Old Business:

New Business:

OPEN – remove height dog requirement. See new wording below.

6.2 (e) The Open Class is subject to all existing NAFA® Rules of Racing and Corporate Policies and Procedures except that the 87 day rule stated in Section 7.5(a) of the Corporate Policies and Procedures does not apply to the Open Class. Additionally the Open class teams are required to set jump heights no less, or no higher as defined in section 8.2(a), but are otherwise free to jump any height they so choose. The Open Class is subject to the following additional specific rules:

(a) Except as provided in paragraph 8.2(c) or (d) below, jump heights shall be set at a minimum of five 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;

(d) The Open Class is permitted to set the jumps heights at any height they choose that is between the minimum and maximum heights outlined in 8.2(a)

The board will re-convene Saturday night for the Annual General Meeting.