

**North American Flyball Association, Inc. ®**

Board of Directors Meeting

Teleconference

Abridged Minutes

May 27, 2008

Present via telephone were:	Executive Director	Sam Ford
	Board of Directors	Brian Fay, Lee Heighton, Dana Nichols, Lisa Peckham, Kris Pickering, Alisa Romaine, Dale Smith, Mike Smith, Scott Stein

Chairman Lee Heighton called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM CDT. Lee indicated he anticipates scheduling several more teleconferences prior to the August meeting to keep that agenda to a realistic length.

Kris Pickering joined the meeting at 6:45 PM.

### **I. Jump Height Ballots**

Dale reported he is on track to mail delegate ballots on June 1, 2008. Two public chats have been scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2008 and Sunday, June 2, 2008 to facilitate discussion among the flyball community. A press release will be posted on the web page with further information. Dale indicated that the press release will also include the date by which ballots must be returned.

Lee addressed timing for the Rules Committee if the ballot issue passes. Kris indicated that she believed this would provide adequate time for the Rules Committee to draft any needed language prior to the August meeting.

Kris expressed a desire to have at least one chat regarding Open and Performance classes for input before the August meeting. Lee and Dale agreed and indicated they would schedule the chat.

### **II. French Translation**

Lee discussed the possibility of having portions of the webpage translated into French, especially in light of the new region in Quebec and the AGM being held in Montreal this year. Sam expressed his continued desire to have NAFA information translated into French. Sam also stressed budgeting concerns. Sam and Lee have discussed having the basic webpage translated and also looked into having the Rulebook translated. Lee indicated he spoke to Emmanuel (insert full name) who has quoted NAFA greatly reduced prices of \$400.00 for translation of the webpage plus updates and \$2500.00 for translation of the Rulebook.

There was discussion about this issue and the large number of potential French speaking flyball participants in Quebec. Lee suggested focusing first on the webpage translation. Sam and Kris discussed

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potential interpretation issues in translating the Rulebook. Dale asked about the feasibility of machine translation. Several members wanted to make sure that the translation is accurate. Lisa indicated she has worked with Marie-Emmanuelle Porlier on the translation of the NAFA brochure. The team in Quebec has been very proactive and passionate in helping promote flyball in French Quebec.

Marie has also volunteered to be a translator at the AGM in November.

Lisa brought up whether we need NAFA banners in French. There was discussion about getting a firm price quote for banners before addressing the issue further.

### **III. Intellectual Property**

Kris announced that we have now received a registered service mark for "North American Flyball Association." Sam pointed out that we'll need to make sure that all plaques and other references to this trademarked name should be followed by ®. Dale will modify the letterhead to reflect this change. Kris will send Dana the original certificate for archiving.

### **IV. Electronic Scoring**

Dale discussed the current state of electronic scoring and the current delay in posting of results. He indicated that he has run into some database problems with scoring where tournaments offer regular classes, but had no entries in regular. This has created problems with the scoring software and he is trying to develop a fix around this. The rules indicate that the regular class has to be offered, but if there are no entries in the class, the tournament may proceed without a regular class. Dale indicates that he is behind right now in entering results because of this database glitch. There was discussion about how to communicate this to the flyball community. There was discussion about posting a notice on the webpage to inform the flyball community.

There was also discussion about having redundancy behind Dale to have a back up person available for processing scoring files. This was discussed previously and Dale will continue to pursue it. Dale indicated that there are some additional updates needed for our scoring program. He discussed the possibility of hiring someone to write a new program that can include all needed changes. Dale gave a rough estimate that it would cost \$1,000 – 2,000 and would probably take 3-6 months to develop. Scott indicated that he thought this type of expenditure was critical to preserve our data, one of our most important resources. Dale will report back with more details.

Dale anticipated that with a new scoring program, the person reporting results to NAFA would be able to directly publish the results to the database. This would greatly reduce the time lag for results to appear on the database. Kris expressed concern about implementing controls to preserve data integrity.

### **V. Dual Regional Tournaments**

Sam indicated there are two clubs on the border between two regions – regions 3 & 4 – who have requested to jointly hold two separate tournaments, combined for racing, which would count in both regions. Essentially there would be two separate tournaments with separate entries and entry fees. The tournaments would be combined into divisions for racing. The placements would be separately awarded

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by region for each division. The highest placing team for each region in each division would be placed first, and so on, accordingly. This would encourage greater participation for tournaments in areas that are on the border of regions.

There was discussion about whether this situation could be abused for calculation of regional champions. Sam pointed out that the current rules provide that the regional affiliation of the host club dictates the region, regardless of where the tournament is hosted. So, this proposal would not be more likely to encourage abuse of the system. Sam indicated that he has talked to the clubs at length about how their proposal would be implemented. He is satisfied that this is a workable proposal and would be of great benefit to hosting clubs. There was some concern expressed and resulting discussion about whether this model could be tried on a test basis. Kris was concerned about creating a precedent for future tournaments before we could adequately assess the ramifications of this type of combined tournament. Sam emphasized he would only approve this tournament format on a test basis.

#### **VI. Discussion on Advancement of Judges**

Lee asked Scott (Chair of the Judges Committee) about the number of judges who have turned in paperwork and are waiting on a decision for change in status. The next Board meeting is not until August 2, 2008. Scott indicated that the Judges Committee could be ready to discuss any requests for change in status at the next teleconference.

#### **VII. Financial**

Lee moved we enter Executive Session to discuss a financial matter.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:18 p.m.

#### **VIII. Regional MVPs and Board of Directors Nominations**

Lisa will publish on the webpage the opening & closing dates for regional MVPs and the closing date for BOD nominations. Dale will provide links for the electronic submission pages. Dale asked if there was a nominating committee appointed. The nominating committee chairperson is required to be a current voting delegate, not be a current member of the BOD, and not be a candidate or a member of a candidate's household. Lee will report back at the next teleconference on his appointment.

#### **IX. Scheduling**

Lee asked about dates for the next teleconference. A date was set for June 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. CDT.

Kris Pickering left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Lee discussed details of the AGM this year. The AGM will be held in Montreal. Friday, November 28, 2008 will be a travel day for Board members. The Board meeting will be held on Saturday, November 29, 2008 and the AGM held that evening. Lee indicated he will try to keep the agenda as short possible.

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Board members would be able to attend the tournament Saturday after the BOD meeting and on Sunday as travel allows.

Scott moved that the meeting be adjourned. Alisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM CDT on May 27, 2008.