

## **NAFA BOD Meeting Agenda – May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 6pm CT via Zoom**

### **Officer's Reports:**

#### **Chairperson's (Jayne McQuillen) Report:**

#### **Executive Director's (Steve Corona) Report:**

#### **Treasurer's (Dana Nichols) Report:**

#### **Secretary's (Darcey Sare) Report:**

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### **Judges Committee (Jonathan Bescher) Report:**

1. Kailey Smith Provisional to Approved
2. Modification for reinstatement of Todd Morningstar's Judging assignments
3. Judges Committee recommendations for Undue Aggression

#### **Rules Committee (Dana Nichols) Report:**

1. Definition of probation & suspension
2. Defining aggression
3. Proposal for jump height brackets

#### **Finance Committee (Dana Nichols) Report:**

1. Budget Update
2. Hiring additional staff
3. Transition of accounts
4. Canadian forms for online payment of tournament fees

#### **Election Committee Report:**

#### **Nominating Committee:**

#### **Marketing Committee (Paula Johnson) Report:**

1. Online store update
2. Social Media Calendar update

#### **Disciplinary Committee (Jayne McQuillen) Report:**

1. No report

### **Current Board Actions:**

<b>Name/CRN</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Ellen Telleen	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Krysta Telleen	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	Indefinitely
Terry Griffin	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	09/21/2022
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 Report:**

1. Bullet 220304 Aggression Excusal
2. Cooper 240036 Aggression Excusal
3. Kaianne 240291 Aggression Excusal

**Special Committee Reports:**

**Technology Committee (Leerie Jenkins):**

1. Light Curtain Update
2. Need Farmtek console

3. New website development updates
4. CSH interface with APES splits are working simultaneously with EJS output
5. CanAm registration real-time payment processing

**CanAm Steering Committee (Steve Corona):**

**Invitational Selection Committee:**

**Junior Handler's Committee:**

**Old Business:**

1. CKC Title recognition – updates

**New Business:**

**Proposal from Veronica Miller (sent to Rules Committee prior to meeting):**

*I see that measuring is back in the spotlight with the proposal for ulna measurements being submitted again. To that end, I am sharing a consideration based around size “brackets” that are utilized in sports like agility. This change would keep the method of measuring as-is, but allow greater flexibility for teams to make choices based on their dog’s structure, body mass, jump style, and training methods. I am not trying to muddy the water as you look into the current proposal on the table, but simply offering an alternative that may answer concerns these competitors have, while not upending the entire measuring system that NAFA has thoroughly researched and developed with those results in mind. The goal of this proposal is to introduce greater flexibility in jump height selection while maintaining fairness, safety, and competitive integrity across teams of varying dog sizes.*

*Proposed Jump Height Brackets*

*I propose the creation of three jump height brackets based on a dog’s height at the withers:*

*Small Dogs (under 15 inches at the withers):*

*Jump heights set at 7, 8, or 9 inches*

*Medium Dogs (over 15 inches up to and including 18 inches at the withers):*

*Jump heights set at 9, 10, or 11 inches*

*Large Dogs (over 18 inches at the withers):*

*Jump heights set at 11, 12, or 13 inches*

*Race Jump Height Selection*

*Teams may select any jump height within their designated bracket for each race.*

*All jumps in a heat must be set to the same height.*

*Jump heights may not be changed between heats unless there is a lineup change.*

*Height change restrictions do not apply during warm-ups or practice starts.*

### *Measurement Standards*

*Dogs will be measured in accordance with current NAFA measuring standards.*

*Dogs are required to be measured to have a height bracket designation. Dogs that are opted out of measuring are considered Large, regardless of actual height.*

*Dogs between 15 and 24 months of age must be measured once during that time period.*

*Dogs over 24 months of age must be measured by two different judges at two separate events (as identified by event number). These measurements may occur on the same weekend, provided each day is assigned a unique event number. Once measured, dogs will be designated as Small, Medium, or Large on timesheets rather than listing their exact height.*

### *Rationale and Benefits*

*This bracketed system allows teams to better tailor jump heights to their dogs' physical capabilities, potentially reducing injury risk while preserving competitive balance. It also introduces strategic flexibility without significantly increasing complexity in administration of the way measuring is done, as this is already in place.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal. I would welcome any feedback or the opportunity to further discuss or refine these ideas with the committee*

### **Proposal from Dave Strauss:**

Very sorry for the length of this proposal but the topic turns out to be fairly complex. The "too long; didn't read" (TL;DR) version: I'm proposing that NAFA consider adopting a hybrid system for measuring height dogs that allows a dog's owner to use either a withers measurement or an ulna measurement to set the jump height for the dog. The system I'm proposing would use an ulna-measurement scale that matches as closely as possible the existing withers measurement system.

If you're not interested in background or arguments about the proposal you can skip to the "PROPOSAL" section below.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Two issues that are perennially discussed in Flyball circles are jump heights and the methods we use to measure dogs to assign jump heights. Currently there is a proposal and petition circulating to get NAFA to convert to using an ulna measurement (as practiced by

U-Fli, presumably, although the proposal doesn't specify which ulna measurement rules should be used). This idea was examined by NAFA in 2018 and was ultimately rejected basically because it would be too disruptive (see references (R1) and (R2) below). NAFA's investigations did, however, lead eventually to a reworking of the system NAFA uses to measure dogs' height at the withers; this current system - comprising mandatory measuring, permanent height assignments, more consistent training of judges, and the inclusion of the RDs as trained impartial observers - has greatly reduced the variability in the withers measurement. At roughly the same time, NAFA lowered the overall jump height by an inch, making it 6 inches below the withers instead of the previous 5 inches.

#### REASONS WHY A WITHERS MEASUREMENT ISN'T SO GREAT:

Although height at the withers is a well-recognized and traditional way of characterizing a dog's size, there is not a lot of consensus about the details surrounding such a measurement. Agility and conformation judges, for instance, tend to emphasize a "natural" position (see for example the video in reference (R3)), while the NAFA rulebook emphasizes a "proper" stance. What constitutes a natural or proper stance for one judge may be an invalid stance for another judge (hence the need for training and the importance of the RD as an observer). My experience as an RD is that the withers measurement can vary by as much as an inch even though the stance remains "proper". While I have no direct experience with agility or conformation height measurements I suspect that the same variability applies there as well (see for example the post in reference (R4)).

Given that the natural variability of the withers measurement appears to be around an inch or so, and also given that we specify jump heights in one inch increments, it's easy to see why a withers measurement can be perceived as a poor way to assign jump heights. There will inevitably be many instances where dogs are measured at one jump height by one judge and another jump height by another judge, especially if those dogs are on a jump height boundary. There will also be many instances where a dog will be measured at two different jump heights by the same judge - in fact the NAFA "three tries" rule acknowledges that this is expected (the rules also acknowledge that judges will disagree - hence the "two judges must agree" rule for permanent measurements).

Getting a withers measurement is also what I'll call a "fiddly" process. The dog being measured is often a bit stressed (a strange person hovering over them, the general chaos of a Flyball tournament) and it often takes a while for them to settle down enough to get a valid measurement. And the dog really does have to settle down in order for a measurement to be made - a dog that never stops moving cannot be measured. I have rarely seen a measurement take less than a minute and often it takes longer (the rules allow up to 5 minutes per measurement attempt).

#### REASONS TO USE AN ULNA MEASUREMENT:

- (1) The length of the ulna, similar to the dog's height at the withers, is one way of characterizing the size of a dog - and in fact NAFA's data have shown that the two measurements are roughly correlated (see the spreadsheet in reference (R6)).
- (2) There are many other Flyball organizations that use an ulna measurement - for example FCI, UKFL, and U-Fli. Switching to an ulna measurement could allow standardization with one or more of those organizations.
- (3) The ulna measurement is arguably quicker than the withers measurement - although I don't have any real data on this.
- (4) The ulna measurement is possibly more precise and more repeatable than the withers measurement (although I don't believe there is any real data to support this assertion - the question being whether the ulna measurement is precise and repeatable enough to assign jump heights in one-inch increments).

#### REASONS WHY SWITCHING TO AN ULNA MEASUREMENT ALONE ISN'T A GOOD IDEA:

Both the withers measurement and the ulna measurement can be seen as "fair" systems in that they both track the overall size of a dog (and hence to some extent their jumping ability). However as NAFA's data have shown, each method favors different builds - with some tall dogs having shorter ulnas and some short dogs having longer ulnas - such that two dogs of similar sizes will have different jump heights under the different systems. This is not a bad thing in and of itself - any set of rules in a sport involving dogs, whose body types vary so greatly, is inevitably going to favor some body types over others. The fairness aspect comes from having a well-defined set of rules that are consistently applied. So it's perfectly fair to use the ulna measurement (or the withers measurement, for that matter) even though doing so will advantage certain dogs over others.

The problem, as the NAFA board determined in 2018, is the disruption that would entail if NAFA switched from the withers measurement to the ulna measurement. As NAFA's data

showed, some dogs would end up with a lower jump height with the ulna measurement, but some dogs would end up with a higher jump height (in some cases as much as two or three inches). The rules would go from disadvantaging one set of dogs to disadvantaging a different set of dogs. In other words, the level of fairness or unfairness would not change - it would just change who it affected. The NAFA board at the time determined that this disruption wasn't worth it.

Note here that U-Fli holds a patent in the US on a "Canine leg measurement device and method of use" (see reference (R9) below). Making sure that NAFA doesn't infringe on such a patent is another reason not to switch to using an ulna measurement, at least until 2027 when the patent expires.

#### REASONS TO ADOPT A HYBRID SYSTEM:

Basically, if the idea is to make the measurement system as fair as possible, why not allow dog owners to choose which method to use to measure their dogs? That way those whose dogs are advantaged by the withers measurement can use that method, and those whose dogs are advantaged by the ulna measurement can use that method. This can be done with minimal disruptions since the current system is part of the hybrid system.

#### REASONS NOT TO ADOPT THE FCI/UKFL/U-Fli ULNA MEASUREMENT:

If NAFA were to switch to a hybrid system, they could decide to adopt the measurement scale already used by another organization - for example FCI, UKFL, or U-Fli (note that adopting the UKFL scale would essentially implement the hybrid system currently in use by the British Flyball Association (BFA)). The system I propose here would use yet another scale, one that (based on NAFA's 2018 dataset) would result in a scale that more closely matches the existing withers measurement - in other words, under the proposed scale more dogs would have the same jump height no matter which way they were measured than using any of the other scales. See the "BFA Rules Spreadsheet" in reference (R8) below.

#### REASONS NOT TO ADOPT A HYBRID SYSTEM:

It definitely would add complexity to the measurement system. Measuring devices for both methods would have to be available at all tournaments, and judges would need to be trained and certified in both methods. The NAFA database would have to be changed to deal with both measurements.

Secondarily, since some dogs would end up with a lower jump height under a hybrid system, it might be viewed as unfair to those dogs that don't benefit.

#### REASONS NOT TO CHANGE ANYTHING:

The changes NAFA made to the withers measuring system are still quite new and it's not clear that we have given enough time yet to see their full effect. There's a good argument to be made that we should wait a few more years before considering such a major change.

There's also the larger question of whether or not there's anything broken enough in the current system to warrant changing it. Any measurement system used to set jump heights is going to be perceived as unfair to at least some portion of the Flyball community; that's just the nature of trying to sort dogs into one-inch buckets based on a physical measurement. Whether the current system is adequate for NAFA's needs is something only the board (or the delegates, if it's put to a delegate vote) can decide.

#### THE PROPOSAL:

I propose:

- that NAFA specify a digital caliper device similar to the one shown in the FCI Flyball rulebook. This device should have a precision of at least 0.1 mm.
- that NAFA specify a procedure for using such a caliper device for measuring a dog's ulna.
- that NAFA specify that the ulna be measured in millimeters.
- that NAFA specify that the ulna be measured to the precision of the device but recorded to the next lower millimeter.

- that the following table be used to convert from ulna measurement to jump height:

up to but not including 125 mm	==> 7 inches
up to but not including 137 mm	==> 8 inches
up to but not including 149 mm	==> 9 inches
up to but not including 160 mm	==> 10 inches
up to but not including 171 mm	==> 11 inches
up to but not including 182 mm	==> 12 inches
up to but not including 193 mm	==> 13 inches
over 193 mm	==> 14 inches

- that NAFA allow a dog's owner to choose whether to use an ulna measurement or a withers measurement to set the dog's jump height.
- that NAFA retain the existing process concerning height measurement, including who can measure, the number of attempts allowed to get a recorded measurement, and the number of measurements required to get a permanent measurement, with the following additions:
  - (a) for each attempt at a measurement, the owner must state whether they want a withers measurement or an ulna measurement.
  - (b) for each attempt at an ulna measurement, the owner can state whether the left or right leg should be measured. If the owner does not specify, the leg measured will be at the discretion of the measuring official.
- that NAFA establish training requirements and materials for ulna measurements.
- that NAFA require all NAFA judges to be trained in ulna measurements.
- that NAFA require all NAFA judges to maintain training standards by measuring the ulnas of at least 2 dogs during each racing year. (I also suggest that NAFA reduce the training requirements for withers measurements to 3 dogs each racing year, for a total of 5 dogs minimum measured each year using both methods).
- that NAFA implement the hybrid system starting in 2027, after the U-Fli patent on their measuring device expires.
- that NAFA implement a 6-month transition period before the hybrid system is implemented.
- that during the transition period, NAFA obtain and distribute ulna measuring devices, develop training materials, and train judges.
- that during the transition period, and once judges are trained, NAFA offer owners the option of getting an ulna measurement in addition to the required withers measurement.
- that measurements obtained during the transition period be used to validate the ulna-to-jump-height table.
- that NAFA allow any dog with a permanent measurement to retain that permanent measurement (grandfathering).
- that NAFA allow the owner of a dog that already has a permanent height measurement to choose to get an ulna measurement using the existing owner-initiated challenge procedure.
- that NAFA re-evaluate the hybrid system after it has been in place for 3 years. This re-evaluation should determine whether or not the withers measurement is still required, and whether the ulna-to-jump-height table needs to be adjusted.

NOTES:

(N1) The ulna-to-jump-height table is based on the data that NAFA gathered at CanAm 2018; this table attempts to result in minimal changes to jump height when comparing withers height to ulna length measurements. NAFA did not collect data on dogs setting 13- or 14-inch jump heights.

(N2) I think this proposal is a good compromise that largely retains the existing jump heights while at the same time addressing the perception that the current withers measurement is too variable and takes too long.

(N3) Offering a hybrid system accommodates dogs that will not tolerate one of the measurement methods but will tolerate the other.

(N4) Retaining the withers measurement as an option is more fair for dogs that have a long ulna relative to their withers height.

(N5) The three-attempts-to-get-a-recorded-measurement rule allows a dog to be measured once on the right leg, once on the left leg, and once at the withers.

#### REFERENCES:

(R1) NAFA withers vs. ulna measurement data:

<https://www.flyball.org/measuring/Raw-Data-No-Breeds.xlsx>

(R2) Neil Flood's summary of withers vs. ulna measurement data:

<https://www.facebook.com/NAFAFLYBALL/posts/pfbid02ihs7QM7KUv2AequdgwXAsaYoxmWDBs1DYKfQznLg31qyL1fyP2H39qw4DWGeLAh2l>

(R3) "How To Measure Your Dog For Agility":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLCtG31PP0U>

(R4) "Agility: My dog measured higher than expected. Help."

[https://www.reddit.com/r/k9sports/comments/15dddo2/agility\\_my\\_dog\\_measured\\_higher\\_than\\_expected\\_help/](https://www.reddit.com/r/k9sports/comments/15dddo2/agility_my_dog_measured_higher_than_expected_help/)

(R5) Raw NAFA data, condensed and with updated jump heights:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jvPVozW0LhHXf5G1OfWHMuXxW1WCeuh\\_G3UnGAs3Eis/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jvPVozW0LhHXf5G1OfWHMuXxW1WCeuh_G3UnGAs3Eis/edit?usp=sharing)

(R6) Withers height vs. ulna spreadsheet:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jvPVozW0LhHXf5G1OfWHMuXxW1WCeuh\\_G3UnGAs3Eis/edit?gid=1405577509](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jvPVozW0LhHXf5G1OfWHMuXxW1WCeuh_G3UnGAs3Eis/edit?gid=1405577509)

(R7) Hybrid proposal spreadsheet:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jvPVozW0LhHXf5G1OfWHMuXxW1WCeuh\\_G3UnGAs3Eis/edit?gid=123387621#gid=123387621](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jvPVozW0LhHXf5G1OfWHMuXxW1WCeuh_G3UnGAs3Eis/edit?gid=123387621#gid=123387621)

(R8) BFA Rules spreadsheet

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jvPVozW0LhHXf5G1OfWHMuXxW1WCeuh\\_G3UnGAs3Eis/edit?gid=1532508774#gid=1532508774](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jvPVozW0LhHXf5G1OfWHMuXxW1WCeuh_G3UnGAs3Eis/edit?gid=1532508774#gid=1532508774)

(R9) U-Fli patent "Canine leg measurement device and method of use"

<https://patents.google.com/patent/US20070245583A1/en>