

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, January 15, 2016, Temple, TX:

In attendance:

Executive Director: Lee Heighton
Board of Directors: Kim Davis
Dirk Elber
Neil Flood
Sam Ford
John Hendriks
Leerie Jenkins
Karen Oleson
Dave Walt

Dale Smith was unable to attend.

Guests: Terry McClean

Officers' Reports

Chair's Comments:

Leerie called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the NAFA Board of Directors.

I want to wish a very happy birthday to Sam. We're going to celebrate at a super fancy place for lunch today.

As you all know, this is my last board meeting. I was honored to be appointed to the board seven years ago.

I was so shocked and super honored to have been chosen by the board to chair this organization for the last six years.

I want to thank all of the wonderful volunteers, board members, and staff with which I have had the pleasure of serving over the last seven years.

I want to give a special thanks to Lee Heighton. He has given so much to NAFA flyball over the last 10 or 12 years, and in addition to becoming a very dear friend to me, he helped me tremendously with assuming and executing the duties of being the Chair. Through the good times and less good times, his counsel and friendship has been a blessing. Thank you brother!

I'm not going to go over a list of what I think are important accomplishments over the past number of years, but I'd like to think NAFA is better now than when I got here. I believe our customer service has improved to such a point that I'm very proud of it. And I'm certain NAFA will continue to innovate, grow, and continue to be the best flyball organization in the world.

Thank you all for all your hard work. It's been a pleasure to serve with each of you!

Executive Director's Comments:

Leerie moved to enter Executive Session at 9:08 am.

The board exited executive session at 10:30 am.

Lee would like to thank the regional directors for their service and the initiative they take to promote our sport of NAFA Flyball.

Lee announced that Dave Gillette has resigned as regional director and Lee would also like thanks to Dave for his years of service.

Lee received a question from Carol Osterhaus about a special title certificate for a club dog.

From Carol: Gypsy got with 66 points of her FMX but passed before getting those last points. They would like to have honorary FMX certificate for her.

Discussion revolved around this special request and the board decided to only do this at the certificate level. Per request.

The board chose trivia questions for the AGM.

Since Dogz Rule! First tournament in September 2006, how many titles have been earned by Region 5 dogs?

Tie breaker: How many teams have entered CanAm since its inception?

Treasurer's Report:

Profit and Loss Reports, Working Balances, and the 2015 CanAm Summary report were presented and discussed.

Secretary's Report:

Approved September 8th teleconference minutes on 9/15/15.

Approved August minutes on 1/17/16.

Meeting breaks at 10:25 am.

Meeting reports at 10:40 am.

Election Committee:

Ratification of election results and 2016 officers.

Leerie moved to enter executive session at 10:42 am.

The board existed executive session exited at 11:42 am.

The board ratified election results. The board regretfully accepted Lee's resignation as Executive Director, effective at the conclusion of the AGM.

The board appointed Sam Ford to fulfill the vacancy for Executive Director.

The board appointed Jenn Bell to serve the balance of Sam Ford's term.

The board elected the following officers:

Neil Flood - Chair

Dale Smith - Vice Chair

Dana Hansen - Treasurer

Kim Davis - Secretary

Meeting breaks at 11:45 am.

Meeting resumed at 12:10 pm.

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee:

- Stephanie Trevino (Norfolk, VA) – Apprentice to Provisional - Dave moved to accept the committee recommendation. Dirk seconded promoting Stephanie from Apprentice to Provisional. Motion carried.
- Katie Althoz (Westminster, CO) – Apprentice to Provisional - Sam moved to accept the judges committee recommendation. Kim seconded promoting Katie from Apprentice to Provisional. Motion carried.
- Lisa Daum (Camden, NC) – Apprentice to Provisional – Judges committee reported that Lisa Daum has withdrawn her application.
- Brad Brown (Kaukauna, WI) – Provisional to Approved – Karen moved to accept the judges committee recommendation. John seconded promoting Brad from Provisional to Approved. Motion carried.
- Steve Corona (Georgetown, TX) – Approved to Supervising – Dave moved to accept the judges committee recommendation. Sam seconded promoting Steve from Approved to Supervising. Motion carried.

Rules Committee:

Recommendations

1. Rounded/routed 1" top slats

Hello Rules Committee,

Would it be possible to add verbiage to the rulebook to specify that 1" jump slats must be routed/rounded on all edges for the safety of the dogs?

*My team has noticed that some host clubs only bother to round two edges (so that there is only one "right way" to put the 1" slat in place - the other way is upside down and results in the sharp edges being exposed to the dogs). This seems to not be an issue with *purchased* sintra slats but more with teams who choose to make the slats themselves. Whatever the reason, I feel very strongly that this is a safety issue. When these sharp slats have been in use, our team has had dogs suffer scrapes to their chests, resulting in bleeding and blistering. These sharp edges also greatly increase the severity of any incidental impact that a dog might have with a jump, such as clipping it with a toe. What might have just been a bruise is instead an open wound that could get infected, etc.*

I think that most clubs ARE using rounded slats, but for those that are not, it would be great for the rulebook to get them on the right track, for the safety of the dogs.

Thanks for your time. Stephanie Minnella

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approve

The board discussed the proposal and agrees that the top jump slats should be rounded.

Sam motioned to send to the rules committee the task of crafting language for the board to approve. John seconded. Motion carried. Leerie sent the proposal to the rules committee.

2. C.9/C.10 clarification

To: Rules Committee

I propose the following change to Rules of Racing Chapter 4 Measuring section (a). The current wording is:

(a) At the discretion of the team, dogs jumping less than 14 inches may be measured by the measuring judge officiating at the tournament during times designated by the host club. A dog must be entered in the tournament in order to have its height recorded on either the tournament Jump Heights (Form C.9) or a Height Card Application (Form C.10).=

The last sentence appears to indicate that a dog can be measured for a Height Card without that measurement showing up on the C.9 Jump Height form.

In an effort to alleviate confusion, I propose the following wording replace the current wording:

*(a) At the discretion of the team, dogs jumping less than 14 inches may be measured by the measuring judge officiating at the tournament during times designated by the host club. A dog must be entered in the tournament in order to have its height recorded on the **tournament Jump Height Form (C.9) and, when presented, a Height Card Application (Form C.10).***

I do not believe this change alters the intent of the rule.

Thank you,

Karen Oleson

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approve

Dave motioned to accept the recommendation and wording presented. John seconded. Motion carried.

3. Infraction/flag language consistency

To: NAFA Rules Committee

In order to create a more understandable rulebook, I propose changing wording using 'flag' to indicate an infraction, to 'infraction' in the Rule of Racing.

Flag noun

1. a piece of cloth, varying in size, shape, color, and design, usually attached at one edge to a staff or cord, and used as the symbol of a nation, state or organization, as a means of signaling, etc.; ensign; standard; banner; pennant.

Infraction noun

1. breach; violation; infringement:

an infraction of the rules.

The word "flag" occurs in the rulebook five times to indicate an infraction in three rules. The change will not alter the intent of the rules; however it will make the rules more clear.

The proposed changes are found below. Wording that will be removed is underlined, replacement wording is underlined and italicized.

Rules of Racing

FEO Teams

CHAPTER 6 - REPORTING FOR RACES

(e) (v) in the event a dog receives a flag, it may complete its run but not rerun; and

Becomes

(e) (v) in the event a dog commits an infraction, it may complete its run but not rerun; and

Section 8.3 - The Heat

(g) Inside Interference.If a dog crosses the start/finish line after it has already successfully completed the course, it is not a flag.

Becomes

(g) Inside Interference.If a dog crosses the start/finish line after it has already successfully completed the course, it is not an infraction.

(j) Flags. Dogs that receive a flag must be rerun after the initial four dogs in the order they were flagged.

Racing infractions requiring the rerunning of a dog include:

Becomes

(j) Infractions. Dogs that commit an infraction must be rerun after the initial four dogs in the order the infractions occurred. Racing infractions requiring the rerunning of a dog include:

Note that the word infraction is currently used elsewhere in this subsection

*"(i) Early passes will be indicated by the EJS and the line judge and/or the head judge. When running without an EJS system, the line judge will indicate an **infraction**;"*

Respectfully Submitted, Karen Oleson

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approve

Neil motioned to accept the recommendation of the rules committee. Sam seconded. Motion carried.

4. "Good standing" clarification

To: NAFA Rules Committee:

I propose updating the definition of Good Standing in the glossary to bring it more in line with its positive use in the rule book.

In the glossary, Good Standing is defined using negative statements.

***Good Standing** - A club is not in good standing with NAFA® when any of the following are true: (i) the club is not current paying NAFA® fees; (ii) the club itself is on probation or suspension; (iii) the owner of the club is on probation or suspension. A person is not in good standing with NAFA® when any of the following are true: (i) the person is not current paying NAFA® fees; (ii) the person is on probation or suspension.*

Our By-Laws define Good Standing using positive language.

Article IV Section 4. Election of Directors

"Good standing shall be defined as current in all financial obligations to the Corporation and not currently under any disciplinary action (probation, suspension, etc.)."

Elsewhere in the rule book 'Good Standing' is used in positive statements.

Below are two options, either of which should work to redefine Good Standing in the Glossary.

Glossary:

Good Standing - A club/club owner or person that is current in all financial obligations to the Corporation and not currently under any disciplinary action (probation, suspension, etc.).

or, to more closely mimic that which is presently in the glossary

Glossary:

A club is in good standing with NAFA® when all of the following are true:

- (i) the club is current in paying all monies owed to NAFA®;*
- (ii) the club itself is not on probation or suspension;*
- (iii) the owner of the club is not on probation or suspension.*

A person is in good standing with NAFA® when all of the following are true:

- (i) the person is current in paying all monies owed to NAFA®;*
- (ii) the person is not on probation or suspension.*

Note: in the second suggestion, "NAFA Fees" is replaced with "all monies".

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Oleson

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approve

Dave motioned to accept the second version recommendation. Kim seconded. Motion carried.

Finance Committee:

- Letter from Tammy Frank

The board considered a request from Tammy Frank to subsidize Canadian host clubs by reducing tournament fees due to NAFA. After a lengthy discussion, the board is concerned, however is unable to find a financially prudent and fair way to offset the difficult exchange rate.

Meeting breaks at 1:21 pm

Meeting resumed at 2:45 pm

Nominating Committee:

Nothing to report.

Marketing Committee:

Upcoming talks will revolve around CanAm shirt design as well as junior handler pin design once new marketing committee is established.

Lee would like to pursue the possibility of having instantaneous recognition of people whose dogs have earned awards. He thinks we have the ability to develop this in the form of emails.

Sam suggested Marketing should have a hand in deciding what we want to do as recognition. They can provide guidelines to the ED so the ED has a framework within to work. Sam would put this to the Marketing Committee job description as "Social Media Strategy".

Sam motioned to add social media as part of marketing to cultivate NAFA across social media. Neil seconded. Motion carried.

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:

Leerie moved to enter Executive Session at 3:00 pm.

The board exited executive session at 3:10 pm.

The committee agrees that the institution of the appeal fee has reduced the number of appeals.

- Maeby – 070118 – 12/12/2015
- Keagan – 100620 – 10/31/2015
- Wendell – 120871 – 10/18/2015
- Fagan – 150137 – 10/04/2015
- Skeeter – 100181 – 08/02/2015

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee:

Nothing to report

NAFA/Flyball History Committee:

Nothing to report

CanAm Steering Committee:

Nothing to report

Old Business:

New Business:

Sam presented an idea to recognize our Judge of the Year recipients that will make them more recognizable. A specialized shirt in addition to a plaque was suggested and met with enthusiasm by the board.

Leerie refers this idea to the marketing for investigation of cost, etc.

Karen moves to adjourn the meeting. Leerie seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 pm.