

## Minutes

### NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, March 7, 2023

#### Held via Zoom Meeting

#### **Attendees:**

##### Board Members:

Emily-Rose Allred  
Jonathan Bescher  
Kathy Haney  
Cindy Henderson  
Meagan Langs  
Emma Mak  
Lynda Mantler  
Jayne McQuillen  
Dana Nichols

##### Executive Director:

Steve Corona

##### Guests:

Karen Oleson

Jayne called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm CST.

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

##### Chair's Comments:

##### 1. 2024 is NAFA's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Ideas for ways to commemorate this milestone are welcome. There was some discussion about what was done for the 20th anniversary in 2004. Cindy: there is talk about bringing the communication and marketing committees together to talk about how to promote the sport and this could be part of it. Discussion about some of the old photos and videos that might be out there and sharing those.

##### 2. Future Board Meeting Dates.

Next board meeting target is early May 2023. The goal is to have more frequent meetings so they are not longer. Dana shared that it would be good to post future board meetings on the website for competitors and judges to see. Dana suggested we could set the board meetings for the entire year and move them if needed. This would allow board members to plan around the dates. Jayne will send out a survey to determine which dates will be suitable.

##### Executive Director's Comments:

## 1. Flyball Challenge Recap

- The invitational event held February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> was very well received by competitors and spectators. We continue to learn every time we do these events. There is a possibility that ESPN will provide "Flyball in a Box" whereby AKC would purchase mats, supplies, etc., everything short of the EJS. We are working on a list of items that would entail. The equipment would be stored by them and transported by them and would be available to use at CanAm. AKC is going to work with Crown Matting to pursue colored mats for the red and blue lanes. Steve sent out the final standings to the board.
- We do not have an air date. It is usually a couple of weeks for them to put it together.
- Some single dog racing was added to promote the variety of breeds. Single dog racing was best of three heats. This is because we had to get through the races quickly. Took the best times and ranked the dogs on time which determined the Sunday bracket. There were 12 dogs participating representing eight to nine different breeds. There were papillon, husky, lab, border collie, Boston, English setter and sight hounds. Steve wants to ask AKC if we can add a 2nd division that incorporates more family type dogs, not just the fastest dogs.
- We were asked by the Indiana State Fairgrounds about being part of the State Fair. There has been turnover at the Fairgrounds. There is also a very large dog show in downtown Chicago that we've been asked to be a part of. Logistics will make it difficult. Not sure that we would do a sanctioned event in Chicago, however, there are ongoing discussions.
- Steve asked for questions from Board members. NAFA received a \$15,000 stipend which was divvied up among the teams and the people who came to help. We took a minor loss of about \$1000 last year and will do about the same this year. The remedy is to go to AKC and ask for more money. Travel expenses have gone up. Jayne - would it help if AKC had "flyball in a Box". It would, however it would not make a big difference as the majority of the money covers travel. Lynda - Neil mentioned the format would be different this year. It would matter who won on Saturday. It was the same format as May 2022 so, different than CanAm. The format was 5/5. Saturday Racing determined the seeding for Sunday and it mattered if you won, not only based on times.
- The venue was unique, almost a destination type place for the area. People come to shop and watch the horses. The public was close by and the crowds were tremendous. Lots of questions from the public. Do we need to combine it with another sport so we are getting another set of sport people? The accessibility was important as we were not removed from the public as we have been in the past.
- Jayne: Almost needed a public announcer because people were enthralled. One person drove two hours to watch.
- Cindy: People were asking about how to get their dogs into flyball. Lots of interest. Public access to the event is something to consider when talking with AKC about venues.
- These events are an advertisement for flyball. This is the exposure we need.
- We need a one-pager handout that can direct people to the NAFA website and to find their local resources.
- Dana: We used to have a pamphlet. The pamphlet is dated and a new version is needed.
- Cindy: AKC/ESPN says a slogan would help, also a pamphlet to hand out. Should get these done for CanAm or the next invitational.
- The Communication/Marketing Committees will work on the update of the pamphlet.
- Dana: Saw lots of positive posts on Facebook and thanked all board members at the event for their hard work.
- We should have more notice for next year's invitational.
- The local teams did some promotion of the invitational too. Some participants posted flyers regarding the invitational around the area (stores, bars, hotel lobby, etc.).
- Steve: Financially, this is not something that NAFA could ever do on its own.

## 2. Invitational Selection Committee Update

Currently, the committee consists of Steve Corona, Jon Bescher, John Hendriks, Emily-Rose Allred, Cindy Henderson. Steve would like to add Joy Adiletta to get some west coast representation. The west coast feels like they are left out.

There is a possibility of a site in AZ for next year.

Dana moved to approve Joy Adiletta to the Invitational Selection Committee. Jon seconded.

The motion carried with no opposition.

## 3. Per by-laws, when there is a change of ED, the slate of RDs must be brought before the BoD for approval

### a. RD Changes

- Region 1
  - Dennis Filarski is stepping down and being replaced by Co-RDs Rachel Olson and Mary Franti
- Region 3
  - Elizabeth Theesfeld is stepping down and being replaced by Chad Wahl
- 1 Rachel Olson and Mar Frantij (MI, OH)
- 2 Suzanne Brown & Emma Mak, (CO-RDs) (Western ON)
- 3 Chad Wahl (MN, ND, SD)
- 4 Carl Gavin (IL, IN, KY, WI)
- 5 Terry McClean TX, OK, LA, AR)
- 6 Jeff Wright AZ, NV, UT)
- 7 Dan Wood (BC, OR, WA)
- 8 Peter Wesdyk & Courtney Voth, (CO-RDs) (MB, SK)
- 9 Amanda Brown (NC, SC, VA, WV)
- 10 Diana Murphy (NB, NS, PE)
- 11 Louie Hellard (FL)
- 12 Robin Chapelsky & Kurt Johnson, (CO-RDs) (AB, ID, MT)
- 13 Dave Strauss (CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)
- 14 Jane Kline (AL, GA, MS, TN)
- 15 Carle Lee Detweiler (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA)
- 16 Steve O'Donnell (N. CA)
- 16 TBD (S. CA)
- 17 Steve Corona (HI)
- 18 Stacy Smith (AK)
- 19 Dana Nichols (CO, NM, WY)
- 20 Paul Rioux (Eastern ON, Quebec)
- 21 Luke Montgomery (IA, KS, MO, NE)
- 22 Steve Corona (Newfoundland and Labrador)
- 23 Steve Corona (Puerto Rico)
- Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon - Steve Corona

Jon moved to approve the new RDs in R1 and R3. Dana seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

Lynda moved to approve the entire slate of RDs tendered by Steve. Kathy seconded. Emma abstained from voting for region 2 and Dana abstained from voting for region 19. The motion carried with no opposition.

Steve thanks both Dennis and Elizabeth for their years of service as Regional Directors.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Full reports will be given on a quarterly basis.

- There is about \$130,000 on the balance sheet.
- The 2022 tax return has been submitted and filed.
- A draft of new general ledger has been completed and needs to be implemented. Cindy will talk with Karen offline to accomplish this. Jayne noted we have Crystal Cappel available on the committee who can assist in this. Dana suggested asking Crystal and Dana Hanson to assist in report presentation.

#### Secretary's Report:

1. Minutes from the January 13th board meeting and January 14th AGM have been approved and published.
2. Standing and special committee assignments were approved by email.

#### Election Committee

Nothing to report.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### Judges Committee:

1. Jon moved to promote David Stockavas from apprentice to provisional. Dana seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried with no opposition.
2. There is another judge we are working with to get the proper paperwork to move from provisional to approved status.
3. Jon plans to schedule a judges Zoom meeting. On the agenda is how to program/reprogram the EJS.
4. We have some judges that have not submitted their certification on Laser Measuring.
5. The new C.9 which has a single checkmark for For Event Only is on the website.
6. A reminder regarding For Event Only designations has been sent out to judges and RDs.

## Rules Committee:

1. Proposed change to Section 4.2 on measuring to no longer require the dog to be entered to be measured.

The Committee became aware of a measuring issue. Dogs are currently required to be entered to be listed on the measuring sheet. Because measuring generally occurs before final timesheets are due, there was the potential for a dog to be measured and then scratched from a timesheet, thus invalidating the measurement. The Committee discussed the original reason for the rule and other possible ways of enforcing the current rule, including making the TD or RD responsible for double checking the timesheets with the measuring sheet before racing begins. The Committee agreed that these enforcement measures would cause far more work and perhaps delay racing. After consideration, the Committee unanimously agreed that removing the requirement that dogs be entered solved the issue with far less difficulty.

The proposed new language would be replacing Section 4.2 (a) with:

“A dog must be at least 15 months old and have a valid CRN to have its height recorded on the tournament Jump Height C.9 form.”

Dana moved to accept the recommendation of the rules committee Section 4.2 (a) effective March 7, 2023. Emma seconded.

Discussion: When will it become effective? Dana suggested it should be effective now. The current wording allows people to walk away from a measurement. Dogs could be measured multiple times as a competitor can take a dog off the timesheet if they don't like the measure. We were also allowing dogs listed as a 7th dog to be measured though we have no record of the dog being listed on the timesheet. Dana called the question.

The motion carried with no opposition.

For Publishing:

At the March 7, 2023 NAFA Board of Directors meeting, the following rule change was adopted and made effective immediately.

### Section 4.2

(a) “A dog must be at least 15 months old and have a valid CRN to have its height recorded on the tournament Jump Height C.9 form.”

This rule change eliminates the prior version of 4.2(a) which stated: “(a) A dog must be entered in the tournament in order to have its height recorded on the tournament Jump Height C.9 Form.”

Thus, this rule change eliminates the requirement that a dog be entered in a tournament or listed on a timesheet to be able to be measured. This rule change is effective immediately and will apply to all future tournaments.

2. Issues referred from the Judges Committee

The Rules Committee received several requested changes regarding rulebook clean up items. The Committee examined the rulebook and found the places where changes were needed.

a. Rulebook clean up - change ED references to gender neutral

page 56:

(g) Review Committee;

(vi) The committee shall review the packets and make one of three findings (by majority vote). They will report their findings to both the executive director or ~~his~~ their designate and the Board of Directors:

page 69:

Section 12. Quorum and Vote at Meetings. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a majority of the Directors in office shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the Board of Directors, duly called and at which a quorum is present, shall be sufficient to take and authorize action upon any matter which may properly come before the meeting, unless the concurrence of a greater proportion is required for such action by statute, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

Notwithstanding the preceding, the Executive Director may, in ~~his~~ their discretion, require the vote of at least three quarters (3/4) of the Directors in office to take or to authorize particular actions coming before the Board of Directors, except amendment of these Bylaws as provided in Article IX. The Executive Director shall exercise the authority to require such a vote on any particular action at any meeting at which ~~he~~ the Executive Director is present or by written notice given to the Chairperson by mail or electronic transmission at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting. If, at any meeting of the Board of Directors, there shall be less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting without further notice, until a quorum shall be present. Subsequently, at any adjourned meeting at which a quorum shall become present, any business may then be transacted at the meeting as originally notified. Directors may not vote by proxy.

page 70:

Section 1. Committees. In addition to the standing committees designated in this Article V (the "Standing Committees"), the Board of Directors may, by resolution, designate one (1) or more Committees of the Board which shall have such powers and duties as the Board of Directors may determine from time to time. Except as otherwise provided by statute, the Standing Committees shall have the powers and authority designated in this Article V and such additional powers and duties as the Board of Directors may determine from time to time. Each Standing Committee other than the Nominating Committee and each other Committee shall include at least one (1) Director. No Committee of the Board of Directors shall have the power to amend the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of the Corporation. Non-directors may be appointed to the membership of Committees other than the Executive Committee and the Disciplinary Committee. The Chairperson of the Board shall appoint the Committees with approval of the Board of Directors and serve as a voting member of all Committees, except the Nominating Committee and, in a year in which the Chairperson is a candidate, the Elections Committee. The Executive Director shall be privileged to attend and to participate without a vote in the meetings of all Committees of which ~~he~~ the Executive Director is not otherwise a member.

page 72:

Section 2. Election, Term of Office and Vacancies. Each officer of the Corporation other than the Executive Director shall be elected annually by vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors then in office and shall serve for one (1) year or until ~~his~~ the Executive Director's successor shall have been duly elected and qualified, or until ~~his~~ the Executive Director's death, resignation or removal from office in accordance with these Bylaws. The Executive Director shall serve for a three (3) year term. Vacancies in the positions of officers may be filled by vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors then in office. Officers elected to fill vacancies shall serve the remainder of the terms of their predecessor, except that the Board of Directors may provide for the election of an Executive Director by the

delegates in conjunction with a Board election held prior to the expiration of term of the former Executive Director. An Executive Director selected in such an election shall serve for a three (3) year term (and not for remaining portion of the term that became vacant).

b. Rulebook clean up - change wording in measuring section to "measuring official" instead of "judge"

Update C.22, the Breed Challenge Form to include the current NAFA address instead of the old Chicago address.

page 9:

Section 4.1 – Measuring Process

When and Where Measuring Takes Place

(a) Dogs shall be measured at events during times designated by the host club.

(b) The measurement area will be determined by the ~~judge measuring~~, measuring official, who shall select an appropriate Measuring Surface. A suitable raised Measuring Surface (such as a table) must be available for the measurement; the handler has the option of using the raised surface or the ground for the measurement.

(c) If the ~~judge~~ measuring official determines that an appropriate Measuring Surface or a NAFA Measuring Apparatus is not available, the NAFA Recorded Measurements shall be designated as 'For Event Only' on the C.9 Jump Heights Form

page 11:

(l) All attempts by same measuring official ~~judge~~. In cases where multiple measuring officials ~~judges~~ are measuring, if a competitor wishes to obtain more than one measurement, attempt, or combination thereof, all measurements/attempts must be with the same measuring official ~~judge~~

(b) A dog deemed to be "NOT MEASUREABLE" by the measuring official ~~judge~~, may not be the Height Dog.

(d) If a measuring official ~~judge~~ is concerned about any perceived conflict of interest, they shall submit a video recording of the measurement to NAFA for review.

(e) After the measuring process, defined in Section 4.1 – Measuring Process (CP&P), the lowest acceptable measurement for the dog, including fractions, as determined by the measuring shall be recorded by the regional director or designee and signed by the measuring official ~~judge~~. Each NAFA Jump Height Form (Form C.9) will reflect all measurements performed by an individual measuring official ~~judge~~ at an event. The regional director signs the C.9 as an acknowledgement of witnessing the measurement. A copy of the C.9 Form must be posted for view by the tournament participants

Forms C.7 and C.9 have already been updated to have the measuring official wording

Dana moved to make the changes effective with the new rulebook October 1, 2023. Lynda seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

3. Issue with conflicting measuring surfaces (table v. floor)

From Jonathan:

*After I sent out the email for the 'For Event Only'. I had a judge bring up an interesting situation.*

*They were able to level and get good measurements on the table, but when they went to the floor, they couldn't calibrate correctly. He made the one floor measurement 'For Event Only'.*

*After discussing with Steve, we decided that was the correct thing to do, and not to invalidate the table measurements. The rules committee needs to discuss this, since it is one event, but 2 different measuring surfaces.*

The Rules Committee agreed that this should be a rare occurrence. And the appropriate way to handle the situation was the way it was handled, with the judge consulting with the ED to have that specific situation addressed. Therefore, no rule change is recommended.

### 3. Request for rule change prohibiting or limiting food in the racing lane

The Rules Committee received two requests based on some issues at tournaments where food in the racing lane was distracting dogs.

*I would like to see a rule added that you can't place or feed treats in the racing lane jump area. The team warming up ahead of us was placing treats on the ground between jumps. When we got in the lane this caused several of our dogs to stop and sniff. Perhaps the rule could say no treats before the 20 foot mark.*

*Elizabeth Theesfeld  
and*

*I have a concern regarding recent issues at last 2 local tournaments in Minneapolis. In each of the last two tournaments, there have been dog treats dropped (accidentally I'm sure) in the racing lane likely during warmups. On one occasion my team when entering the lane to race had a member see them in the racing lane and picked them up. While this got them out of the lane during racing it didn't eliminate the smell left behind causing one of our dogs to stop during a live heat and sniff around. She had to be pulled from racing. This happened again to our team at the tournament this past weekend. Our team is hosting this month and I heard members saying they are going to say, no treats in the racing lane. I realize a lot of people use treats for run back but I'm concerned this is an ongoing problem. Many competing venues don't allow food in competition space for just this reason. I would like to see this addressed by the bod and consider how to deal with this recurring issue.*

*Thank you*

*Dan Rode.  
Happy Hurdlers.  
Former r3 RD.*

The Rules Committee considered the requests. Concern was raised about the difficulty of drafting a rule that would still allow competitors to utilize treats as rewards without creating difficulty in enforcement. For instance, if treats are prohibited in the racing lane area, would this prohibit a handler from entering the racing lane to do a runback during warm ups with treats in a treat bag or pocket. The Committee believed that it was a very common occurrence for handlers to use food as a reward in flyball and did not want to restrict the ability of handlers to use food, just like we allow dogs to run for toys or tugs. But, the Committee also acknowledged that food left in the racing lane could easily be a distraction for other dogs.

The suggestion was, rather than try to draft a rule, that the situation could be dealt with by the judge on a case-by-case basis. If something distracting, such as food, is left in the racing ring, the judge can stop racing, have it cleaned up and re-run the heat. The judge can give extra time for clean up in the racing lane. And, if one team is consistently causing delays due to dropped food, the Regional Director or judge could address that issue specifically with that team and request they clean up any food that is dropped during warm-up, including using cleaning solution.

#### Finance Committee:

Report included with Treasurer's Report

#### Nominating Committee:

Nothing to report.

#### Marketing Committee:

1. At the January board meeting, the 30-year participant pin was reviewed. The rendition of the 30-year pin looked a little different from the photo of the 25-year pin we had. Quality Pin has verified that it is the same coloring as previous pins.
2. We are going to be ordering the 40,000 and 50,000 point multibreed pins. Emma updated all the procedures and reports that have to do with two new MB titles. There are 18 dogs that have received MB40K and five that have received MB50K. It does appear that a large stock of these pins will not be required because looking at the CRNs and birthdates, a lot of these dogs are deceased.

Discussion: Dana: Who gives out the competitor pins? RDs.

A new order needs to be put in. We have not ordered new pins since the initial order was made. RDs should have the pins available and can hand them out.

Meagan suggested Annie make an order form for RDs as she did with the championship plaques.

Discussion followed about inventorying what is out there for competitor pins and how to determine how many should be ordered.

Meagan asked if Steve would be having RD meetings throughout the year. That may be a good forum to talk about the participant pins.

Jon says judge's pins have been distributed. They have been well received. Jon thinks all judges have received their pin. These are judge tenure pins for approved judges and for 5-year, 10-year etc. Steve will discuss pin distribution with Annie.

The board took a recess at 7:33 pm.

The board reconvened at 7:44 pm.

#### Disciplinary Committee

Jayne took the board into executive session at 7:44 pm.

The board left executive session at 8:09 pm.

The board discussed a request by Bonnie Szoka to be reinstated. The board will give her the opportunity to appear at the next board meeting to consider her request.

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date
Terry Griffin	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	09/21/2022
Bonnie Szoka	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	05/01/2020
Grizzly, 160097	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Preacher, 140875	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Snickers, 150646	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Strut, 110221	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Whisper, 110704	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Prank, 140408	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Ripple, 120746	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Daisy, 120612	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Envy, 120477	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Scout, 110222	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Torch, 100047	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Zonda, 090536	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Style, 090142	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
Tonka, 080349	Suspension	Administrative excusal	05/01/2020
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

Dogs over 15 years in age have been removed from the Disciplinary Report

- Review Panel
  - a. Matrix, CRN 110357 aggression excusal
    - i. Accepted - Steve recused himself. Dana stepped in to replace him.
  - b. Veeta, CRN 210375 aggression excusal
    - i. Accepted - Jon recused himself. Dana stepped in to replace him.
  - c. Wilson, CRN 230079 aggression excusal
    - i. Accepted

### **Special Committee Reports:**

#### Technology Committee:

##### 1. Heat Tracker Update

- Steve has approved the purchase of seven new heat trackers for CanAm. Dave Thomas has been working on the new heat trackers. He is also researching and updating us on current pricing, about \$200/tracker.
- He's changed the way they are designed so we can hook a display to the heat tracker to show the race number and will have remote controls. Some board members saw it in Ocala. You can change the background color to match the ring it will be used in.
- Jon went into more detail about the specifics of how they will work and deal with ties. The design will be for custom remotes for these heat trackers, Jon will be working with Dave on the design.
- We have 3-4 possible sales of the old heat trackers. The original price was \$500. The sale price will be \$300 and will include the case, heat tracker, remote and stand. Jayne mentioned that we need to open this up to all and then draw names of those interested. Cindy, agreed and noted it should go up on NAFA News, Facebook and the website.

2. Need to get a meeting with the finance committee and technology committee to talk about the progression of the EJS.

3. Dana noted that the light trees are no longer charging. They need to be plugged in all the time. Jon advised that you could use a Ryobi inverter and plug it in. This would be a good idea for a blog topic.

4. Meagan: How is the NAFA new website going?

Emma: The CanAm website was started first because it is a smaller website and to get feedback on it. The NAFA website will probably take about a year to get finished. Meagan: Will the NAFA CanAm Website be done?

Emma: Once it's in WordPress it will be very easy to update.

Cindy: Leerie is looking to get the CanAm website up soon.

Discussion ensued about the complexity of the current NAFA website and how to maintain it along with working on a new site.

#### Communications Committee:

##### 1. Social Media Update

NAFA has a TikTok account! NAFAFlyball

Cindy: Branding NAFA Flyball and getting more social media presence. Cindy will work with Lynda to get a joint committee meeting set up regarding the brand and use of social media. This will be particularly useful when working with CanAm vendors.

#### CanAm Steering Committee:

##### 1. CanAm Dates

October 20-22, 2023

October 11-13, 2024

##### 2. Building updates

Planning a site visit in May to see the Fall Creek Pavilion. The championships will be in the coliseum.

2024 building has not yet been determined.

3. CanAm 2023 judges have been selected and several have already accepted their invitations. CanAm judges will be introduced as a group once all invitations have been returned.

#### Invitational Selection Committee:

Covered earlier

#### NAFA Blog Committee:

1. The committee wants to get six articles out this year. Topics to include.

A discussion about rules which would be of interest to judges.

Using social media to promote the sport.

#### Old Business:

#### New Business:

Dana moved to adjourn the meeting. Jon seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.