

## Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, September 5, 2022

Held via Zoom Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Emily-Rose Allred  
Jonathan Bescher  
Cindy Henderson  
Leerie Jenkins  
Meagan Langs  
Lynda Mantler  
Jayne McQuillen

Unable to attend: Emma Mak, Kathy Haney

Executive Director: Neil Flood  
Recorder: Karen Oleson

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm CST.

### Chair's Comments:

Jayne thanked everyone for attending.

1. AGM virtual or in person – Cost is a concern.  
An in-person AGM will cost in the \$13,000-\$15,000 range.
  - It's nice to see the board in person, however, an in-person AGM is not a lot of bang for your buck.
  - An option could be to have an in-person meeting at another time of year. Perhaps the rules meeting in fall would be a good choice as there is a lot of involved discussion that takes place.
  - Our bank balance looks more positive, however, we have held back on EJS development.
  - Jon suggested we hold the AGM virtually. Meagan agreed.

Kathy Haney joined the meeting at 6:11 pm.

Board members will need to commit a full day to the meeting prior to the AGM.

2. BOD Member Participation  
Reminder to stay up to date with emails and participate. Don't feel foolish for asking questions.
3. 30" Wide Jumps
  - Does anything need to be done with this? Right now, either 24" or 30" inside width jumps can be used.
  - Are there stats on how many clubs are using 30"? No.
  - It is assumed that the jumps are 24" unless there is a note in sanctioning.
  - Clubs are assuming that people know the jumps will be 30"
  - Cindy - Maybe just need to change the sanctioning form to indicate which jump width is being used.
  - Neil - Let's get a CanAm under us and let the new board discuss. It really hasn't been that long since 30" bases were allowed.
  - Meagan - If we make a decision now, then we might suffer repercussion.
  - General discussion supported that the sanctioning form should show 24" or 30" jumps
  - Lynda had suggested it go to a delegate vote and noted that competitors she speaks with think that it is changing to 30" at some point.
  - Leerie noted that it will add \$1500 to our voting bill.
  - A comment period of three months is also required before a delegate vote so, at this time, it is too late to put on the ballot for this year.
  - Jayne and Emily agreed that there were a lot of broken slats at first, however, now it is not as much of an issue.
  - Kathy - Many competitors are not aware how wide the jumps are, others prefer 30". Most people in her area just want to play flyball; they don't care about how wide the jumps are.
  - The request to update the sanctioning form will be tabled until Emma/Gord can be consulted.

#### Executive Director's Comments:

1. Double points for tournaments straddling December 31-January 1  
Would like the board to approve allowing double-points for events on January 1, 2023.  
The board showed support for this.
2. Request from competitors in areas that didn't start racing until mid-2022 to extend double points (see attached letter)  
Neil would like to know if the board is willing to extend the point increase.

Leerie moved to extend double points through June 26, 2023. Cindy seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

3. Guidelines for establishing an Invitational Selection Committee (see attached letter)  
We had a fantastic reception from the AKC event in May. We were given a 6-week heads up and managed to get it pulled together. We were able to get 8 clubs to come and compete as well as help from board members and friends. Neil would like to be more thoughtful about how we approach this in coming years.
  - 1) Selection Committee (see outline) 4 people in addition to the ED. Criteria/outline
  - 2) More of an informal organizing committee to plan it and execute the work.

Cindy moved that the ED creates an AKC Invitational Selection committee made up of board and non-board members. Seconded by Leerie.

Discussion:

- Meagan suggested adding an “alternate” member to take the place of a member that might have a conflict of interest. It is noted that the board would have final approval on who is on the committee.
- Cindy – Great idea and in favor of creating these committees.
- Jayne – likes an April date.

The motion carried with no opposition.

4. Report on Multiple Measuring Stations  
Due to the volume of dogs being measured in the near future, host clubs can offer more than one measuring station.
5. Invitational Updates  
AKC had a number of venues in Nashville. They are refining dates and continue to look for venues in the west. Looking at an April date. Would like the date set prior to the AGM.
6. RD Updates
  - a. Region 21 – Jayne has been RD for about 11 years. Her team mate, Luke Montgomery has been a co-RD with her for the past six months.

Leerie moved to approve Luke Montgomery as Region 21 RD. Jon seconded.  
Motion carried with no opposition.

- b. Region 12 - John Hendriks reached out to Neil and would like to step down as RD. There are two people that would like to co-RD in his place. Kurt Johnson and Robin Chapelsky

Jon moved to approve Kurt Johnson and Robin Chapelsky as co-RDs. Leerie seconded.  
Motion carried with no opposition.

- c. Region 7 – Had co-RDs when the border was closed. Neil wants to know if that should continue. Lynda feels that Dan Wood would be happy to have co-RDs. She's not sure that it is necessary though and suggested that Neil speak to Dan about it. She noted that she and Dan work well together and that Dan has appointed her as RD when he is unable to attend an event. Neil will follow up with Dan.
- d. Region 6 – Meagan will be stepping down. Jeff Wright has been cross training with Meagan. He is also a judge. Neil thanked Meagan for all the work she's done. Would like to switch from Meagan to Jeff on October 1, 2022.

Kathy moved to approve Jeff Wright as Region 6 RD. Leerie seconded.  
Motion carried with no opposition.

Again, a huge thanks to all of our RDs who really keep the sport moving!

#### 7. CanAm updates

- We are using the Expo Hall south of Hooks Drug Store for the AKC/Championship rings.
- We will run 3 rings on Friday and 5 rings on Saturday and Sunday.
- Waiting for final approval on seeding.
- Awards are moving along.
- Budget – We have division sponsors, vendors and high-level sponsors. We have fixed costs such as ring expenses and judges. Lynda noted that having no box judges is going to save a lot of money. The preference is always to have flyball people working in the rings.
- We are looking to reduce our reliance on Total Event Services. We will keep their services for hospitality.
- Trying to plan out future years. They are re-doing the Swine Pavilion which is going to be the Fall Creek Pavilion. That is an option for future years. Next year and the year after we may need to move the dates to later in October. Next year there is a large event before our usual weekend and we would not get in until Thursday morning.

#### 8. Judge/Competitor Issue

Neil asked Jayne to take the board into executive session.  
Jayne moved the board into executive session at 7:21 pm.

The board exited executive session at 7:32 pm.

The board was made aware of a situation where there was a conflict between a judge and a competitor at a tournament which has been addressed by Neil, Jayne and Jon.

#### 9. Measuring Issues

Jayne moved the board into executive session at 7:32 pm.

The board exited executive session at 7:47 pm.

The board was made aware of a measuring situation in Region 9. Neil has resolved the issue.

The board took a recess at 7:47 pm.

The board was called back into session at 7:57 pm.

### Treasurer's Report:

1. Update on CanAm sponsors and vendors
  - We have 4 bronze/silver level sponsors
  - We have 2 division sponsors
  - 18 vendors confirmed
  - 7 additional potential vendors -1 being Rogue
  - Only 2 vendors have declined
  - 10 vendors have not responded and Cindy will reach back out to them.
  - Feedback from Rogue was concern about the number of sales from last year and concern about the return on investment.
  - YUMOVE – Sponsor and official joint supplement of AKC. They are interested in learning more about NAFA.
  - Lynda asked for a refresher on the sponsorship levels. Chairman's, Gold, Silver, Bronze ranging from \$500-\$8000. These are now listed on the website.
  
2. Product Endorsement: The owner of Rogue Pet Science asked if NAFA would be willing to 'endorse' or 'approve' their product. They feel it would improve their sales.  
Discussion:
  - Is the board open to having an official joint supplement etc.?
  - While considering this, we should also keep in mind that YUMOVE may also be a sponsor and could request endorsement or ask to be the 'official' joint supplement supplier.
  - Rogue did not appear like a vendor that was selling product at the 2021 CanAm. It seemed like their presence was more informational.
  - There is an advantage to having them be an official joint supplement rather than endorsing the product. There was comment that endorsing a product means we have used the product and believe in it while being an official supplier means they are paying for sponsorship.
  - Being an official supplier would buy exclusivity for their type of product.
  - While it is too late to put this in place for CanAm 2022, it is something to consider for next year.
  - Any ideas for vendors, or sponsors should be given to Cindy.
  
3. Detailed financial report

- 2022 Profit and Loss statement through September 5, 2022 shows a small profit of approximately \$34k
- Total liabilities and equity of the organization comes in at \$251k
- Shipping of EJS continues to be a large expense.
- CRN purchases are large compared to the prior few years.
- The cost of awards continues to be more than normal due to double points resulting in additional titles being earned.
- Our relationship with AKC and ESPN could definitely benefit us financially in the long run.
- A new general ledger mapping of accounts continues and will result in cleaner looking statements.

### Judges Committee:

1. Waiving requirement of number of tournaments for FY22

Some regions have not had many events. There have not been opportunities for some judges to get one or two events.

Jon moved to waive all judging requirements for FY 2022. Leerie seconded.

#### Discussion:

- There are five or six judges that haven't had enough events in their areas.
- Several judges have retired; Jim Spitsna, Lyndsay Dvorak, Todd Morningstar, Todd Heineman.
- Cindy asked Jon to clarify if ALL requirements were to be waived, Jon - yes.
- What about those who are not certified to measure? All supervising judges continuing on to 2023 are certified on the laser. Ten of 40 approved judges are not approved for laser measuring. Of the ten, two are not likely to continue judging.

Motion carried with no opposition.

2. Changing the requirements for a Novice Judge (Getting rid of box judging requirement) Since box judges are optional, should we remove the requirement for the Novice Judge to box judge? In order for them to get their 25 races in, they have to find someone else to box judge on the other side, and they have to occur within the same division.

Jon moved to remove the Box Judging requirement for the Novice Judges and add an additional observation assignment of an approved or supervising judge as well as following what the RD does leading up to and at a tournament. Cindy seconded.

Discussion: Neil mentioned that until the rulebook no longer requires box judges, judges should be trained to be box judges.

Jon withdrew the motion.

Jon moved to change the Box Judging requirement for the Novice Judges from 25 to 10 races. Cindy seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.

3. COI review of dog's measurements (Sent to rules committee)

4. Limited tournaments = limited dogs able to measure

Jon moves to allow any dog from a region to be measured at a limited event for which a team was excluded due the draw, even if the dog is not listed on a C.2 for the event.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

5. Alex Zdanowski - Provisional to Approved Status

Jon moved to advance Alex Zdanowski from Provisional to Approved status as recommended by the judges committee.

Leerie seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.

Jon moved to adjourn the meeting. Meagan seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Letter from Joy Adiletta

*Double Points in Region 7*

*The era of double points in response to COVID is likely going to end at the end of 2022 (or so I've heard), and I would like you to propose an extension for Region 7 to the board of directors. This double points was my idea in the first place, and Region 7 was completely unable to take advantage of it for a full year after other regions were able to do so. Open travel across the border wasn't possible until April 2022, so even the two early 2022 tournaments were not truly available to everyone in the region due to the high-cost time-sensitive COVID testing required to enter Canada.*

*According to my records, Region 7 had an average of 11 NAFA tournaments per NAFA racing year between 2016 and 2019. In 2020, ten total tournaments were planned during the racing year, and only 4 happened with the US-Canada border closing on March 10, 2020 (immediately after the Kings tournament) and not opening until November 8, 2021 with testing restrictions and not opening fully until April 1, 2022. That is two full years that Region 7 could not hold tournaments due to the border closure, which is an overall missed potential 22 tournaments. That's a lot of missed titles, missed times, and many dogs unfortunately passed or aged out in that two-year gap.*

*A quick check of a few regions in NAFA shows that most regions started hosting tournaments again between April and June of 2021, a full year before Region 7 was able to do the same. That means if double points end on December 31 2022, that Region 7 has had the ability to host tournaments with this bonus for eight months while the rest of NAFA has had the ability to do so for 20 months. This is not remotely fair, especially given how isolated we are in our region, without other opportunities for flyball without driving (or flying) at least 1000 miles each way. The extended closure in Region 7 has also had the effect (as you well know) of causing multiple clubs to close down or consolidate, further limiting the ability of clubs to be able to host tournaments. It will likely take a couple of years to build back out to the regular hosting level that we enjoyed prior to the pandemic, unfortunately.*

*I would like to propose to the board that Region 7 tournaments are allowed to earn double points through at least December 31, 2023. I'd prefer it to be until we have been able to host at least 15 tournaments in our region (after the full border opening in April 2022), but I realize that the board may not wish to go with an open-ended request like that. If the board wants to limit this to Region 7 teams, that's fine with me, although honestly if other clubs are willing to make the 1000+ mile journey to one of our tournaments, then I think they've earned double points - and that extra demand might help kickstart our region's racing again.*

*-Joy*



1. Establishing an Invitational Selection Committee

*Establishing an Invitational Selection Committee*

*NAFA just completed it's first made-for-TV invitational in partnership with AKC and broadcast by ESPN. While the last went off well, it was hastily put together in a mere 6 weeks. As we look to the future, we would like to be more planful and create an experience that our competitors continue to enjoy. We were relatively fortunate that it went as well as it did, and we got 8 competitive teams, on such short notice. I have 2 proposals for the Board of Directors.*

1) *The creation of an Invitational Selection Committee. The Executive Director would chair the committee and propose 4 additional members for the committee. The Board of Directors would approve the membership of the committee. The committee would be a mix of Board member and non-board members. I would advise that the committee not contain more than 2 Board members. Consideration should be made in attempting to selecting members that will not have a perceived to have a Conflict of Interest.*

*When selecting teams to invite for the invitational, the committee shall consider the following criteria:*

- A. NAFA Standing (i.e. the club must be in good standing with NAFA)*
- B. The club exhibits good sportsmanship and strives for peak performance. The club would be a good ambassador for the sport of Flyball and NAFA, and the committee feels comfortable putting them on a broadcast to a wide ranging audience.*
- C. NAFA Championship Standings and Performance*
- D. Regional Standings and Performance*
- E. CanAm Performance*
- F. Regional and national diversity*
- G. Cost for reimbursement (i.e. be cautious of selecting 2-3 teams from Region 7 for an event in Region 11)*

*I am suggesting the Committee apply the above logic, in roughly the order listed above – certainly 1 & 2 are nonnegotiable. I would advise they use the above list as guiding principles, and not any hard and fast rules. The Board of Directors will empower the group to make the selection and extend the invitations. If teams from the initial invite list decline the event, the committee should be prepared with alternative candidates. The committee should be very cognizant, when inviting alternates, to consider points F & G above. While teams from the same area or region may be invited, the committee should*

*strive to get representation from different areas as costs and acceptance of invites allows.*

2) *The second proposal is for the Executive Director to assemble an informal committee, that they would lead, akin to the CanAm Organizing Committee to do the organization and execution of the Invitational event(s). Membership of this committee would be at the discretion of the Executive Director. The organizing committee could be a mix of Board and Non-Board members. The purpose of the committee would be to assist the Executive Director with creating a successful show. Roles to consider are:*

- a. Judges – lineup Head, Line, EJS and Box judges for the event*
- b. Equipment – procure equipment, such as mats, jumps etc for the event*
- c. Communications – both with teams, and external/social communications*
- d. Setup and Teardown*
- e. Camping and Hotel arrangements*
- f. Scoring and Tournament format planning*
- g. Financial planning/budgeting*

*These are just a few roles for the Executive Director to consider, there could be more.*