

Minutes NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, July 23, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Central Time

Held by Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Board Members:

Jayne McQuillen, Chair: (2024-2026)
Emily-Rose Allred, Vice Chair: (2022-2024)
Meagan Langs, Secretary: (2022-2024)
Cindy Henderson, Treasurer: (2023-2025)
Jonathan Bescher (2023-2025)
Kathy Haney (2022-2024)
Leerie Jenkins (2024-2026)
Paula Johnson (2024-2026)
Dana Nichols (2023-2025)

Executive Director:

Steve Corona (2023-2025)

Guest:

Karen Oleson

Jayne called the meeting to order at: 6:07 p.m. All present except for Cindy Henderson.

Officer's Report:

Chair's (Jayne McQuillen) Comments:

1. Boarder Rule Crossing Update for Canada and the US
 - The border rule crossing has changed from being super restrictive to more open and lenient with dogs crossing between the US and Canada. Some Canadian teams decided not to attend CanAm while the restrictions were in place. However now it is less restrictive and, in some cases, easier to cross than before the restrictions were put into place. Hopefully the change in the restrictions will convince more clubs and teams to attend CanAm. Jayne sent border impact statements to multiple politicians and the head of homeland security regarding the issue while the restrictions were in place, hopefully those statements helped.
 - Emily said the CDC did an infographic which was helpful and more understandable. Now dogs can cross without a microchip number and rabies shot.
 - Paula has done a test run on the new form she fills out when traveling from Canada to US and nothing on the online form asks for a microchip number, and they no longer ask for rabies information. The dog needs to appear healthy.
 - Jonathan and Emily stated when they came back into the US from Canada recently, they had easy crossings and did not have to show paperwork or answer questions about their dogs other than to say, they had dogs with them.

Executive Director's (Steve Corona) Comments:

1. CanAm Update
 - We have a signed contract with fairgrounds this year and a deposit has been paid for this year's CanAm.

- We usually sign a contract for three years out for CanAm venue. We have not met to discuss future CanAm dates and years. We want to get back to the former building. We are still working on scheduling that meeting with the fairgrounds.
 - Dave Thomas is working with the fairgrounds onsite company, Tupelo Honey to streamline the process of getting split times to the trailer and reduce the number of EJS's that we need in the main building. Jonathan Bescher had a call with them.
 - Jonathan stated they have a plan and will have it worked out a month prior vs the night or day before. They are also looking to possibly buy a light tree which will help with the testing purposes and help for CanAm and the invitationals. That will go through Tom Cavanagh and eventually to Bill Ellis. Dave and the programmer guys have already started the conversation about having the device hard wired rather than using Wi-Fi for the ESPN signal which will help with transmission. This will also help cut down the need for extra EJS and light tree for the championship ring.
2. Update on Sponsor questions for CanAm
 - We have three event sponsors and two divisional sponsors.
 - We have a call with Darwin Pet Food and want to talk about a major role working with NAFA. Possibly want to be the Official brand for NAFA. That conversation is coming up on Thursday.
 - We are waiting to hear from Yumove. They have had internal changes, so we aren't sure where they are at with participation this year. Cindy Henderson is working with them. We hope they will want to be a major donor this year.
 - We have ten vendors signed up for CanAm this year. Cindy believes that we will get twenty vendors eventually. All vendors other than Ruffland Kennels want to be on the first floor this year.
 3. On the awards and swag side we had meeting to review Shari's process and documents regarding her process. Shari will do the ordering and Kathy Haney and Erika Heine will help on site with getting everything in place and coordinated.
 4. We are working with the fairgrounds and that continues to go well. We will have another call with the venue regarding the minutia after Labor Day. We have a good supply of help with everything.
 5. Lynda Mantler will once again coordinate our volunteers this year. She has done a fantastic job with that in the past. Her club is not coming.
 6. Some of our board members received feedback concerning Tractor Supply company regarding their DEI positioning. Which also caused some concern for board members. Tractor Supply is partnered with ESPN, which we do not have control over. NAFA does not decide who ESPN partners with. Tractor Supply is not really a sponsor of AKC. They will have limited signage in the championship ring this year and limited space.
 7. Additional building. We have an extra building. We are not being charged for the extra building and there is no building rental fee. There are little expenses that we may be charged for the use of that building. We are looking to use that building as storage.
 8. Karen and Dale have been working on new reporting for results, so we will need less space for the results tables than we have had in the past.

9. Our goal is to keep most people will be in Fall Creek Pavilion unless we have a huge number of entries. If we end up using the other building for crating, then our fees will go up and we may need to shuffle people around.

Treasurer's Report-

Jayne stated that Cindy Henderson is not here, but that she did say she needs to get together with the Finance Committee to go over some things and hopefully we will have a report soon.

Secretary's Report-

Meagan submitted the minutes from our last board meeting, and they were approved and posted.

Election Committee-

Nothing to report, nominations open on August 1, 2024, and Jayne did check with Leerie to be sure our technology was ready to go, and she will be following up with the committee members regarding the nominations that come in.

Standing Committee Reports:

Judges Committee (Jonathan Bescher) Report-

1. Lucy Meyo

Jonathan moved to promote her from provisional to approved status. Leerie seconds. Discussion: The judges committee offered a unanimous recommendation. Emily stated she has raced under her, and she did a lovely job.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Jason Baldron

Jonathan moved to promote Jason from apprentice to provisional status. Paula seconds. Discussion: The judges committee offered a unanimous recommendation.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. John Forseth

Jonathan moved to promote John from approved to supervision status. Leerie Seconds Discussion: Dana stated there was a lot of positive feedback for him publicly and the Judges Committee had a good call¹ with him.

Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session 6:27 p.m.

The board left executive session at 6:59 p.m.

4. During the Executive Session the board discussed multiple judges' packets for promotion.
 - Jonathan reported that the Judges committee did not recommend advancing Peter Guidolin's application after the public commenting period.

¹ Jayne, Steve C., Dana, Paula, Leerie, and Johnathan participated on the call from the Judges committee with John Forseth).

- The board also discussed that all judges need to provide a complete, organized and up to date packet when submitting applications for advancement.
- The board discussed the need for judges and regional directors to communicate effectively with each other.

Rules Committee (Dana Nichols) Report-

Request from Karen Oleson

1. Section 7.4-Changing Clubs requests clarifying that the 87-day rule applies only to Regular and Multibreed classes.
 - Dana moved to add the additional language to make the language clearer regarding the 87-day rule. Jonathan seconds.
 - Discussion: Language that Rules committee recommends: If the dogs earn points in the regular or multi-breed class with a NAFA club in a NAFA sanctioned tournament, the dog may not be listed on a timesheet with a different NAFA club in the regular or multi-breed class for a period of 87 days. This is not a rule change, the rule book currently already covers this, we are just changing the language for clarification purposes.
 - Leerie-asked if this would affect the non-regular classes for CanAm. Dana-stated it wouldn't change how things were being done at CanAm and that that the CanAm rules are different and can be addressed in the CanAm listed rules.
 - Dana will review the rule book to look for antiquated language and additional formatting issues. Dana will work with the rules committee and/or Katie to update and review the rulebook. The rule book will be provided to the board for final approval. The deadline to submit for next racing year's rule book is 10/01/24.

The motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Henderson joined the meeting several minutes ago at 5:09 p.m.

2. We had a question about how old a dog must be to obtain a measurement, but we don't need to make a change on our rulebook language because we have the correct language under Section 4 2 it says a dog must be 15 months old to have a CRN.
3. Remove height card fee information from Appendix A Schedule of Fees.
 - This was an oversight and should be removed. No motion is needed because the change has already occurred.

Finance Committee (Cindy Henderson) Report-

We have started working on a budget for next year. The budget will be a model for next year. The committee has had difficulty meeting but hopes to start the year with a new budget. They are working on it.

Nominating Committee

Nothing to report.

Marketing Committee (Paula Johnson) Report-

1. We have received some submissions for T-Shirts and Junior Participant Pins. Leerie helped Paula make sure she received all the submissions because some of them came in and were quarantined because of the file size.
2. I have spoken to Lynda Mantler regarding the launch of the NAFA online store and she has been going back and forth with the company we are hoping to use and haven't been able to connect regarding the launch.
3. The CanAm T-shirts and Junior participant pins deadline has been extended to September 25, 2024, and a post will go out to remind everyone.
4. Emma Hamilton has put together a "Brand Tool Kit" to help with organizing and make a cohesive look for social media posts on Facebook and Instagram. She has volunteered to help NAFA with its social media communications. Paula showed the board Emma's proposed tool kit.
 - The goal is to set the "Brand Took Kit" up in our Meta Business Suite to help us make our posts more cohesive.
 - 2nd step is that we submit items that need to be posted and then they can be checked to be sure they meet the NAFA brand standard. We will have to plan posts ahead, but it will help so we are not all posting on the same day.
 - Multiple board members discussed their support for Emma to continue her efforts and are excited to hear her ideas.

Disciplinary Committee (Jayne McQuillen) Report-

Nothing to report.

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date
Terry Griffin	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	09/21/2022
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
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 (Jayne McQuillen) Report-

We had one aggression excusal.

Special Committee Reports:

Technology Committee (Jonathan Bescher) Report-

1. We had questions regarding permanent vs temporary measurements not showing up correctly for certain dogs. There was an issue with the website code, however that is currently

being fixed and corrected. We have been working on updating the website with correct temporary/permanent measurement status and are nearly done. It is a good thing that this was caught.

2. Update on Light Curtains which is the pole being used by Dave Thomas until he took July off to go to Montana. He has found the right stuff to do it and does some testing. He is trying to get some stuff ready for CanAm, so we don't have to use multiple EJSs, and he is working on it.

COI Committee-

Nothing to report.

CanAm Steering Committee-

Nothing to report other than what was provided in Steve Corona's report.

Invitational Selection Committee-

Nothing to report.

Jayne declared the board would break at approximately 7:40 p.m.

The meeting resumed at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Junior Participants Committee (Paula Johnson) Report-

1. We post a form for people to submit for the Junior Participant Spotlight-we have ten submissions already. The committee will meet and discuss how to highlight. We may want to submit it every two weeks and Emma will submit a template. It is my hope that we eventually connect this to the NAFA website at some point.
2. We have not yet moved forward with a proposal to allow junior participants a way to earn points toward various titles or awards over the length of their career as a junior, but it is on my to-do list.

40th Anniversary Committee (Meagan Langs) Report-

1. 40 Anniversary Photo Booth at CanAm (Cindy where to put the photo booth).
2. Pictures are coming in for NAFA video/memorabilia. We will send out reminders through Facebook for people to submit by the end of August.
3. Social Mixer at CanAm Update, survey had most people stating the social mixer would be Friday Night. If we do have the social mixer on Friday night, then the vendors could be involved. We need a huge cake. Emily is willing to help with the Social Mixer. Paula will bake cookies for all the Junior Participants.

New Business (Everyone):

1. It was suggested that perhaps Darwin dog food would want to sponsor the Friday Night Mixer by providing a cake? Or perhaps another vendor would want to step up to do this?
2. Junior Participants are going to have ice cream, cookies and t-shirts etc.

3. Photobooth should be coordinated with Cindy Henderson on location and Cindy will provide a frame, title props for dogs.

Scott Quinter's Letter (Led by Jayne McQuillen):

1. Everyone had an opportunity to comment on the letter through email.
2. Line Judges Missing Dropped Balls:
Most board members believe there should not be a certification for line judges. It seemed the letter indicated most of the errors missed were missed balls. At CanAm we use the APES so that helps at CanAm.
 - Paula Johnson explained that judges should remember to tell line judges it depends when the dog lets go of the ball and not where the ball hits as it is coming over the start/finish line. The dog needs to have the ball in their mouth as they come over the line.
 - NAFA had videos that are older that show how to line judge, and those videos may need to be updated now that many teams are no longer using box judges.
 - i. Leerie showed the link to the line and box judges. Leerie points out that some of the rules have changed since these videos were done.
 - ii. Paulas suggests that we either highlight the training videos we currently have, or we should update these videos to make them more relevant.
 - iii. Jonathan states that Amanda Brown used to have laminated directions for line judges, so they knew what to do.
 - iv. Emily suggests that an email goes out to all the current judges to be helpful and informative to new line judges.
 - v. Steve suggests that the judge should also bring this issue up at Captain Meetings before the tournament. Tournament directors should also be reminded to help train the line judges for tournaments.
 - Meagan asks that this new business be moved to a committee, or we stop discussing. Leerie agrees, then states the board provided this and emailed everyone, everyone has expressed that a rule didn't need to be changed. Dana offered and will draft a response to Scott.
3. Practice Starts:
 - Discussion followed regarding the overuse of practice starts. However, many board members believe the majority of flyball competitors are using the practice starts in a positive way and it has helped many dogs learn. The board members suggested that judges and tournament directors should address the overuse of practice starts at captain's meetings and provide reminders in the Welcome Letters prior to the racing day to cut down the use of needless practice starts.

Jonathan moved to adjourn; Meagan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.