

**August 10, 2005**

**Detroit, Michigan**

**Highlights from the meeting of the NAFA Board of Directors – July 30, 2005**

The NAFA Board of Directors met at the Marriott Hotel in Romulus, MI on July 30 to review several issues. Following are the highlights of that meeting. Abridged minutes will be available on request when complete and approved by the board of directors.

**Breed Specific Legislation Issues**

**Ontario**

NAFA is very pleased to announce that the province of Ontario has granted an exemption to NAFA from the limitations placed on "pit bulls" as defined by the Dog Owners Liability Act. This will allow restricted breeds, currently racing to continue to enjoy the sport of Flyball in Ontario. For Ontario resident dogs, the exemption is a grandfathered one - the dog must have participated on or before August 29, 2005 in a NAFA sanctioned event for the exemption to apply. For non-Ontario resident dogs, the exemption remains open to future dogs, so long as they have participated in a NAFA sanctioned event within the year preceding their entry into Ontario.

The August 29 date presents a problem for Ontario-resident dogs in training who are not yet ready to compete by August 29 but who wish to continue their participation in Flyball. The board proposed a number of ideas to fulfill the limitations set forth within the legislation and sent the concept to the rules committee for research. The committee will contact the Ontario Government to determine what might be established to fulfill the legislation's requirements while allowing these dogs to continue in flyball. A proposal will be presented to the board at a teleconference within 10 days.

The full text of the exemption is available at

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Source/Regs/English/2005/R05434\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Source/Regs/English/2005/R05434_e.htm)

Non-resident flyball dogs affected by the legislation will need to obtain documentation when traveling to Ontario, detailing the event being attended, the dog's CRN etc. to satisfy non-residency requirements. NAFA will create an email process to facilitate this documentation for competitors from outside of Ontario. Competitors will email a form to a specific email address that will collect the data and respond with your "permit" to attend the event. Ontario-resident flyball dogs will not need to use the system as they have an Ontario address. All "pit bulls" will need to respect the muzzle requirement of the laws when traveling to events.

A legal challenge to defeat the entire restrictive BSL component of the DOLA is being organized by the Banned Aid Coalition and other groups, and is expected to be launched in early September.

## **Texas**

An enthusiastic group of volunteers met with key legislators in Austin, Texas this summer and was able to overturn the lobby for BSL being presented to a planning committee. Well done Texas!

## **Denver**

Denver continues to fight against BSL impositions, but the entrenched law is proving difficult.

## **NAFA Web Site**

One of NAFA's web sites was destroyed through malicious actions and will be replaced by a more corporate, announcement-based format. A volunteer, employed in the industry, is creating the new format, with its planned return in early September. The board expresses its gratitude for the patience shown by the Flyball community during this disruption, although critical information remains available on the temporary site at [www.flyball.org](http://www.flyball.org). Any inquiries can always be addressed to [flyball@flyball.org](mailto:flyball@flyball.org). It is also worth noting that the NAFA database site was not affected by this incident and no personal information was compromised as a result.

## **Regional Championship Rule**

The board clarified the formula for deciding how many events count toward a club's regional championship race beginning in the 2006 racing year. A two-tier system will be introduced where regions with seven or less racing weeks will count each event while in busier regions, clubs will count their best performance on a maximum of 80% of the racing weeks to a maximum of 10 events. A racing week has been defined as the week from Wednesday through to the following Tuesday.

## **Region Assignment**

Beginning Oct. 1, 2006, clubs will be able to choose the region that they would like to call "home" through a simple declaration made before the start of the racing year. For many clubs, geographical placement in a state or province makes it difficult to compete for a regional championship or even to build a sense of competition, when you are competing in a different region. The NAFA web site will report any club declarations early in the new racing year.

## **NAFA Veterans Class**

NAFA is considering a rule to establish a Veterans' class. When all dogs on the veterans team are 8 years of age or older, the team can compete at the minimum jump height.

The number of heats per day would be limited. Dogs entered in a veteran's class will not be eligible to compete in a Regular or Multibreed class at the same event.

### **Signature Gear EJS**

The Signature Gear EJS's have completed their testing period and will be put into general use shortly. The board has initially approved the purchase of five complete systems.

### **Candidates for the 2005 Elections**

The following candidates have submitted their nominations to the nominating committee. The board wishes each of them, every success in the upcoming election.

Brian Fay,  
Judy Hagan,  
Kris Pickering,  
Mike Smith

### **2005 Candidates for the Clyde Moore Hall of Fame**

The board selected the following candidates from those nominations submitted to the Hall of Fame committee. The board wishes them success in the upcoming election.

Bayly – Shetland Sheepdog – Page Heig  
Indy Anna – Border Collie – Gisele Savard  
Sampson – Irish Setter – Michele Ladrach  
Toby – Soft Coated Wheaton – Kim O'Neill

Additionally, there were several regions that nominated Most Valuable Player candidates for their region. The list will be posted shortly.

### **Approved Judges**

The board approved the following changes in judging status:

Dana Nichols from Colorado moved from Apprentice to Provisional judge status  
Dave Walt from Ontario moved from Apprentice to Provisional judge status

Please address any questions relating to the above press release directly to NAFA at [flyball@flyball.org](mailto:flyball@flyball.org).