

North American Flyball Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Houston, Texas

Abridged Minutes
June 1, 2013

Present were: Executive Director Lee Heighton

Board of Directors Kim Davis,
Sam Ford,
Nancy Garcia,
Leerie Jenkins,
Karen Oleson,
Curtis Smith,
Ally Stern,
Dave Walt.

Leerie opened the meeting at 8:51 AM CST.

Dale Smith was unable to attend due to work conflicts.

Leerie thanked everyone for all their hard work since last meeting.

Leerie thanked Sam, Kim and Nancy for the Texas hospitality and hosting the meeting.

Chair's Comments: Leerie Jenkins

- BOD Meeting and AGM – January 17-18, 2014, Denver, Colorado. RUFF has agreed to host the 2014 AGM at their January tournament. The board meeting will take place on the 17th with the AGM taking place on the evening of the 18th.
- Dana Nichols has been very helpful in helping organize details for hosting the AGM.
- Curtis motioned to approve the selection of the tourney.
- Karen seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

Executive Director's Comments: Lee Heighton

Region 16 – Lee requested the board to approve Candis Amasalian as Regional Director. Karen moved to approve, with Sam seconded. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Region 21 – Lee requested the board to approve Jayne McQuillen as Regional Director. There was no discussion. Karen moved to approve. Curtis seconded. Motion carried.

Melinda Vernon will be leaving the Regional Director position for Region 19 after their June 14th tournament. Terry McClean will be acting Regional Director.

The two EJS that the BOD approved for purchase 1.5 years ago have been assembled and will be shipped to Lee to take to Canada. The two sets the BOD approved for purchase nine months ago are currently being built. New cases have been

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designed for them to accommodate changes that FarmTek initiated in design and size. Also, the new systems will not have the speakers which will reduce the size and weight. The new sizes could possibly lower shipping costs.

With the new systems, the ED can now aggressively pursue the idea of parking the EJS. The plan is to look at regions that have the most tournaments and are interested in hand carrying the EJS from tournament to tournament within the region. The most accommodating regions will be getting the newer systems.

Lee asked to please remove all Signature labels from any equipment that might still show it.

NAFA owns two sets of Hughes lights. The future Poland flyball association only has one lane of WatchDog lights. They would like to hold a tournament with NAFA rules and Lee asked the board if we would donate the Hughes sets to them. Sam made the motion to donate the two Hughes to the future Polish Flyball association/entity. Karen seconded. Discussion included who Poland might compete with as well as the possibility of a European championship with other countries. No one was opposed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Garcia

We will be able to use American Express Gift certificates to cover CanAm volunteer expenses.

The Money Market has a better return than CDs, so moneys will remain there for now.

Secretary's Report: Kim Davis

- 02/14/2013 - The board approved the following proposal/recommendation from the judges committee:

The judges committee proposes a special exception for Tim Slade and Jo Slade, two approved judges from the Australian Flyball Association living in the US for a limited time:

1. Allow them to take the NAFA Novice exam and submit the essays. If they pass the novice exam (and the essays), and
 2. Perform two Apprentice assignments under a supervising judge (minimum 25 races and measure 8 dogs on separate weekends), and get "satisfactory completion" marks on a C.17 form for those two assignments, then
 3. Allow the judges committee to make a recommendation to the board for advancement/promotion directly to NAFA Provisional Judge status.
- 2/20/13 – minutes from 1/26/13 Minneapolis Board meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
 - Minutes from April 10th teleconference to be approved. Nancy moved to approve. Karen seconded. There was no discussion. Motion carried.
 - Minutes from May 8th teleconference to be approved. Curtis motioned to approve. Dave seconded. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

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Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee: Dave Walt

- Jeanne Harem, Bessemer AL – Apprentice to Provisional. The judges committee unanimously recommends advancement. Dave moved to approve. Curtis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Matt Goodyear, Pickering ON – Apprentice to Provisional. The judges committee unanimously recommends advancement. Ally moved to approve. Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Training program language changes:
 - Paperwork requirements for advancement from <apprentice/provisional> status – "Once all assignments have been completed, the <apprentice/provisional> judge will forward all appropriate forms and <C.17/C.18> evaluations, including those from assignments for which advancement was not recommended, to the NAFA Judges Committee for consideration of promotion to <provisional/approved> judge status."

Nancy moved to accept the changes as written. Curtis seconded.

Discussion – To strike the word “appropriate”. Strike “including those from assignments for which advancement was not recommended,” Add “all” before <C.17/C.18>, resulting in the following wording.

- Paperwork requirements for advancement from <apprentice/provisional> status – "Once all assignments have been completed, the <apprentice/provisional> judge will forward all forms and all <C.17/C.18> evaluations to the NAFA Judges Committee for consideration of promotion to <provisional/approved> judge status."

Nancy amended her motion to approve with the revisions above. Dave seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

- Apprentice: “Measure a minimum of 8 dogs at three different tournaments on different weekends under the supervision of two different NAFA supervising judges. At a minimum, all measurements for the last assignment must be done officially as the measuring judge.”
- Provisional: “Must be the measuring judge at two tournaments on two different weekends and officially measure a minimum of 8 dogs at each tournament.”

Dave discussed the reasoning behind both of the above changes.

Nancy moved to accept the changes. Dave seconded. Conversation ensued regarding whether dogs deemed to be “not measurable” would count toward the minimum dogs measured requirement for judging assignments that require measuring.

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In favor of the motion: Ally Stern, Curtis Smith, Karen Oleson, Kim Davis

Opposed: Dave Walt, Nancy Garcia, Sam Ford. The motion passed.

Meeting breaks at 10:07 AM.

Meeting back in session at 10:23 AM.

Leerie moved that the Board enter Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:23 AM.

The Board exited Executive Session at 11:16 AM.

The hearing for DC-2013-001 was held and the charges of conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball were sustained.

Meeting break at 11:23 AM.

Meeting resumed at 11:28 AM.

Judges Committee (cont.):

- Approved judges from other organizations

Two AFA judges coming through our judging system. Judges committee will consider on a case by case basis, rather than recommending a rule to attempt to cover all potential situations.

- Can a judge in training complete Novice and apprentice assignments during the same tournament week?

The issue was referred to the Rules Committee.

Nominating Committee:

Nothing to report

Election Committee:

Nothing to report

Rules Committee: Curtis Smith

The Rules Committee received the following proposals and requests:

1. [Standardization of capitalization in rule book -- Chris VanWert](#)
2. [Regional points when other team forfeits -- Dave Gillett](#)
3. [Updated C.9 form for consideration -- Karen Oleson](#)

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4. [Revision dates on NAFA forms -- Karen Oleson and Kim Davis](#)

5. [Tournament entry form -- Tammy Foss](#)

1. **Standardization of capitalization in rule book -- Chris VanWert**

I have been perusing the NAFA Rulebook because I am familiarizing myself with last year's changes so that I can keep my club current with NAFA's Rules. We have several new people and their dogs training for flyball. Anyway, I noticed that there are several instances where the Multibreed Class is included as part of the language of a section but, the "drafters" of that section did not capitalize the words "Multibreed Class".

English grammar requires that any proper noun must be capitalized. Whenever the Rulebook includes the Multibreed Class, it is being used as a proper noun since the Multibreed Class is the name given by NAFA for that class in Corporate Policies and Procedures, Section 6.2 - Classes of Competition (a) NAFA® recognizes five classes of competition: Regular, Multibreed, Open, Veteran's and Non-Regular.

The Rules Committee has periodically scheduled routine "clean up" for the Rulebook as part of it's report to the NAFA BoD when it has been made aware of spelling and grammar errors.

The sections that the document search engine has discovered Multibreed Class is not capitalized are as follows:

- 1. page 3; List of Significant Changes or Additions for the 2013 Racing Year; Corporate Policies and Procedures; Section 7.5 - Changing Clubs, subsection (c), added the following text in quotes as subsection (ii): "When a team in the multibreed class declares performance, the requirement of four different breeds set forth in Section 6.2(d) does not apply." Subsequent subsections were reordered (iii) through (viii) accordingly.*
- 2. page 11; RULES OF RACING; CHAPTER 6 - REPORTING FOR RACES; Subsection (e)(iv) less than four breeds may be run in multibreed classes;*
- 3. page 38; Corporate Policies & Procedures; Section 6.2 - Classes of Competition, Subsection (d) In the multibreed class, each team running in a heat must consist of....*
- 4. page 44; Corporate Policies & Procedures; Section 7.5 – Changing Clubs, Subsection (c)(ii) When a team in the multibreed class declares performance...*
- 5. page 102; Form C.13 NAFA® World Record Report Form Class of competition (circle one): regular / multibreed (note: both regular and multibreed should be capitalized since they are both a proper noun on this form.)*

Those are the only instances that I could find and I only used the document search engine. I trust that the Rules Committee can recommend a small clean up item to take care of these minor, though still important, details for document accuracy.

In fact, it might be a good idea for the Rules Committee to check the spelling of other named Classes of Competition in all places where they occur in the Rulebook document to insure the grammatical rules for proper nouns are consistently followed throughout the Rulebook.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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*Christine VanWert,
The Wooferines Flyball Club
NAFA #455, Region 1*

Recommendations: The committee recommends that updates be made to the rule book using the following definitions for guidance:

- Common noun (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/common+noun>): a noun that may occur with limiting modifiers (as *a* or *an*, *some*, *every*, and *my*) and that designates any one of a class of beings or things.
- Proper noun (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/proper+noun>): a noun that designates a particular being or thing, does not take a limiting modifier, and is usually capitalized in English.

Thus, a common noun is used to identify a group of people, places, or things while a proper noun is used to name a particular one of the aforementioned items. The following are example statements (not all of which are from the rule book) that involve the phrases regional champion and regular/multibreed class as both common and proper nouns.

- Common noun examples:
 - o Regular and multibreed classes must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for points and/or tie-breaking times to count toward regional championships...
 - o At the end of each racing year, NAFA will name regional champions in the regular and multibreed classes for each region.
- Proper noun examples:
 - o Last year, no one was named the Multibreed Class Regional Champion for Region 18.
 - o In the Multibreed Class, each team running in a heat must consist of dogs of four different breeds, or three different breeds and a mixed breed.

On a related note with regard to the names of NAFA classes of competition, the committee also recommends replacing all instances of Veteran's in the rule book with Veterans since the latter signifies a class with teams comprised of multiple veterans which is more applicable than the former option (i.e., the possessive form of a singular noun).

Finally, as time permits, the committee recommends the following additional updates:

- Change those instances in which position titles (e.g., Head Judge, Supervising / Approved / Provisional / Apprentice / Novice Judge, Tournament Director, Tournament Secretary, Regional Director) are incorrectly capitalized. The recommended guidance for revisions is to capitalize a title when it is used with the person's name (e.g., The tournament was officiated by Head Judge John Doe) or to address the person directly (e.g., Please explain your call, Head Judge). The title is not capitalized when used in a general sense (e.g., The head judge shall stop the heat for interference, fouling in the racing ring...).
- Correct various instances of words that are unnecessarily capitalized (e.g., Club, Team, Region, Regional Champion, Class).

The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations.

Karen moved to accept the recommendations of the rules committee. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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2. Regional points when other team forfeits -- Dave Gillett

I have been in communication with Lee concerning this matter, and we would like the Rules Committee to provide an interpretation. If you need any further information, I will gladly provide it. If my interpretation is incorrect, I will need your help on following the correct process to get the rule changed.

Sincerely,

*Dave Gillett
Regional Director
Region 16 South*

-----<Begin excerpt from attachment submitted by Dave Gillett>-----

Could you offer some insight and clarification to the following scenario under Section 8.3 Regional Champions?

<Paraphrased scenario: One of four Division 1 teams specified that issues related to their dogs prevented them from competing. Since the racing schedule had already been approved, the other teams within the division raced unopposed in the absence of the team that withdrew.>

So based on what I've outlined, the following scenario unfolded:

The tournament was held both days running the multibreed division, as the schedule dictated, with the competing teams racing a ghost team (So Cal FF), per the following:

CHAPTER 6 - REPORTING FOR RACES

(b) Teams that win by forfeit must complete the minimum required heats scheduled to qualify for points awarded in round-robin or to advance in double elimination competition. If another team is not available to compete, the team shall race without an opponent.

Now that the tournament has been scored, it was brought to my attention that no regional points were awarded, under Section 8.3 (e)(i), because there were not 4 teams competing.

It is my position that this rule should not apply in this case. The other 3 teams went out and raced their dogs, in order to accumulate wins, in an effort to achieve 1st place, therefore 'competing' against a ghost team (So Cal FF).

Note: There is an inherent injury risk for all teams racing without an opponent, but it is required by the rulebook.

-----<End excerpt from attachment submitted by Dave Gillett>-----

Recommendations: The committee unanimously agreed that a team must attempt to run at least one heat to be counted as a competing team. Consequently, according to section 8.3(e)(i) of the Corporate Policies and Procedures, the tournament described in the above situation would not qualify for regional points since only three competing teams

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remained in the division after another team pulled from a tournament without attempting to run a heat. If any interested party would like to propose a rule change, send the proposed wording for the new rule to rules@flyball.org.

During the discussion, the committee noted the importance of having the NAFA database track all teams that compete regardless of whether they earned any points. At present, some host clubs may be submitting tournament results omitting competing teams that did not score any points. The reason may be due to either a limitation in the scoring program or due to the mistaken belief that no NAFA recording fees are collected for such teams. The committee therefore recommends that all computer programs used to electronically score tournaments need to reflect all of the teams that competed regardless of whether any points were earned (effective October 1, 2013). Similarly, host clubs that do not electronically score their tournaments need to submit the C.2 time sheets for all competing teams and include all competing teams in the tally used to calculate the NAFA fees owed on the C.6 Tournaments Results Form. The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations.

3. Karen moved to accept the recommendations of the rules committee. Ally seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Updated C.9 form for consideration -- Karen Oleson

Due to the recent rewriting and clarification of measuring rules as they relate to recording information, I've reviewed the C.9 and feel that a few minor changes will enhance the recording process.

Attached please find 2 samples of C.9 Jump Height forms I am submitting for your consideration.

Event number and printed name of the judge and RD were added to the form, as well as space for 3 measurements. [...] One form adds a column for Final Height [i.e., truncated height].

Recommendations: The committee unanimously recommends adopting the revised version of the C.9 Jump Heights Form in Appendix A. The proposed form incorporates the additions mentioned above including spaces for up to three measurements of the "withers actual height" (i.e., pre-truncated height) for each dog.

The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations.

Curtis moved to accept the recommendations from the rules committee with the word 'actual' removed from the "Withers ..." field. Ally seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Revision dates on NAFA forms -- Karen Oleson and Kim Davis

The Webmaster and myself are requesting that revision dates appear on all NAFA forms starting with the 10/01/13 rulebook.

*Thanks,
Karen Oleson*

Recommendations: The committee unanimously recommends that the footer area of each form include the date the form was first approved for use. For those forms presently in the rule book that have not been recently revised, the date 10/1/2013 would appear by default.

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The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations.

Dave moved to accept the recommendations of the rules committee. Sam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Tournament entry form -- Tammy Foss

Hi Karen, I'd like to humbly propose a new form format to add to the NAFA site for download.

The current tournament entry form is difficult to fill out digitally. Working in tables would be more efficient. I took the liberty of reformatting one to show you. If you like it, keep it! If not, that is ok. Just thought I'd throw it out there.

*Thanks for your time,
Tammy Foss*

<See Appendix B for the proposed form with all personal identifying information removed.>

Recommendations: Since some tournament host clubs only need minimal team entry information, the committee recommends adopting a new C.1 Tournament Entry Form that simply asks for information essential for most tournaments (see Appendix C). The proposed new version includes forms for both unlimited and limited team entries. The committee also suggests that the board consider providing an unofficial (i.e., "NAFA Rules and Policies" removed from the header, form number "C.1" deleted) word processing version of the new entry form that clubs can use as a customizable template.

The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations.

Curtis motioned to accept the first part of the recommendation but not the 2nd part and that the form will be published as a PDF with NAFA branding and revision date. Kim seconded.

In favor of the motion: Ally Stern, Curtis Smith, Dave Walt, Kim Davis, Nancy Garcia, Sam Ford.

Opposed: Karen Oleson. The motion passed.

Karen moves to provide the C1 & C1A forms in MS word format in addition to the PDF version. Kim seconded. Motion passes with Curtis dissent noted.

Marketing Committee: Ally Stern

- Honor Board

Lee and Mike Smith are researching the issue of the NAFA jumps warping. The Sintra thickness is causing the warping. So jumps are being re-done as solid color. The jumps will be tested at the next tournament.

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A number of full boards have been purchased so far.

Meeting break at 12:40 PM.

Meeting back in session at 1:10 PM.

- Multibreed Titling

In order to help revitalize the Multibreed class Neil Flood proposed that Multibreed should have its own titling program. The Marketing Committee asked the board to discuss his recommendation. Ally emphasized that Multibreed showcases a larger variety of breeds and can help encourage newcomers to play NAFA flyball with their dogs.

The Marketing Committee consulted with Annie Taylor and Emma Mak about changes to the database and their work load.

The board discussed how the new Multibreed titles should be structured.

Points Earned in Multibreed	Title Awarded	Certificate	Pin	Plaque
20	MBD – Multibreed Dog	Yes	No	No
100	MBDX – Multibreed Dog Excellent	Yes	No	No
500	MBDCh – Multibreed Dog Champion	Yes	No	No
1,000	MBDCh-S – Multibreed Dog Champion Silver	Yes	No	No
2,500	MBDCh-G – Multibreed Dog Champion Gold	Yes	No	No
5,000	MBM – Multibreed Master	Yes	Yes	No
10,000	MBMX – Multibreed Master Excellent	Yes	Yes	No
15,000	MBMCh – Multibreed Master Champion	Yes	Yes	No
20,000	MB ONYX – Multibreed ONYX Award	No	Yes	Yes
30,000	MBGDCh – Multibreed Grand Champion	No	Yes	Yes
40,000 +	No titles	N/A	N/A	N/A

NAFA will pay for the highest retroactively attained award for each dog. Owners will have the option to purchase other retroactively earned awards. Additional details to be determined. Sam made the motion to accept the Marketing Committee’s recommendation, with the letter B in all of the Multibreed titles and that we award MB Onyx titles. Sam also made the motion that we offer to those that request it their dog’s highest award earned and that NAFA will pay for this award, and it will ship to Regional Director. Beginning 10/1/13, all certificates, pins and plaques for newly earned multibreed titles will be issued following the current distribution system. Points toward multibreed titles will be concurrently earned with the existing titles (FD, FDX, etc.).

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Dave seconded.

Meeting breaks at 2:00 PM.

Meeting back in session at 2:24 PM.

Additional discussions included the design of pins and plaques and projected costs.

Karen moved to table the motion until August. Curtis seconded.

In favor of the motion: Curtis Smith, Dave Walt, Karen Oleson, Sam Ford.

Opposed: Ally Stern, Kim Davis, Nancy Garcia, and Leerie Jenkins. The motion failed.

Question called on the original motion.

In favor of the motion: Ally Stern, Curtis Smith, Dave Walt, Karen Oleson, Kim Davis, Nancy Garcia, Sam Ford.

Opposed: No one. The motion carried.

Finance: Curtis Smith/Nancy Garcia

Leerie moved the Board enter Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 2:45 PM.

The Board exited Executive session at 3:14 PM.

The board reviewed the budget.

Disciplinary Committee: Leerie Jenkins

Disciplinary Committee Report:			Effective Date(s)
Jaimie Weber	Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	7/1/2013-9/30/2013
Jaimie Weber	Probation	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	6/1/2013-5/31/2014
Dobby, 080286	Suspension	Two aggression excusals	11/4/2012
Carla Thomas	ED Suspension	Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	10/16/2011
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

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Review Panel:

Leerie reported the following aggression excusals and actions on appeal:

- Tango 081069 – 01/19/2013
- Skippy 130171 – 01/19/2013
- Rossi 100403 – 12/1/2012 - appeal – 02/16/2013 – upheld

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee: Karen Oleson

EJS – There are changes in the design of the ‘feet’ (metal stands for the poles). They are “heavy duty” feet and will be more stable.

Database has gone over well with the new format and the response has been good

NAFAscore - The committee is working on replacing FBScore. Once it is up and running, they will move implement it using online forms.

NAFA/Flyball History Committee:

Curtis is checking into getting videos and changing into electronic files.

Curtis moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.