Volume 7 Issue 2



NAFA NEWS

Official News Letter of the North American Flyball Association

July, 2001

The Board to Adopt New Rules

Ule James

The Rules of Flyball have been dramatically rewritten. Attached you will find copies of The Constitution & By Laws, Corporate Policies and Procedures and The Rules of Racing. The Board has allotted a comment period for teams to review the Policies and the Rules of Racing documents Please have any comments or questions into the Board of Director's no later than 9 September, 2001. It is the intention of the Board to start the new racing season with these documents!

Thank you!

EJS Update

Dale Smith

There has been some intense discussion about the Electronic Judging System (EJS) over the internet and Dale wrote this informative reply: -ed.

NAFA is doing everything in our power to get more EJS systems out for tournaments to use. When the PETsMART agreement was signed, NAFA embarked on a quest for the next generation of EJS. It took some time to find a party willing to develop the EJS for NAFA given a small number of systems to be ordered for the

finished product. The EJS prototype is nearing completion and we hope to have new EJS systems out in circulation soon. They will enable some new features for judges, competitors and spectators alike... We are also pursuing tactical options to get more EJS's to service the growth in tournaments. We appreciate the three NAFA Clubs that rent their privately owned and NAFA-certified EJS systems to NAFA for events.

Secondly, lets talk about the current systems in circulation. Some of them are failing from wear and tear due to their repeated use and shipping. Many (but not all) of these failures can be prevented by some care when the

EJS systems are disassembled and repacked. The two most common failures on our current EJS systems come from broken wires caused when the wrong part of the connector is rotated when attaching and detaching cables and from improper packing of the EJS systems into the shipping crates. Please treat the EJS systems as if you were going to be the next Club to use them. There is often a hurry after a tourney to get things cleaned up -- but take the time to carefully disassemble and repack the EJS systems. This won't prevent all the failures, but it will avoid many of them. The tournament you save may be your own.

Thirdly, we have the issue of when can a NAFA-owned EJS be used. NAFA-owned EJS systems are provided to host Clubs for their use at NAFA sanctioned events. This may include some non-sanctioned classes, which are open to all Clubs. Occasionally, the NAFA

Nominations are due by 31 August 2001 for 3 Board Members and the Executive Director!

Send your Nominations to NAFA:

1400 West Devon Avenue Suite 512 Chicago, Illinois, USA 60660 (309) 688-9840 Flyball@flyball.org EJS is rented to a Club for a demo (although I can count on one hand the number of times this has happened). The NAFA-owned EJS systems are never to be used by a host Club (or anyone else) for practice outside of a tournament. If such use is brought to NAFA's attention, the offending Club will be warned or sanctioned. Someone has brought up the issue of "testing" the EJS by

running dogs. If your testing of the EJS could be misconstrued by a spectator as practicing, I would frankly suggest testing it some other way. I have tested many EJS systems over the years and while I have used a dog occasionally, I've never needed a team of them. Most often testing involves cycling the EJS through various pass faults, early starts, etc. This is often accomplished by passing a foot or arm through the beams.

Abridged Board Meeting Notes

Telephone Conference 05 June, 2001

Members PresentAlso PresentAlan WeinerSteve McAvoyMarion BrinkmanAbsent:Val CulpinAbsent:Judy HaganDale SmithUle JamesRobin MarionSue RogersBrett Williams

The meeting was called to order by Alan at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Alan commented on how quickly tournament sanctioning requests are getting done.

New EJS Update – Dale will provide at June 23, 2001 BOD meeting

Rules Update - Steve and Alan would like to be able to review the Rules of Racing, Corporate Policies & Procedures, and Bylaw documents at the June 23, 2001. Sue will get with Dale to find out his progress on revising the Bylaw's. The entire BOD has revised copies of the Rules of Racing and Corporate Policies & Procedures documents. The BOD would like to get all 3 documents out for a comment period to all NAFA clubs, as soon as possible.

Judges Video – Val has sent out 11 copies of the latest judges video to key judges throughout North America. She has only received one response back. Val will work to encourage those 11 judges to comment.

Team Interference – Robin is putting together wording for the June 23, 2001 meeting in regards to judges discretion when it comes to teams interfering with themselves during racing.

Hall of Fame – Ule James is the Committee Chairman for this year's Hall of Fame.

The board entered Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. The board exited Executive Session at 10:17 p.m.

Ule made the motion to end the meeting at 10:18 p.m. Brett seconded.

Abridged Board Meeting Notes

Chicago, Illinois 23 June, 2001

Board Members Present: Val Culpin (Acting Chairperson), Judy Hagan, Ule James, Sue Rogers, Dale Smith, and Brett Williams. The Executive Director, Steve McAvoy was also present.

Board Members Absent: Alan Weiner, Marion Brinkman, and Robin Marion.

Also Present: Terri May

The meeting was called to order by Val at 9:00 a.m.

Val asked that the minutes of the January 27, 2001 Board meeting be approved. Brett made the motion to accept the minutes as is. Ule seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Switching Teams? Making a Team?

Call, email or mail NAFA:

1400 West Devon Avenue Suite 512 Chicago, Illinois, USA 60660 (309) 688-9840 Flyball@flyball.org Brett made the motion that the minutes of the June 5, 2001 conference call be approved as amended. Dale-seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report – Steve McAvoy

Steve expressed his concern on the number of discipline issues that are being brought to the board. We need to take a hard look at how we handle these issues. Steve happily commented on the low number of dogs that have been cited for aggression this year.

Steve noted that as each year is bringing more tournaments being sanctioned, we really need to concentrate on obtaining additional EJS systems. We are experiencing more and more failures on EJS systems. Lastly, we need to make sure we conduct needed maintenance on the EJS systems in between tournaments.

Steve was contacted from Disney about the possibility of hosting a national tournament at Disney in Florida. See agenda item.

Steve asked Sue to read Marion Brinkman's letter of Resignation to the Board of Directors effective June 10, 2001. Brett made the motion to accept Marion's resignation. Dale seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Brett made the motion to accept Steve's appointment of Terri May to the Board of Director's to fulfill Marion Brinkman's resignation per the NAFA Bylaws. Dale seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Regulatory – Robin Marion, Darrel West, Judy Hagan, and Dale Smith

Judy stated that are a lot of people requesting variances to 4 month rule. Regulatory will notify the RD's of any changes/variances granted.

Judges and Guidelines – Val Culpin, Robin Marion, and Aaron Hughes

NAFA Videos –Val has the final copy of the judge's

Sanction your Tournament

Contact NAFA:

1400 West Devon Avenue Suite 512 Chicago, IL 60660 PH & FX: (309) 688-9840 Email: flyball@flyball.org

NAFA PATCHES

Get your Official NAFA Patches HERE!

Contact **Judy Hagan** 1890 Cottage Grove Pkwy Marion, IA 52302 (319) 286-8294 Email: doublejj@netins.net

video. She believes we may want to consider making more than the 100 copies of the video. We are getting requests from teams that would like to purchase the video.

Marketing, Promotions and Public Relations – Brett Williams, Sue Rogers, and Judy Hagan

Brett made contact with Disney about their interest in having a tournament at their site in Florida. Brett gave Disney information on what the requirements are for hosting and gave them a list of teams to contact. Judy will follow-up with the teams in Florida to see if they have been contacted.

Judy showed a magazine, Pets in Mas, from Puerto Rico with an article on flyball.

Brett & Judy talked about a request from South Africa for the NAFA Rules and Video. A copy of the current Rules & Policies have been sold to South Africa for \$1.00

Hall of Fame –Ule, Marion and Judy

All nominations that were received are not in the format according to the current NAFA Rules. Ule will contact each nominee and ask for the correct format.

Financial Report - Dale Smith

We are in good shape. NAFA does not need Petsmart to survive. We have spent approximately \$7,000.00 in UPS shipping fees (EJS) since 10/1/00. This is slightly higher than using the airlines, but it much more convenient for host teams, Todd Morningstar, and Chris Knowlton.

Terri made the motion to accept the Financial Report as is. Brett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

To Do List from January 27, 2001 meeting –

Review of Bylaws – Dale made the motion to adopt the amended Bylaws – Val seconded. Motion tabled. Sue feels the Board needs just a little longer to review this document before we adopt it. The board will hold a conference call on July 18, 2001 to handle approval of the document.

Delegate Votes - Dale made the motion to increase the number of delegates a team can earn to 8. Brett seconded. Teams can now earn up to 6 delegate votes based on teams entered at tournaments and up to 2 delegate votes by hosting tournaments. Motion passed unanimously.

Virtual Hall of Fame - Brett & Dale are very close to getting the Virtual Hall of Fame up on the Web Site.

Regional Hall of Fame – Brett made the motion to accept the following NAFA Regional MVP Award proposal. Dale seconded. In favor – Sue, Dale, Brett, Terri, Judy, and Ule. Against – Robin. To be effective with the 2002 racing year. The award will be similar in size to the current ONYX plaque. All winners will be posted on the NAFA web site. Add to Chapter 4 of current Rules & Policies.

- 1. This award is given to the canine deemed most valuable in their specific region. Only 1 candidate will be given this award per year, per region.
- 2. Nominations must come from a club in the candidates region. Nominations shall be no more than 200 words, citing the candidate's contribution and outstanding qualities that make them deserving of the award. Candidates can not have previously won the award. Nominations should be sent to the NAFA mailing address.
- 3. A committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, and chaired by a member of the board. This committee will review the nominations and ensure they meet the above nomination criteria. All qualified nominations will be put to ballot vote.
- 4. In conjunction with annual delegate voting, voting sheets will go out to delegates with only those candidates in their region. Delegates may vote for only one candidate. All votes must be returned in conjunction with deadlines set forth in the Hall of Fame voting.

Questions, Need something?

Contact NAFA at:
P.O.Box 512
1400 West Devon Avenue
Chicago, Illinois, USA 60660
Phone & Fax: (309) 688-9840
E-mail: flyball@flyball.org

5. The winning candidate will be that candidate that earns the most returned votes from their region. Winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

EJS - Next Generation – Dale updated us on the manufacturing of the new EJS systems. We are looking at having a prototype ready for the end of August. As soon as they are available for testing, we will get them to a tournament to be tested. Dale showed us the display boards that will be used with the new lights showing team times, individual dog lap times, etc. Dale feels that once we get new set up and running to our liking, it should take approximately 2 weeks to get an additional set manufactured.

Shirt inventory from Bob Long from NAFA tournament - Judy and Dale have both talked to Bob to try to obtain the shirts from the Del Mar tournament. Terri will take this on and get the shirts.

Judges Seminar - Steve & Ule are working to finalize a date for a NAFA Judging Seminar on the East Coast in fall.

Annual General Meeting – We will have the plans confirmed for this year's Annual General Meeting by the July 18th, 2001 Conference Call. The meeting is currently planned to be held in Virginia in conjunction with the Harrier Jump Jets annual tournament, November 17th & 18th.

Protesting a measurement on the Tournament Jump Height Form – This item was sent back to the Regulatory Committee for re-wording.

New Business

Regional Director approvals – Steve has asked the board to approve the following person's as Regional Directors: Linda Smith, Region 12, Dave Cracknell, Region 7, Paul Perrin, Region 10, and Howard Bayerle, Region 11.

Dale made the motion that we approve all 4 Regional Directors – Ule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Requirements for Apprentice Judges and Provisional Judges - Val made the motion to change Chapter 6.5.g.ii to read as follows: Apprentice Judges will judge at least 20 races at three (3) tournaments on different weekends...... Dale seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Val made the motion to change Chapter 6.5.g.v to read as follows: To become an approved Head Judge, the Provisional Judge must judge a minimum of 20 races at three (3) tournaments. Dale seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sue will also change our new, in process Rules of Racing, etc...New documents 1.7.g.ii & v

Dale made the motion to change Chapter 6.5.g.v. to read as follows: To become an approved Head Judge, the Provisional Judge must judge a minimum of 20 races at three (3) tournaments within a 12 month period. This would become effective 10/1/01. Brett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue will also change our new, in process Rules of Racing, etc....1.7g.v

Approvals for Apprentice judges – Val clarified the meaning of the policy with the entire Board of Directors. No change required.

Fouling in the racing lane –Val brought up her concern about fouling in the racing lane and what it actually means. No action to be taken.

Warm-up times with ring conflict – Val made the motion to add the following to Section 6.15.e When a team is delayed by a ring conflict, warm-ups shall not begin until both teams are present in the ring. Sue seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sue will also change our new, in process Rules of Racing, adding this to 7.c Warm-ups.

Interference on own team- Robin and Val – Dale will write an article for the NAFA News regarding jeopardizing the safety of a dog. Regulatory will also look at putting together a proposal for the new rule documents.

Alcohol and judges – Val made the motion to add the following to Section 6.6.l. Head Judges are not permitted to consume alcohol during their judging assignment. Terri seconded the motion. In favor: Judy,

Getting a Plaque Soon? An Onyx Award?

Make sure your dog's name and your name are correct.

Check the Data Base!

If not correct notify NAFA.

Brett, Ule, Sue, Dale and Terri. Val abstained for Robin. Motion passed.

Define 'assignment' for purposes of Supervising Judge applications — Dale made the motion to modify the requirements of becoming a Supervising Head Judge to read as follows: he or she must have judged a minimum of 1 division in 25 tournaments on separate weekends... Brett seconded. In favor: Robin, Dale, Sue, & Brett . Against: Ule, Terri, & Judy. Motion passed. Sue will add to Section 6.5 in the current Rules & Policies and will also incorporate into the draft Rules documents 1.7.h.ii.

Judy made the motion to modify the requirements to become a Supervising Head Jude to read as follows: he or she must have judged a minimum of 1 division in 25 tournaments. Dale seconded. In favor: Dale & Judy. Against: Ule, Terri, Sue, & Robin. Brett abstained. Motion failed.

Val made the motion to add the following to the Supervising Head Judge Requirements:

The Board of Directors reserves the right to revoke Supervisory status at any time for just cause.

Hey, Short Stuff!

Avoid the hassle of measuring..... Get a NAFA APPROVED HEIGHT CARD for only \$5.00 (US)

Contact **Sue Rogers**: 2795 East Mill Creek Road Saint Clair, MI 48079 (810) 329-8875 fgdchud@voyager.net

Remember, if it doesn't have a Seal it's not NAFA.

Dale seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Sue will make appropriate changes to the Rules & Policies documents as stated above.

Awards (40k, 50k, etc.) – Sue showed an example. She will continue to pursue an alternative. We are looking for something to hang on the back with an approx. 6 inch plaque hanging down from the bottom of the plaque.

Dogs going through EJS sensors – Judy made the motion that dog's should go through the EJS sensors both down and back in order to make the run complete. The motion did not receive a second.

Awarding disbanded teams championships – Dale made the following motion: If a team disbands prior to the end of a racing year, they are not eligible to win a regional championship and all points are null and void. Seconded by Sue. The motion passed unanimously. Add to Section 4.2.h – Awards.

New board representative to work with

PETsMART – Alan requested someone from the BOD take on the job of owning the relationship with PETsMART. Handles setting up budget, etc. Terri May has volunteered to take this on and will contact Alan Weiner. Also we're looking to find where our royalty check is for merchandise.

NAFA archive paper conversion – Brett & Dale demonstrated "Laserfiche"

Dale made the motion that we take all NAFA archive files and have them "Laserfiche". Approximately \$.09 per page. Also includes OCR. Judy seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Sue will handle.

Approval for jump slat materials – Liz McTavish, Tailspinners, made the motion that the BOD approve their 2 material slat samples. These are double layers of 1/8 corrugated plastic wrapped in a single layer of white duct tape. The second material is a piece of 1/16 inch press board sandwiched between 2 layers of 1/8 inch corrugated plastic, wrapped in a single layer of white duct tape. Dale seconded. In favor – Dale, Terri, Judy, Robin, and Ule. Opposed – Brett, Sue. Steve will respond.

Runnin' Ruff – Approval for jump slat material - This motion received no second on his 1 inch jump material.

Broken Jump Boards - Dale made the motion that any jump slat made of any material is broken or bent, it must be removed from competition. Brett seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. Add to Section 6.12 of current Rules & Policies.

Dog Injuries - Brett talked about his observation of increased injury to dog's at the box. He feels the current box requirements are hindering medium to large dogs and could be causing some box related injuries. Connie Austin is working on a proposal/survey for injuries to dog's.

Publishing of Disciplinary Action - Brett made the motion that effective October 1st, 2001, NAFA will begin publishing all individuals, dogs, and/or clubs that have disciplinary actions in affect against them. We will publish the name, effective date, action taken, and offense in each NAFA News for which the punishment is in affect. Judy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Letter from Ivor McTavish – The motion received no second.

Meeting Absence - Brett made the motion to mark Robin Marion's absence from this Board Meeting as an unexcused absence. Sue seconded. Terri abstained. Motion passed unanimously.

Discipline Section of Rules & Policies - Val formed a committee to work on the discipline section of the Rules & Policies documents. Committee is chaired by Ule James with Steve McAvoy and Brett Williams.

NAFA Regions - Ule made the motion to approve Steve's proposal for Regional realignment. In favor – Dale, Sue, Ule, Brett, and Terri. Against - Judy.

Provisional Judges for approval - Val asked that the following Provisional Judges be approved as Head Judges - Scott Stein (VT), Ron Pelletier (AB), and Jim Fathers (BC).

Dale made the motion to approve Scott Stein as a NAFA Head Judge. Terri seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dale made the motion to approve Ron Pelletier as a NAFA Head Judge. Ule seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Motion passed unanimously.

Dale made the motion to approve Jim Fathers as a NAFA Head Judge. Ule seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Motion passed unanimously.

Robin made the motion to remove all exceptions to the 4-month rule. Brett seconded. In favor – Judy, Brett,

and Robin. Against – Dale, Sue, Ule, and Terri. Motion failed.

Robin made the motion to change the current 4-month rule to 3 months. Brett seconded. In favor – Robin, Brett and Judy. Opposed – Dale, Sue, Ule, and Terri. Motion failed.

Brett made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Ule seconded.

Abridged Board Meeting Notes

Telephone Conference 18 July, 2001

Members Present Alan Weiner Also Present Steve McAvoy

Val Culpin Judy Hagan Ule James Robin Marion Terri May Sue Rogers Dale Smith Brett Williams

The meeting was called to order by Alan at 9:04 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Sue made the motion that we adopt the revised By-Laws sent out to all board members by Dale Smith to become effective on October 1, 2001. Brett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed and approved multiple changes to the Rules of Racing and Corporate Policies & Procedures documents.

One copy of the newly adopted By-Laws will be sent to each NAFA Club. The document will also be posted on the NAFA Web Site.

The proposed Rules of Racing and Corporate Policies and Procedures documents will be sent out to all teams and posted to the web site for comment until September 9, 2001. Comments on the documents should be sent to either the NAFA mail address or flyball@flyball.org.

The board will hold a conference call on September 19, 2001 9:00 Eastern Standard Time to discuss the comments.

Ule made the motion that we send out the Rules of Racing to all teams for comments. Brett seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ule made the motion that we send out the Corporate Policies & Procedures to all teams for comments. Brett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ule made the motion that we accept the 3 Hall of Fame Nominees as presented. Val seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Alan commented that Animal Planet is interested in holding Invitationals, comparably to the Purina Challenge. They hope to hold their first event in Florida – this event will include Texas and portions of the East Coast. NAFA will provide Animal Planet with a list of all clubs and persons in bad standings and also a seeding list.

Alan also commented that The A&E Network is currently in the planning stages of a segment on Flyball.

The NAFA Annual Meeting location and date have been set for Franklin, VA on November 17th to be held in conjunction with the Hairier Jump Jets tournament. Judy Hagan will work with the host team to arrange for the meeting room. Judy will also work to setup the Election Committee.

Nominations are due at the end of August to the NAFA mailing address or flyball@flyball.org.

Letter from Ken Eldridge – Dale will contact Ken to clarify the intent of the letter.

Letter from Toni Osojnicki – No second. Alan will reply to Toni.

Robin exited the meeting at 10:24 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

The board discussed a request to use the name Hell Hound's as a name for a New Club. The board did not object to its use.

Sue made the motion to end the meeting at 11:19 p.m. Terri seconded.

Notes From the Editor

Ule James

From the Sanctioning Committee:

The shipping of results, etc. has been changed to the NAFA address:

If you are holding a U.S. tournament, you should have recently received a shipping form in the mail, please make sure the address reads as follows: NAFA, STE 512, 1400 W Devon Ave, Chicago IL 60660. The shipping form read 152, which is an error. Please correct this before you send in your tournament results.

Also Tournament Directors, please make copies of each team's results before you send them in, in case something is lost in the mail and you need to resend it.

From the Data Entry Squad:

The following will make it a lot easier to enter tournament result data:

For the Tournament Director:

Only use the current version of the Tournament Results Form (C.6) and Time Sheet (C.2). Both are available on the NAFA web site. The newer version of the Time Sheet is much easier to read. Enter the Division Number, Placing and Best Time across the bottom of the

Time Sheet (as instructed in the new version of the C.6 form). It would be helpful if an e-mail address for the Tournament Director (or alternate contact) is included.

Ensure that all club numbers and names are given.

For team captains:

To ensure that the points earned go to the correct dog, please take a few minutes to review you team's master CRN list (some dogs have been consistently listed incorrectly all year). If we notice the error and have an e-mail address for you, we will send you a "friendly reminder" but this is time-consuming.

North American Flyball Association

1400 West Devon Avenue Suite 512 Chicago, Illinois, USA 60660 Phone & Fax: (309) 688-9840 www.flyball.org E-mail: flyball@flyball.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (as of the year 2001)

Alan Weiner, Chairman	(99-01)	Dale Smith, Treasurer	(01-03)	Judy Hagan	(01-03)
Val Culpin, Vice Chair	(99-01)	Terri May	(00-02)	Brett Williams	(00-02)
Sue Rogers, Secretary	(01-03)	Ule James	(99-01)	Robin Marion	(00-02)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Executive Director: Steve McAvoy Tournament Sanctioning: Connie Austin

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Annette Tindall	Region#1	MI, OH	Dave Cracknell	Region#7	BC,WA,OR
Ivor McTavish	Region#2	ON	Kevin Hughes	Region#8	MB,SK, Western ON
Toni Osojnicki	Region#3	IA,MN,WI,NE,SD,ND,	Eunice Morgan	Region#9	MD,DE,VA,NC,SC,WV
& Jan Frey		Thunder Bay ON	Paul Perrin	Region#10	PE,NB,NS
Steve McAvoy	Region#4	KY,KS,IL,IN,MO,TN	Howard Bayerle	Region#11	FL,GA,AL,MS
Alyson Brown	Region#5	TX,LA,OK,AR,NM	Linda Smith	Region#12	AB,MT,ID,WY
Katy Kaylor	Region#6	CA,NV,AZ,UT,CO	Denise Delaney	Region#13	PA,NJ,NY,CT,RI,VT,NH,ME,MA

Steve McAvoy Region#4	I KY,KS,IL,IN,MO,TN	Howard Bayerle Region#11	FL,GA,AL,MS				
Alyson Brown Region#5	5 TX,LA,OK,AR,NM	Linda Smith Region#12	AB,MT,ID,WY				
Katy Kaylor Region#6	6 CA,NV,AZ,UT,CO	Denise Delaney Region#13	PA,NJ,NY,CT,RI,VT,NH,ME,N				
ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL							
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105 Cobblestone Lane	1890 Cottage Grove Pkwy	1003 E Samuel Ave	Dale Smith				
Hoover, AL 35244	Marion, IA 52302	Peoria Heights, IL 61614	5831 N 127 th Ave Cir				
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