

NAFA BOD Meeting Minutes - February 17, 2025 - 6pm CT via Zoom

In Attendance:

Board Members:

- Jayne McQuillen, Chair
- Emily-Rose Allred, Vice-Chair
- Dana Nichols, Treasurer
- Darcey Sare, Secretary
- Jonathan Bescher
- John Forseth
- Cindy Henderson
- Leerie Jenkins
- Paula Johnson

Executive Director:

Steve Corona

Guests: Karen Oleson, Meagan Langs

Jayne called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm CT. All attendees present.

Officer's Reports:

Chairperson's (Jayne McQuillen) Report:

1. Welcome two new BOD members: Darcey Sare and John Forseth
2. All committee appointments were approved via email and posted to the NAFA website.

Executive Director's (Steve Corona) Report:

1. CKC Title Recognition update
 - a. Steve followed up with Tracey Kent from the Canadian Kennel Club and informed them that we'd be willing to follow the same program (title offerings) as we do with AKC. No response as yet from the CKC.
2. FOWC update
 - a. There has been no interest from NAFA clubs as of this meeting. We still have a little time before the deadline comes up. Clubs may still be deciding. Steve to promote once more via social media.
3. CanAm Update
 - a. Unfortunately, it appears this year ESPN will not be able to film the finals in the Coliseum. This is an ESPN choice due to the number of different sports they are filming, and they cannot commit to filming the championships at this time. The Indiana State Fairgrounds has stated they need to know by mid-April if the Coliseum will be needed. The AKC is still committed to do the livestream on AKC TV. There is a possibility that the championships will be filmed and shown on ESPN+. We do not expect it to change our CanAm finances substantially.
 - b. Livestreaming via AKC is a huge benefit. Paula was not unhappy about the possibility. Bruce Thompson talked to Paula about wanting to do the commentary for the livestream. Will need to talk to AKC about that and find out if they are willing and able.
 - c. Darcey noted that Canadian viewers didn't get the finals for quite a while via TSN, and when it was shown it was on on a Tuesday afternoon. Also noted that while ESPN broadcasting was great exposure overall, it is not that big of a bang for the Canadian crowd.
 - d. Dana discussed adding social media video footage beforehand to ramp up the excitement

- e. Cindy notes that we should encourage posters to social media to tag #nafaflyball, #NAFACanAm and/or #flyball on posted video and pictures.

Treasurer's (Dana Nichols) Report:

1. 1099's were sent by Karen.
2. We are transitioning from Cindy to Dana as Treasurer.
3. Cindy made sure the taxes were filed on time.
4. At the last meeting 1st quarter reports were supplied. Will have 2nd quarter information after the quarter ends March 31

Secretary's (Darcey Sare) Report:

1. Minutes for January meeting were posted
2. Committees were approved by email.

Standing Committee Reports:

Judges Committee (Jonathan Bescher) Report:

1. Justin Ernst Supervising Application. Committee is currently taking comments.

Rules Committee (Dana Nichols) Report:

1. C.12 Notice of Excusal changes for excusing a person for unsportsmanlike conduct. Rules committee was tasked with looking at the C.12 for excusals. Sometimes judges don't know how to go about excusing a person, or how to report that to NAFA. In the past some judges hand-modified the C.12 and submitted it. The Rules committee felt the simplest thing would be to put a checkbox at the top to indicate when the C.12 referred to a person.
 - a. Dana moves to adopt the rules committee recommendation that the C.12 Notice of excusal form be amended to include a checkbox for people being excused for a breach of the code of ethics. Notice of Excusal form C.12 to be updated by the rules committee and be brought back to the board for approval.
 - b. Jonathan Bescher seconds the motion.
 - c. Discussion: Is there enough clarity in the sections on the form to know what refers to a dog, or a person? Suggest changing Dog Name to Dog/Person Name for Aggression/Code of Ethics Excusal. Leerie suggests the development of the form be sent to rules to be updated and returned to the Board for review.
 - d. There was no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.
2. Determining Regional Champions 2nd and 3rd place when not in good standing.
 - a. Dana shared current regional championship rules about being in good standing and would like to update the language to include 2nd and 3rd placing.
 - b. Dana moves to adopt the Rules Committee recommendation that section 8.4 - Regional Champions wording be updated to "A club that is not in good standing at any time during any time of the racing year is not eligible for regional placements."
 - c. Cindy seconds the motion.
 - d. Discussion: Should this be retro-active to 10/1/24 or should it take effect 10/1/25?
 - i. This is actually updating the wording of the rule to more clearly state the rule's intent. Alternatively, we could vote on this today and send out a modified form via email and include everyone's changes, then just vote on the form of the C.12 by email and hopefully get that published shortly after the meeting.
 - ii. The timing of the effective date of the motion was discussed. Our intent is for it to be in effect for the current fiscal year. We will post the new C.12 form and this language on the website.

- iii. In the discussion about this motion, the Board talked about the implementation timing in order to give clubs adequate notice. The intent is to have this amendment effective for the current fiscal racing year.
 - iv. The motion passes unanimously.
3. Visual adaptations to jumps - See Rules Recommendations Document
- a. Dana presented the request for consideration brought to the Rules committee from Deborah Yoder. The rules committee is in favour of the sport being as safe as possible for all dogs, however, does not feel this change will make it safe for all dogs. While this was a unique and interesting proposition, the Rules Committee did not feel it was fair for all who step in the ring.
 - b. The logo placement was also referenced in the proposal request. The Rules Committee reviewed the language regarding logo placement and found that it should be updated as to be consistent with current jump regulations. This item has been added to the task list and will be brought back to the board for discussion.
 - c. **There was no motion put forth.**
4. Bruce Boulanger's request to list rules interpretations
- a. Jayne took the board into executive session at 7:16PM.
 - b. The board left executive session at 7:36pm.
 - c. The board received and reviewed a request from Bruce Boulanger regarding clarification for judges. After discussion, it was noted there is currently a process in place for judges to bring forward questions for clarification through the head of judges and the judges committee.

At 7:37pm the board took a 15 minute recess.

The board returned from break at 7:52pm

Finance Committee (Dana Nichols) Report:

- 1. Update on collection of fees for clubs not in good standing
 - a. Jayne took the board into executive session at 7:53pm
 - b. The board left executive session at 8:25PM
 - c. Update on planned improvements to fee collection methods
 - i. The board discussed on the recommendation of the finance committee a move to a more automated electronic process for the entry and capture of tournament fees which would result in collecting teams fees in a timely manner and better tracking of clubs not in good standing.
 - d. Recommendations for review of fee structure
 - i. The board discussed an increase in NAFA Event fees by \$2/team/weekend. For 2-day events, this would increase from \$36/team to \$38/team. For 1-day events the fees would increase from \$24/team/day for the largest entry day to \$25/team/day, and increase from \$12/team/day to \$13/team/day for the smaller entry day for events held on consecutive days.
 - e. Dana moves to approve the increase in event fees effective 10/01/2025 and that our fee schedule be reviewed annually.
 - i. Leerie seconds.
 - f. No discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

Election Committee Report:

- 1. No report.

Nominating Committee:

1. No report

Marketing Committee (Paula Johnson) Report:

1. Paula shares that a marketing committee meeting will be scheduled sometime in March.

Disciplinary Committee (Jayne McQuillen) Report:

1. Recommendation to remove aggression excusal for Angus (CRN 170387)
 - a. Dana moves to remove the aggression excusal for Angus (CRN 170387).
 - b. Jonathan seconds.
 - c. Motion passes unanimously.

Current Board Actions:

Name/CRN	Type	Description	Effective Date
Lisa Chavez	Probation	One year probation for conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball	01/10/2025
Lisa Chavez	Suspension	Executive Director suspension through March 31, 2025 for conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball. Ratified by the Board 1/10/25.	01/04/2025
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
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Review Panel Report:

1. The review panel approved the following aggression excusals.
 - a. Aggression excusal approved for Stoli (CRN 190680)
 - b. Aggression excusal approved for Ripley (CRN 190797)

Special Committee Reports:

Technology Committee (Jonathan Bescher):

1. Chris Carr and Steve Branin have been working on the database to update the code. Meetings continue.
2. Dana reports the on-deck manager was used with Bob Hall's Flyball Manager program at the Omaha event recently and it ran "smooth as butter".

CanAm Steering Committee (Steve Corona):

1. Nothing Additional

Invitational Selection Committee:

1. Nothing Additional

NAFA Blog Committee:

1. No report

Junior Handler's Committee:

1. No Report

Old Business:

1. none

New Business:

1. MS 365 Suite- as a solution to replace and modernize the Groups.io and the myriad other collaboration tools available to the board.
2. Darcey talked about how MS 365 Suite might work well for NAFA and management of email, files, etc. Microsoft offers licensing for free for Not For Profit companies. Powerland Computers to facilitate backend configuration and license management at no cost.
3. Steve to look into NAFA's NFP status to ensure we qualify for this program.

Leerie moves to adjourn the meeting.

1. Cindy seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm. CT

Letter from Deborah Yoder (Queen City Road Runners):

From: **Deborah Yoder**

Date: Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 11:37 AM

Subject: Visual adaptations

Good morning.

I have a quick question.

I have read the rulebook regarding logo placement on the jumps. The way I understand it as long as its 2 in from bottom and sides it's allowed.

I've been following discussions on FB regarding early take off syndrome in sport dogs. I have 1 possibly 2 dogs that have this.

We are presently working on striding with my crash dummy staffy. We marked the top slot with contrasting tape similar to agility bars and are seeing marked improvement.

I know the top 1 in bars have to be solid white. But was wondering if adding the tape to the 6 in base would be allowed. Pic attached.

I would love to see it allowed on the 1 inch top bar (optional and to be provided by teams participating)

Sincerely

Queen City Road Runners

Deborah A. Yoder



