

Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, July 21, 2022

Held via Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Emily Allred
Jonathan Bescher
Kathy Haney
Cindy Henderson
Leerie Jenkins
Meagan Langs
Emma Mak
Lynda Mantler
Jayne McQuillen

Executive Director: Neil Flood

Jayne called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm CST.

Chair's Comments:

This meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the five existing height cards that were the subject of a letter (attached) the board received from Holly Evans, Glacier Shakers Flyball Club, Region 18, Captain.

Cindy moved that the existing height cards under the old CMJ program are no longer valid, and the dogs will need to remeasure under the new measuring system. Meagan seconded.

Discussion:

- Cindy stated for the record that she does not believe there has been any cheating, that anyone is trying to work the system or that the dogs were measured wrong. None of the height card holders or measuring judges did anything wrong. In fact, they did everything right. That being said however, since the device has changed, communication was not clear and to have everyone start on the same level playing field, revoking the previous CMJ program height cards should be considered.
- The wording that states the height cards are converted to permanent measurements has been in the rulebook for over a year however communication around which dogs would be exempt from measuring could have been better.
- The height card owners were told that the height cards would be converted to permanent measurements and the dogs would not need to remeasure. If they are required to remeasure, they have not had the opportunity to practice measure and start measuring toward a permanent height card. It doesn't seem fair to pull the height cards two months

before mandatory measuring starts. Perhaps a compromise would be to set a date when the height cards expire.

- While the measuring device has changed, the stance has not. Our research has shown that the laser measures the same as the wicket. The stance and what is being measured has remained identical from the 2018 flyball year to this point.
- When the height cards were made available in 2017, there were only a few dogs that got measured. That may have been because measuring was not required and there was no date set for when mandatory measuring would start. There was no compelling reason to get a height card unless your team was going to run a world record and did not want to wait to get measured by a CMJ in order to certify the world record.
- While the CMJ program was flawed, the problem was not with the actual measuring; it was with the viability of getting the judges to every region to measure dogs.
- The board has worked long and hard to make the laser measuring process fair and acceptable to competitors.
- Neil has responded to Holly Evans

Jayne called for a roll call vote:

Yes, agree with the motion. No, disagree with the motion.

Meagan - yes

Jon - no

Lynda - abstain

Emma - no

Cindy - yes

Leerie - no

Emily - no

Kathy - no

Jayne - chair does not vote

A communication will be published to state that the board stands behind the height card owners and judges.

Jon moved to adjourn the meeting. Meagan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

July 7, 2022

NAFA Board of Directors –

I'm writing to you on behalf of many regions. Recently it was brought to our attention that there currently exists five permanent height cards. How? How is this possible? I see a total of 3 are from 2017, with the remaining 2 from 2021. Just the dates alone beg lots of questions.

In 2017, under "Standing Rules of Competition" Section **7.1 – Height Cards**, it says:

- a. Height Cards are optional.
 - 2) All dogs require three (3) matching measurements from three (3) different approved NAFA Judges. a) At least one (1) of the three (3) matching measurements must be a NAFA designated Supervising Judge.

Fast forward to 2021, NAFA enters "transitional" flyball post pandemic. This was taken from the January 2021 minutes; **8. Q & A:**

Katie - In the transition where a wicket is the only "official" measurement, could you still apply for a permanent measurement?

Neil - No, you cannot because it won't be in the rulebook. You have to wait until October 1, 2021.

This was from those same minutes in January under: **7. Measuring**

Once "Normal" racing begins (target is October 1, 2021), we will commence a 12-month training period of mandatory measuring. Competitors are encouraged to try the device, and practice measure as much as they choose. They have the opportunity to get their permanent measurement from a judge certified on the device, but will not be required to. We want to get people familiar and comfortable with the new device.

And let's not forget these highlights from 2021 as well:

The Certified Measuring Judge position/program is being eliminated. All judges will be trained and certified to measure for Permanent Measurements.

Standing Committee Reports Judges Committee:

1. Judges' requirements for FY 2021
 - a. We need to decide what the requirements will be for 2021.
2. Jon moved to waive all judging requirements for 2021. Leerie seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.

So, in 2017 height cards were optional, you needed multiple measurements. And measurements were obtained via a wicket and you subtracted 5", correct? In 2021 we eliminate CMJ's and make judging requirements not necessary, however mandatory measuring starts 10/1/21?

Forgive me for being confused. I thought the whole intent of this new measuring system was to create a level playing field, yes? How is that created when 5 dogs get permanent height cards under old/or non-existing rules. The dogs from 2017 for instance...wouldn't they in theory get an inch lower measurement

now that we subtract 6"? And why do the dogs from the April 2021 measurements wish to keep theirs? They were done under the wicket and based upon the minutes were not allowed to go toward a Permanent Measurement. It is my understanding that a judge was flown out there to measure for a potential world record, yes? A 10" and an 11" measurement under a wicket make me suspicious that given their experience with the laser level they felt a wicket gave them a lower measurement. Were both measurements used? We likely will never know. But maybe now that I have asked.

Lyndsy Dvorak raised this question on Facebook and the response she received was "These teams asked?" What? What does that mean? They asked to bend the rules? They asked for an exception that doesn't exist in the rulebook? Please help me unpack that response "They asked!"

Honestly the fact there is only (5) dogs that "asked" for a permanent height card seems crazy. Truthfully had every region been told about this don't you think more than a handful would have "asked" for the same exception? We all want measuring to be easier, less stressful on the dogs/handlers, etc. This certainly would have allowed for that for MANY. The apparent transparency was lost on the majority of NAFA participants.

If these were viable exceptions, where is it in the rulebook? Where does it say in the minutes this was discussed and agreed upon? Where/when did these folks ask the board? Would that not be recorded in the minutes? I see letters/questions from participants constantly put in the minutes. Why would this be different?

I am asking the board to look at these "permanent measurements" and truly question their validity. It isn't right. This is what you didn't want! You wanted a new measuring system to be implemented and accepted by all.

Let's EVERYONE start on the same page. Let's all do what is required. Didn't the board agree to this....

Three goals of New Measuring Plan

1. Make measuring easier for competitors, RDs and judges.
2. Make measuring consistent.
3. Ensure fair checks and balances in the overall process.

No system is perfect. But if all of us have the same requirements that's definitely got to be a better start.

Sincerely –

Holly Evans

Glacier Shakers Flyball Club, Region 18, Captain