

Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, September 12, 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 6:03 pm CST.

Executive Director's Comments:

1. Due to scheduling conflicts at the Fairgrounds the CanAm 2023 will be on October 20-22, 2023 and will be in the brand new, climate-controlled Fall Creek Pavilion, with the Championship ring in the Pepsi Coliseum.
2. Bite sleeves are not allowed to be used in the ring. It is a safety issue and not a visual we want in the ring.
3. Follow up to measuring to not approve a third measurement of a dog. Those involved have been informed. The dog will be allowed to measure on Friday for the weekend at CanAm even though not racing on that day.

The board entered executive session at 6:09 pm.

The board left executive session at 6:22 pm.

There was discussion on a disciplinary matter.

4. Measuring Issues – ruler measurements
There was discussion about whether matching measurements have been obtained when the whole numbers do not match. It was agreed that when the withers measurements are below 14", the measurements match and jump height will be the minimum of 7".

At a tournament in Region 13 there were six dogs measured where the ruler was read incorrectly by the judge. Discussion took place about how to rectify the situation. When looking at the ruler, it is apparent how the error occurred and what the measurement called out should have been.

Two of the six dogs were on the same team as the judge which is a conflict-of-interest situation. It was decided that those dogs will need to remeasure under a judge not on the same team or send in a video. The other two dogs will have the measurements corrected as it was a clerical error.

Neil asked Jon to remind judges to double check that the measurements on the rulers are being read correctly.

Rules Committee Recommendations

1. Rule book clean-up (excluding phase 3 measuring changes)

A. Section 8.3 - The Heat

(a) The Run. Dogs may start from a stationary or running start. Each dog is to hurdle the four jumps in succession, trigger the box, releasing the ball, retrieve the ball and return over all four jumps and the start/finish line with the ball in its mouth.

Then, under infractions:

(h) Infractions.

(i) Infractions that require the rerunning of the dog to be rerun after the initial four dogs in the order they initially ran:

1. Early passes will be indicated by the EJS and the line judge and/or the head judge. When running without an EJS system, the line judge will indicate an infraction;
2. Missed jumps;
3. Not carrying the ball over each jump in succession;
4. Does not trigger the box;
5. Dog takes the ball from the cup without first triggering the box;

The situation that appears to NOT be ok in "the Heat" but not expressly listed in "infractions" is:

Dog runs towards box,
ball rolls out of box onto the floor in front of box,
dog triggers box,
picks up ball off floor,
completes run.

RC Recommendation:

Make an addition to (h) Infractions:

5. The dog retrieves a ball which has rolled out of the box before being triggered

Leerie moved to approve the Section A changes presented by the rules committee. Jon seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

- B. Section 8.5 - Dogs and Handlers with Disabilities...subsections go from (c) to (e).

RC Recommendation:

Fix it by renumbering subsections e-g to d-f.

Leerie moved to approve the Section B changes presented by the rules committee. Jon seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

- C. Complaints about minimum age for dogs being hard to find.

Currently it's located in Chapter 5 – Code of Conduct, Section 5.1 – Code of Ethics

RC Recommendation:

Move:

Section 5.1 (d) Minimum age for dogs. No dog under the age of fifteen (15) months may be listed on a time sheet in a sanctioned event.

To:

Section 3.2 – Clubs, Teams, Time Sheets, and Warm-up Only
(Between (f) and (g) under Time Sheets heading)

(f) Submitting time sheets. A current time sheet (NAFA Form C.2) shall be completed and provided to the tournament secretary before the start of racing, to include team name, club number, captain, CRNs, and dog names.

(g) Changes to listed dogs. Each dog on the time sheet, including alternate and warm-up...

Change:

5.1 (c) Mistreatment of dogs. Abuse or severe disciplining of a dog is not in the best interest of flyball.

To:

5.1 (c) Mistreatment of dogs. Abuse, severe disciplining of a dog, or running a dog that is under the minimum age as specified in Section 3.2 – Clubs, Teams, Time Sheets, and Warm-up Only (g) (RR) is not in the best interest of flyball.

Leerie moved to approve the Section C changes presented by the rules committee. Lynda seconded.

Discussion: Cindy - Why is it still in the mistreatment of dog section? It is there so that the penalties are clearly spelled out.

The motion carried with no opposition.

2. Rule book clean-up and changes/additions for phase 3 of measuring:

Remove wording that is listed in strikeout, add underlined wording.

GLOSSARY:

Height Dog - The dog(s) responsible for determining the jump height in a given heat.

NAFA® Measuring Apparatus – NAFA-supplied measuring wicket; or a NAFA approved leveling laser, tripod, and NAFA supplied ruler.

NAFA® Recorded Measurement – A measurement that is witnessed by the regional director at a NAFA sanctioned event and recorded on a NAFA C.9 Form. Starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022): A NAFA Recorded Measurement

designated as 'For M/O Training/Certification' or 'For Event Only' on the NAFA C.9 Form, cannot be used as an Initial, Temporary, or Permanent Measurement; OIR Measurement; or measurement for a NAFA World Record

Initial Measurement – The first in a series of NAFA® Recorded Measurements used to establish a Permanent Measurement. ~~Available starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022)~~

Permanent Measurement – The official height of a dog as a whole number, obtained by receiving a pair of NAFA® Recorded Measurements for the same jump height from two different measuring officials, at two separate events. A dog must be at least 24 months in age to obtain its final measurement for a Permanent Measurement. A dog having a Permanent Measurement has met the requirements of mandatory measuring, ~~and is not required to measure again. Available starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022).~~

Temporary Measurement – NAFA Recorded Measurement for a dog that is younger than 24 months in age. A dog having a Temporary Measurement has met the requirements of mandatory measuring, and is not required to measure again until the dog is at least 24 months of age. ~~Available starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022)~~

Section 1.6 Regional Directors

Responsibilities and Authorities at Events

(f) The regional director's responsibilities at events are the following:

(iii) ~~observe the measuring of dogs by judges~~ the Measuring Official using the NAFA Measuring Apparatus and provide verbal feedback to the Measuring official during the measuring process. ~~The following paragraph (g) is in effect starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022)~~

(j) The designation of the acting regional director shall be approved by the executive director. ~~During and after Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022), w~~Wherever possible, the acting regional director should be certified to act as a witness to NAFA Recorded Measurements.

Section 2.3 – Measuring Official Status – ~~starting April 1, 2022 (a) As of Phase 2 (expected date April 1, 2022)~~All NAFA® judges are required to be trained and certified as measuring officials.

~~Section 2.5 – Certified Measuring Judges – valid until March 31, 2021~~

~~Note: Certified Measuring Judges will no longer exist starting in Phase 2 of roll out of the new measuring system (April 1, 2022). As of August 22, 2020 board meeting, the restriction that CMJs cannot be board members was temporarily removed.~~

~~(a) The objective of NAFA Certified Measuring Judges is to promote the standardization of measuring for Height Cards.~~

~~(i) The Board shall appoint, provide training, and certify an appropriate number of approved or supervising judges to serve as NAFA® Certified Measuring Judges.~~

~~(ii) Re-certification every 3 years shall be required to remain a NAFA® Certified Measuring Judge.~~

~~(iii) NAFA® Certified Measuring Judges are required to travel to designated events to complete any required training and certification/recertification.~~

~~(iv) NAFA® Certified Measuring Judges are required to travel to measure dogs for height card applications assigned to them by NAFA. Travel costs will be reimbursed by NAFA. (a) When acting in their capacity as a NAFA® Certified Measuring Judge, they shall only measure dogs outside of their home region, that have been assigned to them by NAFA®. (b) A NAFA® Certified Measuring Judge shall not be listed as the Head Judge of record at tournaments to which they have been assigned to measure for a height card. (v) NAFA Certified Measuring Judges may not serve on the NAFA Board of Directors during their appointment. (b) Dismissal/Resignation of a NAFA® Certified Measuring Judge. (i) The Board of Directors reserves the right to remove any NAFA® Certified Measuring Judge at any time with or without cause by resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors then in office. (ii) Any NAFA® Certified Measuring Judge may resign at any given time by giving written notice to the Chairperson of the Board or the Secretary of the Corporation.~~

Section 2.3 – Measuring Official Status—starting April 1, 2022

~~(a) As of Phase 2 (expected date April 1, 2022) All NAFA® judges are required to be trained and certified as measuring officials.~~

~~(b) A judge with measuring Certified measuring officials certification status shall make it a top priority to foster trust in NAFA's measuring process. In pursuit of this goal, they must:~~

~~(h) NAFA reserves the right to revoke a measuring official's certification for cause.~~

CHAPTER 4 - MEASURING

~~(c) If the judge determines that an appropriate Measuring Surface or a NAFA Measuring Apparatus is not available, measuring shall not be for NAFA Recorded Measurements, and shall be for the tournament only.~~

~~The following alternate version of paragraph (c) is in effect starting in Phase 2 (expected start date April 1, 2022)~~

~~(c) If the judge determines that an appropriate Measuring Surface or a NAFA Measuring Apparatus is not available, the NAFA Recorded Measurements shall be designated as 'For Event Only' on the C.9 Jump Heights Form.~~

~~CHAPTER 7 – STANDING RULES OF COMPETITION Section 7.1 – Height Cards— valid until March 31, 2022 Note: Height cards will no longer be available starting in Phase 2 of roll out of the new measuring system (April 1, 2022). All existing Height cards will be converted to Permanent Measurements. (a) Height cards are optional. A dog's owner can apply to NAFA® for a permanent height card one (1) year after the dog has earned NAFA® points. Application for a height card, along with the fee listed in Appendix A, must be submitted through the NAFA® mailing address. Dogs that do not meet the eligibility requirements for a permanent height card, may apply for a temporary height card. Temporary height cards are valid until the dog meets the requirements for a permanent height card and a subsequent 90 day grade period. NAFA will assign a Certified Measuring Judge to measure the dog at a specific event. The applicant will be informed by NAFA which event the height card measurement will take place. The Certified Measuring Judge will be issued a C.10 form to record the height card measurement. (b) Height cards issued by NAFA® will be wallet size cards, and all height card records will be available online. (c) Once a permanent height card has been issued, additional cards for the same dog may not be applied for. Lost height cards can be replaced with an identical card for the fee listed in Appendix A. At the discretion of the Board, height cards may be reissued to accommodate rule or design changes. (d) A height card may not be challenged. 53 (e) One owner appeal (lifetime) will be allowed per dog~~

Section 7.2 World Records

Jump Height Verification

~~(i) During Phase 1: The Height Dog has a height card that supports the jump height used during the heat;~~

~~(ii) After Phase 1:~~

~~1. The Height Dog has a Permanent Measurement supporting the jump height used during the heat;~~

~~2. For any Height Dog that does not have a Permanent Measurement (including dogs under 24 months, or any other dog), the NAFA Recorded Measurement, completed at any time during that tournament day, supports the jump height used during the heat.~~

(i). The Height Dog has a Permanent Measurement supporting the jump height used during the heat;

(ii). For any Height Dog that does not have a Permanent Measurement (including dogs under 24 months, or any other dog), the NAFA Recorded Measurement, completed at any time during that tournament day, supports the jump height used during the heat.

Appendix A

~~Duplicate Height Cards (due to loss) \$10 USD or \$12 CDN.~~

Appendix C

Omit forms C.10 & C.10a

Switch out forms C.13 World Record

Section 2.2 - Barriers The host club shall provide a barrier/backstop at the box end of the run, placed as to prevent missed balls from rolling too far but placed as not to prevent proper observation by the judge or to obscure the spectators' view. A barrier (minimum 24" high) shall extend between the boxes, up to 3 feet in front of the box placement line, and a minimum of 5 feet behind the box placement line ~~to minimize interference.~~

Omit the following table

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Official measuring apparatus	Wicket	Laser measuring apparatus ¹	Laser measuring apparatus
Measuring Height Dogs is optional	Yes	Yes	No
Who measures?	Tournament measuring judge	Tournament measuring official ¹	Tournament measuring official
Measurements towards Temporary or Permanent Measurements can be obtained	No	Yes – the owner must declare this before the measurement is attempted.	Yes – required.
Height challenges	Yes	Yes- unless the dog has a Temporary or Permanent Measurement	No – any concerns with measuring should be discussed with RD, ED, board chair. NAFA will follow up as appropriate.
Height cards available	Yes	No (existing height cards are converted to dog's Permanent Measurement)	No
Height cards required for NAFA World Records	Yes	No – all height cards are converted to Permanent Measurements for Phase 2. (See Section 7.2 - World Record Times (CP&P) for requirements regarding Height Dogs).	No (See Section 7.2 - World Record Times (CP&P) for requirements regarding Height Dogs).
Certified Measuring judges	Yes	No	No
What can a Permanent Measurement be used for?	N/A	Tournament jump height World records	Tournament jump height World records

An exception may be granted when no measuring official certified to use the laser measuring apparatus is available and previous approval has been received from the ED. Wicket measurements may be used only for the event and may not be NAFA Recorded Measurements.

Remove current section 4.3 Section 4.3 – Legacy Measuring System – valid until September 30, 2022

Leerie moved to approve the Section 2 changes presented by the rules committee. Cindy seconded.

Discussion: Lynda - who can be measuring officials? Only approved judges.
 Lynda, are dogs required to get permanent measurements or can they continue to get temporary measurements so they can become comfortable with measuring? All height dogs will need to measure towards permanent measurement effective October 1.
 Lynda - can dogs measure Saturday and use that measurement on Sunday as well.
 Yes.
 Lynda - will this continue or is this temporary as there is a lot of measuring being done.
 This will continue.

The motion carried with no opposition.

Proposed changes to Chapter 4 Measuring sections:

Chapter 4 – Measuring

Section 4.1 – Measuring Process

Section 4.2 – NAFA Recorded Measurements

Section 4.3 – Mandatory Measuring

Section 4.4 – Permanent Measurements

Section 4.5 – Owner Initiated Remeasure (OIR) Process

Section 4.3 – Mandatory Measuring (previously 4.4)

Mandatory Measuring Requirements

(a) ~~As of October 1, 2022, mandatory measuring of Height Dogs is in effect. All~~ Height Dogs at least 24 months in age shall be required to obtain a NAFA Recorded measurement at each NAFA event until they obtain their Permanent Measurement. Until they achieve their Permanent Measurement, Height Dogs will set the jump height based on ~~their latest~~ that tournament week's NAFA Recorded Measurement.

(b) All Height Dogs between 15 and 24 months in age shall be required to obtain at least one (1) NAFA Recorded Measurement as their Temporary Measurement before running as a Height Dog.

Mandatory Measuring Exceptions

~~Starting in Phase 3 (Expected start date October 1, 2022).~~

(c) The following are granted exceptions to mandatory measuring requirements in paragraph 4.4 (b):

(i) Dogs ten (10) years in age or over. Dogs ten years in age or over are exempt from mandatory measuring; however, failure to jump their correct jump height when used as the Height Dog is considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

(ii) For an event in the same tournament week. When there are two or more NAFA events in the same tournament week, a NAFA Recorded Measurement from that tournament week's previous event(s) may be used for the remainder of the tournament week (even if the measuring official is different for the subsequent events).

Failure to Comply with Mandatory Measuring

(d) Dogs that do not qualify for mandatory measuring exceptions (Section 4.3(c)) and do not meet the requirements in (Section 4.3(a) and (b)), shall not be considered a Height Dog and will set the jump height at the maximum height stated in 8.2(a).

Section 4.4 – ~~Introduction of Mandatory Measuring—starting October 1, 2022~~

Leerie moved to approve the Chapter 4 - Measuring changes presented by the rules committee. Jon seconded.

Discussion: Cindy wondered if we should notate what things are exempted in 4.3 (c) rather than referencing back to another section. Leerie noted that this was discussed and it was decided it was best to reference the rule section. That way, if something gets changed in the future, the change would only need to be made in one place, rather than multiple places.

Motion carried with no opposition.

CHAPTER 5 - JUDGES

(d) Line judges shall:

(i) record which dogs participate in every heat and record win/loss using the NAFA Time sheet (Form C.2);

(ii) verify the jump heights are set correctly for each heat based on the Height Dog and class of racing (e.g. Regular and Multibreed classes).

(iii) indicate with a signal when an infraction has occurred.

Leerie moved to approve the Chapter 5 (d) Line Judge Duties changes presented by the rules committee. Cindy seconded.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Section 2.3 - Jumps

(a) The host club shall provide two sets of regulation flyball jumps for the duration of the tournament.

(i) The jumps shall be white except for the uprights, which may be any color. The jumps shall have an inside width of 24 inches or 30 inches, with uprights not more than 36 inches high nor less than 24 inches high. Logos and/or lettering on the cross-boards will be permitted but must be located between 2 inches and 6 inches high and 2 inches inside of each upright. All jumps shall be either 24 inches, or all jumps shall be 30 inches for the entirety of the event.

Leerie moved to approve the Section 2.3 Jumps (a) (i) changes presented by the rules committee. Jon seconded.

Motion carried with no opposition.

The board took a recess at 7:32 pm.

The board was called back into session at 7:47 pm.

3. Conflict of Interest (COI) for Measuring:

The Rules committee was charged with answering the following in regards to measuring:

1. Should the judges committee be voting on pass/fail for measurements submitted via video?

Discussion:

The committee unanimously agreed that any measuring videos submitted for review should be determined to be a valid measure for an initial, temporary, or permanent measure, or not valid for an initial, temporary, or permanent measure.

2. Do we need to require all Conflicts of Interest (COI) be videoed and sent in for review?

Discussion:

All members of the committee agree that any time there is a conflict of interest, a video of the measurement should be submitted for approval.

3. What if there is no conclusion reached from the video submitted?

Discussion:

The committee agreed that any video that results in no-conclusion being made by the review committee should not count for an initial, temporary, or permanent measure and should only count for the event at which it was taken.

4. What if a determination is made that there is a COI?

Discussion:

The rules committee agrees that if the review committee determines there is a conflict of interest (after an event) and there was no video submitted, then the measurement can be used for the event only and cannot be used for a world record, and will not count for an initial, temporary, or permanent measurement.

Recommendation: Alter the following wording in the rule book:

Section 4.2 – NAFA® Recorded Measurements

(c) For NAFA Recorded Measurements, the judge measuring official and regional director should work together to ensure:

(iv) there is no conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest. ~~For example, if the measuring judge and handler are members of the same club, it is recommended that a video recording of the measurement be submitted to the Judges Committee for review.~~ In order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, whenever a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest occurs between the owner/handler and the measuring official, measurements shall be video recorded and sent to NAFA for approval. Examples of conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to: family members, same flyball club, or other close relationship. If videos are not approved, the measurement shall be recorded as “for event only.”

CHAPTER 4 - MEASURING

Section 4.1 – Measuring Process

(o) NAFA reserves the right to require a dog to be measured for cause.

Leerie moved to approve the rules committee recommended wording for sections 4.2 and 4.1 as detailed. Emma seconded.

Discussion: Measuring. Lynda questioned if the RD should be included in the COI under (c) (iv). The RC discussed this and concluded that the RD does not have so much influence over the judge that it is an issue. Cindy – Instructions on how we want the measurements videoed need to be provided. The judges committee has been very attentive to and concerned with accuracy and detail of the videos submitted. We should provide some direction so that expectations are understood and the videos have a better chance of being approved. Leerie finds the best vantage point for the is the rear quarter panel opposite the judge. Jayne agrees. This will be an action item for the judges committee to provide information about what they want to see.

Cindy agrees with NAFA reserves the right to require a dog to be measured for cause, however feels that this will create a reaction. How will we respond? Leerie explained that the reason this is there is for the unforeseen circumstance.

Jayne noted that NAFA has a long history of making rules when people find a loophole. This is a way to deal with such issues head-on instead of making blanket rules.

Lynda - Do we need to say who in NAFA is approving this? At present, it is the judges committee. Leerie - The RC discussed not stating that it is the judges committee. At this time, we have a review panel and only one is a certified measuring official. The RC discussed leaving it like this so that it gives us the flexibility to create a committee. It isn't going to be an ad hoc committee each time a video gets sent in. Keep in mind that any committee will need to be ratified by the board. Neil noted that the judges committee is good for now, but it is too big. Leerie noted that the COI videos should be a small cross section of dogs and that in the future this should be a very small number of dogs. Cindy wants all members of the committee to be certified measuring officials. Neil disagreed and asks why it shouldn't be an RD. Cindy – we can leave it for now but might need to

revisit. Perhaps in January we ask the new chair to create a COI video review committee made entirely of 3–5 person panel of measuring officials.

Lynda – Can we determine how many COI have not been sent in and can we go back and ask for videos. Leerie - Currently we don't say SHALL, so we can't retroactively go back and ask for COI videos.

There was discussion about if the votes (pass/fail) need to be unanimous, or majority. Lynda would like to see this to be more transparent. Groupsio that is the current communication tool used has a poll feature that would work well for this purpose.

Cindy - How much of this detail do we actually need in the Rule Book. Lynda thinks it should be there for the current judges committee. Jon and Cindy agree that it should be stated if a pass is determined by a majority of votes or if it needs to be unanimous.

Lynda – Because getting responses from all judges committee members can take time, do we give a time frame for response, do we require a certain number of members to respond? It should be determined beforehand. Neil - It's not a rules committee thing and can be dealt with outside of the motion.

The motion carried with no opposition.

4. Dogs that measures under 14 inches at the withers

Emma moved to exempt dogs with jump height of 7" from the requirement that the whole number of the wither measurements must match for a permanent measurement. Leerie seconded.

Leerie noted that if the motion passes, we will need to change our rules. Emma does not wish to do the wording tonight. It needs to be added before October 1. Leerie feels it can be proposed and hashed out on the board list. The board will write the language.

Motion carried with no opposition.

5. Performance Teams

The committee received the following a proposal from Meagan Langs:

Formal Proposal of Changes to Performance Teams:

1. Current Rule book language is overly complicated when looking up Conversion to Performance. Move Performance rules into its own section. The current rules are in the Changing Clubs section but then say any Regular or Non-Regular Class, then really only discusses Multibreed.
2. **Once Performance has been approved the team will follow the rules of the Open Class. (This is done to award all dogs the same protections that were available previously and it is NOT being done to "devalue" the need of a height dog or a Veteran dog. Once a team is running, performance regional placements and awards are not available so forcing the height dog requirement is overly burdensome for no real reason.)**

Optional Addition:

3. Conversion to Performance within the racing day, should be permitted with TD approval if an unforeseen circumstance has occurred and the team has dogs already listed on the team line up sheet and they can continue to run but cannot follow the rules of the class for which they originally entered. All previous wins would be converted to losses.

Discussion:

The committee reviewed the proposal and agrees that the current wording should be reviewed, reorganized, and simplified. The committee agrees with eliminating the height dog requirement on a Performance Team and the Regional Director into the approval process for when a team requests conversion to a Performance Team. The committee would like to see the wording reviewed, reorganized, and updated, however, admits that there is not time to adequately accomplish this task before October 1st.

Recommendation: Add underlined wording:

Section 7.5 – Changing Clubs

(c)

(ii) When a team in the Multibreed Class declares performance, the requirement of four different breeds set forth in Section 6.2 – Classes of Competition (d) (CP&P) does not apply. When a team in the Regular Class or Multibreed Class declares performance, jump heights shall be set at any height not below the minimum and not exceeding the maximum height stated in Section 8.2 – Jump Heights (RR).

(iii) Conversion to Performance Team Entry. With the permission of the tournament director and Regional Director for cause shown, a team entered in a regular or non-regular class may be converted from its original status to a performance team entry prior to the start of the tournament. The intent of this conversion privilege is to allow teams that have already entered a tournament but who, for unforeseen reasons, find themselves unable to field a complete team, to run for points with a dog or dogs from another club. "Cause" shall include but not be limited to circumstances such as dog injury, illness, or other unforeseen situation. A team may not enter a tournament as a performance team. Abuses to the Performance rules will be subject to disciplinary action.

Leerie moved to accept the wording presented by the rules committee for Section 7.5. Cindy seconded.

Discussion: Lynda wants to see it moved from Changing clubs area. Leerie – The RC discussed at length moving this and reorganizing it. Due to time constraints with the October 1 Rulebook update, it will need to be addressed next year.

Motion carried with no opposition.

6. Loaded balls – Steve Heine

Is smearing a ball with peanut butter to encourage a dog to carry the ball over the finish line permitted?

Discussion: This is not currently an infraction in the rule book unless it distracts a dog on the opposing team. The majority of the committee agreed that if the ball fell within the rules Section 1.2 - Balls, and was not a distraction to other dogs, there was no cause for intervention. The majority of the rules committee feels enforcing a rule prohibiting “loaded balls” in a fair and unbiased manner would be difficult.

Meagan felt that a ball with peanut butter was the same as a ball with a squeaky, and should not be allowed.

RC Recommendation:

No rule book changes at this time.

Leerie moved to accept the RC recommendations. Emily seconded.

Meagan doesn't think we should put anything in the rulebook, but thinks we should tell this person that they can't do this because we know that they are doing this. Our stance should be that there's no food on that side of the start/finish lane.

Leerie notes that if there is food on the ball, he would not allow it, however it sounds like it isn't obvious.

Jonathan says that it is a smear or a small dab.

Cindy - comes down to interference. A judge or RD can talk to this person, and tell the person that it is interfering and talk about other ways to get the dog to hold the ball. Cindy thinks it is interference if it happens.

Meagan - how do you know if it is interference. How do you know that my dog didn't cross because of the peanut butter.

Jon - there have been cases where a person has dropped a treat by the box and a dog goes down and eats something off the ground. Jon agrees that we don't need to make a rule change, but maybe mention that it isn't cool.

Neil - just tell judges that people cannot put food on the balls. Nobody disagrees with the motion.

Leerie - Point of order, the motion is still live.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Jon will communicate to judges that people cannot put food on or in balls.

Marketing:

1. Creating an Iron Dog Patch

There was a request for an Iron Dog Patch. Lynda will look into this. The marketing committee will get cost information for the patches which would be paid for by the participant.

2. Annie Taylor asked about participant pins that are available in 5-year increments. Some people have been asking about a 30-year pin. There was a suggestion that these be made. Not a lot of milestone pins are being given out. That may be because people don't know about them and also awards gatherings are not taking place as they used to due to COVID. Jayne mentioned that maybe Marketing can send a communication noting the patches/pins are available. Meagan - do the pins cost money? NAFA has been paying for them. A stock was given to the RDs to hand out. Emily suggested we get an estimate from the marketing committee before we decide what to do about these. The marketing committee will investigate and report back to the board.

Elections/Nominations:

Jayne will send out a list of dogs and people that have been vetted.

1. Do we need to waive or estimate delegate votes for regions who weren't able to play a normal year due to Covid restrictions
2. Nomination opened – Report on nominations

Jayne needs to give a number to Big Pulse for the number of participants we want in the election. This is determined by host participation. Do we want to do exceptions for the regions that were not fully open?

Jonathan - Participated in FY 2022, then you get the greater of 2019/2022 delegate votes. Will last year's old RDs still get a delegate vote for 2022. It is currently based on the previous year.

Cindy moved to award delegate votes based on the greater of 2019 or 2022 with the limitation that you must have entered at least one team or hosted a tournament in 2022. Jon seconded.

Discussion: An Affiliate Club must compete in at least one (1) event during the preceding Racing Year to qualify for delegate votes. An Affiliate Club earns delegate votes by competing in tournaments according to the follow schedule: Team entries are the greatest number of entries on a given day during a tournament week. Additionally, one (1) delegate vote per Affiliate Club will be earned for hosting each tournament day. No Affiliate Club shall earn more than fifteen (15) delegate votes in total by team entries or tournament hosting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Communications:

1. Follow up on hearing protection article for blog. Jon will follow up with an audiologist.

Cindy moved to adjourn. Leerie seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.