

Comment Items for Potential Delegate Vote Issues:

The NAFA Board of Directors is requesting feedback and comments on a few topics listed below. The comment period will occur for 3 months, opening on September 1st, 2017, and closing on March 15th, 2018. Based on the comments provided, the Board of Directors will host a Delegate Vote on the matters listed below.

The items below, will be in addition to two trial changes that have been going on in the Open class since May 1st, 2017. Information on that change can be found at:

<http://www.flyball.org/2017ProposedOpenClassChanges.pdf>

Removal of False Starts from Regular and Multibreed Classes of Racing

The NAFA Board of Directors has already received significant positive feedback on the removal of false starts in the Open class. Frequently, comments have requested removal of false starts from the Regular and Multibreed classes as well. Based on feedback there are a number of positive aspects of removing false starts entirely.

These include:

- Significantly reducing the number of unnecessary runs by the start dog
- Creating equality between the start dog/handler and the other 3 handlers/dogs on the team that do not receive a second chance
- Improving the pace of racing throughout the delay by eliminating the delays associated with false starts
- Improving the competitiveness of racing by placing an emphasis on good starting ability

If this initiative has the appropriate amount of support, NAFA will introduce an optional "practice start" immediately following the existing warmup time that would allow start handlers a practice start, similar to how other dogs/handlers get a practice pass during warmups. If either start handler opted for a practice start, then the judge would quickly run a practice start EJS sequence. If neither opted for a practice start, the first heat of the race would proceed immediately.

All comments, and suggestions on and relating to this subject are welcome and appreciated.

Jump Heights

The Board of Directors has received a number of emails requesting that jump heights be lowered from the current 5" below the withers measurement, to 6" below the withers. We are opening up this topic for discussion. Related to this, would be lowering the minimum and maximum jump heights from 7" – 14" to 6"-13" respectively.

There are a number of considerations on this topic, chief among them is dog safety. There is a concern that higher jumps could present a safety issue, while conversely lowering them could also present a different issue with increased speed into the box. NAFA is looking for feedback on this matter. Based on the responses, we can create a item(s) for a Delegate vote.