

July 2, 2018
Board Meeting Conference Call
Attending: Laura Hartwick, Katrina Parkinson, Gwen Tatsuno, Penni Price, Janet Massolo, Vici Whisner

Meeting called to order 7pm.

APRIL TRIAL:

Feedback on not printing courses-a lot of positive feedback, but some people did not like it.
Disadvantage to people without internet during the trial, some people got them very early because they were on the internet.
We will go back to printing them for now, we liked the environmentally friendly aspect of not printing them though.

Penni would like to pursue less paper for mailing to USDAA, Katrina said she would call the USDAA office and see if there's a way to do this, but it should be happening perhaps in the next 6 months as they are updating their website and the way they handle the trial results and info. USDAA is supposedly setting it up so the results could be submitted into their website directly and online entry. Penni would like to help move this along as well.

BIS/FIX AND GO POLICIES

The Board would like to have an umbrella policy for SMART. USDAA wants to have the finalized policies out in time for our July trial, but the policies aren't all the way formed. Perhaps applying them to the August trial? Is not discussing something that isn't even a policy is a bit like putting the cart before the horse?

SMART could let the general membership vote on this as a community, and not just make the whole vote for the club.

Some of the pertinent issues For Fix and Go include:

Would we set something up where a trial chair could veto doing fix and go because of a trial size? Maybe simpler to let it be up to the judge to set it up for their ring during their briefing if we have umbrella ok on fix and go. It should be fairly simple and clear from the USDAA pre-policy info they have put on their website. The judge could also set the max course time to keep that from going over, there would be a bit of judge's discretion involved. Competitors would need to read the written guidelines as to understanding how fix and go goes, just as they should know the other rules of competition. The board overall really likes the idea of fix and go as a positive step.

Action item:

Fix and Go-Let USDAA finish their policy, implement it, then leave it to judge's discretion.

Some of the issues for BIS include:

Will this be a club policy, or trial committee policy?

Maybe a general membership meeting where people could voice their concerns and input and give members the opportunity to discuss the policy, and let members vote (by email if they would like to and can't make the meeting). The BIS policy may be more polarizing. If Smart adopts the policy, would the trial committee have the option to not allow BIS at their trial if doing so would negatively impact it? And, it should be with board approval. At indoor trials on turf they do sometimes not allow this. Several members have emailed their support to the SMART board of this change.

Maybe instead of a vote, a survey to the club? Instead of a broad discussion, keep it more contained to a survey, that provides data that can be quantified. This is a bit more complicated, because of cleanup on the grass as well as on equipment. Katrina has emailed USDAA some more questions, such as could the club not allow BIS in standard classes, because of the duration on the table? Or if wearing panties were the policy, competitors would have the option to come, or not enter if they were opposed to having their dog wear the panties during a run. Also, perhaps having leeway to move the running orders around a bit, putting all the BIS at very end of class in their own group, either in the rotation group or their own rotation group, or letting intact males move up if they like?

This may be an issue where we are not going to please everyone. We should currently be offering refunds to BIS.

It is premature to have this worked out as USDAA has not yet finalized their policy, but would be great to get a survey out there for the SMART members and see what everyone thinks.

Have a general membership meeting at the August trial, and if the policy is completed then bring the topic up at the meeting. Perhaps put the survey into the premium? Survey monkey, online, would be immediate results, and could include the whole membership, as not all smart members will be entering this trial. But SMART's customers are not just members, anyone who enters should have a voice in it. If a survey/questionnaire can't go in the premium, Vici will do the survey monkey. This would be for information gathering, not a vote, as only SMART members can vote on a club policy, not non members.

If we start setting this up quickly, then when USDAA has the policy ready we would be ready to put it before the members/entrants.

Do we want to be on the cutting edge, but not the bleeding edge? If it seemed to not work we could always reverse the policy. A priority of SMART is to listen to membership input.

Action Item:

Vici will be setting up the survey (either for survey monkey or a page in the August premium) anything board would like to be in this email to her. Hold a membership meeting at the August trial where members learn we are getting input on this issue

OTHER TOPICS:

UKI West Coast Cup

Anne/Ivette will be renting the trailer for that weekend, Rob will bring it back, it will just stay there after the SMART trailer.

1 Ring Trial/Trial Group Idea

Could SMART have a small 1 ring trial? RACE had a nice one down south, it was small and fun.
Are people are burnt out of working at the trials? Dereede had the idea to drop one trial to cut back from burnout in our local agility community. If SMART was to drop a trial, Bay Team may take that date. Janet pointed out that SMART was started to have local trials, why would SMART want to drop a trial when it exists to hold trials for local competitors? If there is burnout from too many trials, SMART only has a handful of trials, doesn't quite make sense to drop a trial date when it's for local competitors?

Here is the idea that Katrina and Dereede had, to start a group where a representative from every Norcal/Central Coast club got together in a conference call to discuss USDAA trials and timing as a group, and perhaps to discuss this issue of workers being burned out from so many trials. Bay Team is dropping one trial this year the week before Cynosports. Maybe this committee would help to set the schedule for Northern California to get all the clubs together as a community to look at the dates as a whole and not just each club setting their own dates and not noticing what the other clubs are doing.

Katrina points out there are a lot of spring and fall trials everywhere, and trials are getting smaller because there are so many. TRACS, Hautedaws, Turlock are all getting smaller, they feel that some of their trials are usurped by other trials before or after them, to where they may be cancelling some of their trials as they are getting too small to be financially solvent. The point is, a community of Norcal clubs scheduling together might be able to work together to look at this issue,, and untangle where some of the dates are tangled. Any changes of dates would go back to the boards.

Action item:

Katrina volunteered to be the representative to this committee from SMART and to look into organizing this group. A motion was made to have this happen, and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.