



United States Mondioring Association

A Member of the American Working Dog Federation



United States Mondioring Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 24, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Don Lee at 2012 hrs (or 08:12 P.M. CST). A quorum was present.

Members Present

President	Donald Lee	Director	Francois Massart
Vice President	Paul Anthony	Director	Heather Ratynski - absent
Secretary	Angelyn Leonberger	Director	Karen Shivers
Treasurer	Jake Scott		

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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Officer Reports

President - No report.

Vice President - No report.

Treasurer - Jake reported the following: Wells Fargo – \$35,359.31 PayPal \$5,092.13
Total: \$40,451.44.

Secretary - Angie reported the following: 2019 YTD numbers: 209 members and 23 clubs.

Director at Large - No report.

Committee Reports

Judge's Committee - No report.

Decoy Committee - No report.

Membership Committee - No report.

AWDF Update - No report.

Nationals Committee -

- Presented by Jake Scott:
 - July 31st deadline for Decoy & Judge's Committees for 2020 National Championships selection, regardless of where the trial is held.
 - Recommendation was to reference the judge and jury of the 2019 World's Championships which were announced in October 2018.
 - Recommending - August 1st bid opens for Nationals host, September 1st bid closes. Nationals committee would make its decision on September 1st.
 - Would like to stretch the deadline further for 2021.

FCI Committee -

- USMRA FCI Committee Report
June 18, 2019
Report submitted by Michon Mills, USMRA FCI Committee Chair

The FCI Committee had a meeting on June 11, 2019. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Reciprocity agreement with SCC and NARA
- Acceptance of NARA Scorebooks and Blue Books (after expiration of variance)
- Acceptance of CSAU (NARA issued) and BH (UScA issued) for sociability test requirement
- Future plans for USMRA leading up to and after expiration of the FCI Variance

The Committee discussed and is in agreement that the majority of the USMRA Members wish for USMRA to remain compliant with FCI and the FCI International Rules of Mondioring. The Committee is aware that there are currently some members that are working and competing with non FCI compliant dogs that are currently covered under the temporary FCI variance awarded to USMRA February 22, 2017.

With the recent decision by SCC to not recognize NARA titles, judges, decoys or scorebooks, as of December 14, 2018, the USMRA FCI Committee recommends unanimously to the USMRA Board of Directors that USMRA also not recognize NARA titles or scorebooks obtained after the December 14, 2018 date. This decision includes the use of a CSAU earned by NARA after the December 14, 2018 date. USMRA would still accept a CSAU and scorebook obtained by SCC. It has been documented by Frans Jansen that SCC no longer accepts or writes in NARA scorebooks in an email to USMRA Secretary, Angie Leonberger.

In the event that the conflict with SCC and NARA is resolved and NARA is recognized again by the SCC, USMRA will reverse this decision and again accept NARA titles and scorebooks, including the NARA issued CSAU for sociability.

With the recent decision by AWDF to not recognize UScA titles earned after January 1, 2019, the USMRA FCI Committee recommends to the USMRA Board of Directors that USMRA also not recognize UScA titles earned after the December 31, 2018 date. UScA

scorebooks will be accepted until June 30, 2019. This decision includes the use of a BH earned and issued by UScA after the December 31, 2018 date for sociability purposes.

In the event that the conflict with UScA and AWDF is resolved and UScA is recognized again by AWDF and FCI, USMRA would reverse this decision and again accept UScA titles and scorebooks, including the UScA issued BH for sociability.

The USMRA FCI Committee recommends that any member affected by either of the above mentioned conflicts obtain a new AWDF scorebook and obtain a sociability test with either a USMRA Sociability test or an AKC Canine Good Citizen test.

The Committee discussed our current variance from FCI, which expires December 31, 2021. The variance was issued by FCI with the intention for USMRA to become fully compliant with the FCI International Rules of Mondioring by the expiration of the variance. The Committee recognizes that there are numerous USMRA members that have dogs that are not FCI compliant because of lack of FCI recognized registration/pedigrees or because the dogs are neutered or have cryptorchidism. In order for USMRA to be in full compliance with FCI, the non FCI compliant dogs would not be allowed to compete in any USMRA trials after the expiration of the variance.

The Committee has discussed this issue in great detail and recommends to the Board of Directors that USMRA become compliant with the FCI by the expiration date of the variance.

In order to not lose the current members with non-compliant FCI dogs, this Committee recommends that the USMRA Judges Committee review and discuss the possibility of non FCI compliant dogs be allowed to trial at USMRA club trials only in an “exhibition status”, with no score entry into a scorebook and using a scoresheet differentiated from the official USMRA scoresheet, with no official score or title being awarded in the scorebook. It would be at the discretion of a European judge whether or not they would allow and judge a non-FCI compliant dog in an “exhibition status”. The “exhibition dog” would perform and be judged in all the exercises outlined in the International Rules of Mondioring, but would not earn a title or official score. The Committee is suggesting that a “certificate of completion” be awarded to the “Exhibition Dogs” when they complete the necessary legs for each level of Mondioring that are required as if earning a title. These dogs would perform at each level after the FCI compliant dogs so to not disrupt the flow of the trial. The exhibition dogs would not be permitted or allowed to compete at a National or International Level.

This Committee also recommends that 60 days prior to the expiration of the variance, any USMRA member, competing with a non-compliant FCI dog, in possession of a scorebook used for USMRA trials, turn in their scorebook to the USMRA Secretary, so that the book can be updated and documented to state that the book is invalid for use at any USMRA trial. After the book is documented, it would be returned to the USMRA member. Failure to turn in a scorebook for a non-compliant FCI dog would result in the USMRA member being suspended from USMRA membership until the book is documented as invalid for USMRA trials.

It would be each individual club's decision on how to award standings for club trials that have "exhibition dogs" competing. Although, "exhibition dogs" will not be documented or ranked on any FCI or USMRA trial summary sheet or official scoresheet. Trial summary sheets will be documented and ranked by FCI compliant dogs only.

This Committee unanimously agreed to the above listed recommendation and looks forward to working with the USMRA Judges Committee, the Board of Directors and the USMRA members to find a way to allow non-FCI compliant dogs to participate in club trials without violating FCI rules.

- The BOD has a few decisions to make. 1, accepting the NARA titles and scorebooks, which Frans Jansen recommended not doing so at this time. 2, not accepting USCA scorebooks past June 30, 2019 as per AWDF.
 - Should the organization(s) be back in good graces with the FCI, the BOD would once again accept their books and or titles.
 - The parent organization is telling us their recommendation, USMRA BOD feel we should follow their recommendations.
 - Sociability tests - NARA CSAU or USCA BH will not be accepted.
 - FCI recognized BHs will be accepted.
 - For dogs that are already titled in level 1+, there is little to no point in going back to do a new sociability test. The dog has already proven itself to be controlled in a trial setting.
- Discussion was had regarding dogs that will no longer be allowed to compete once the variance has ended.
 - Dislike the idea of returning books 60 days out from the end of the variance. Particularly suspension if the book is not returned.
 - An example brought up was a dog that has earned a title and retired.
 - An option brought up would be to mark the USMRA dog ID card exhibition only.
 - Consider 'blue books' for non-FCI dogs which is what NARA does.
 - Nonremovable sticker which lists the dog as non-FCI compliant, for exhibition only.
 - Whatever marking is chosen, it should be tasteful in the event FCI chooses to allow non-FCI & neutered dogs to compete.
 - Discussion to be continued.

International Committee - No report.

Election Committee - No report.

Unfinished Business

- A member complaint was sent to the Board of Inquiry on April 12, 2019.
- Discussion on revisiting the Official Facebook group's rules on conduct.
 - Still in process.
- Don has not yet received a response from Margaret regarding per diem for the 2019 USMRA National's judges.

Evaluate the Status of USMRA Clubs

- Pikes Peak Madrai Dochreidte named changed to Castle Rock Ringers.

New Business

- Discussion was had regarding the 250 mile rule for world team selection.
 - There are clubs hosting trials on the east coast that are well within 250 miles from one another.
 - Concern that this may be harming entries.
 - The closest two clubs Marvel Ringsport is 41 miles from Zack Kiser's club.
 - Would like to consider changing the distance rule - one option mentioned was 25 miles.
 - Rule was originally implemented to prevent competitors from using 1 field split down the middle with a fence or using a field just down the road. Another reason presented was to ensure the dog was travel worthy.
 - It was decided to continue discussion at a later date.
- Consider incorporating the FMBB into the World's criteria.
 - Due to the size of the country, it is costly to travel from coast to coast. Costs can be similar to traveling overseas, such as for FMBB.
 - Many members will be faced with the decision to either go to FMBB or Worlds.
 - Discussion was had on how to help raise money to defray costs for travel.
 - Lianne Shinton recently started a Facebook group to help fill this void to supplement costs for world team competitors. Solicited sponsorships.
 - It was decided to continue discussion at a later date.

Facebook Business

- None to report.

Member's Concerns - Any concerns that USMRA Members may have.

- As submitted by Mary:
 - YouTube offers free live-streaming services for non-profits that apply for it, which I think would be good for USMRA to do while that's still a thing. It would be a good place to livestream Nationals that would be easy for everyone to access.
 - While it would be a wonderful platform to utilize, USMRA is not a 501(c)(3), which is a requirement of YouTube's free live-streaming service. USMRA is a 501(c)(7).
 - Additional discussion was had on how best to broadcast USMRA events, particularly Nationals.
 - It worked well when Marvel K9 listed each video by the dog's name - easy to search for.
 - Waine Singleton/IPO Nation Live - an IGP competitor & helper that often travels and broadcasts trials with advanced video gear.

- Not all members are active on Facebook. YouTube does not require a membership to view videos.
- A couple members had asked Karen why Mondio requires 2 legs vs 1 leg to obtain a title.
 - FCI adopted the International Mondioring rules.
 - French ring also requires 2 legs as well but both legs must be obtained under 2 different judges.

Announcements

Next regular BOD meeting - July 15, 2019 at 8:00 PM CST

Adjournment

It was moved by Don, second by Jake to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 2152 hours (09:52 P.M. CST)

Angelyn Leonberger
USMRA Secretary

**Approved (Approved as Corrected)
BOD Electronic approval**

Angelyn Leonberger
USMRA Secretary
August 5, 2019