

Proposal to Delegates of 2015 NOC and NAC Electronic Voting System for National Judges

At the 2014 NAC meeting of the delegates, Tim Edwards, 2015 NAC Chairman, brought to the floor the idea to use an Electronic On-Line balloting system. A committee was formed to investigate the idea of using such a system and make a recommendation and proposal to the delegates for a vote.

The committee consisted of Mhari Peschel (NOC Secretary), Jan Johnson (NAC Secretary), Dean Reinke (Chair), Skip Smith, Melissa Sanford, and Ted Lagala. The committee met via conference calls on a number of occasions as well as exchanged email communication to discuss the feasibility of the project, its administration, implementation and sustainability. Dean Reinke has stepped off the committee and Jan Johnson has taken over the role of Chair.

Simply, the goal of this proposed change is to 1) make it easy and convenient for those that are qualified to vote for the judges for the upcoming NOC and NAC by providing an On-Line system that can be accessed anywhere and anytime you have access to a computer, 2) to make it easier on the secretaries of the NOC and NAC, 3) to provide great communication and reminders to those qualified to vote to potentially increase participation and 4) to decrease overall cost.

There are no other changes that are included in this proposal other than the method by which we vote for the NOC and NAC judges from a paper based manual system to an electronic based automated system. There will be a requirement by all club Field Trial Secretaries to provide the email addresses of the placing dogs owners or an indication that they don't have one or refuse to provide one.

Rules changes have been reviewed and a draft has been prepared. We recommend that an Election Administrator take care of loading the system with the ballots, entering email addresses, running and producing final reports of the winners, etc. We propose that the NOC and NAC secretaries serve as the Election Administrators because of their role in compiling placements for all trials, determining eligibility of voters and access to contact information for eligible voters. This could change in the future if a need is perceived for an independent Election Administrator.

The committee carefully reviewed the challenges in moving forward with such a project, evaluated the advantages that an electronic balloting system offers, and reviewed two software vendors that provide software for On-Line balloting.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the delegates that we adopt an electronic balloting system for the election of NAC and NOC judges. We include proposals to change the Resolutions governing judges elections for the NAC and to change the By-Laws governing judges elections for the NOC. The suggested time line for implementation would be for the 2017 voting year.

Resolution for Change to Electronic Voting for National Amateur Championship Judges

Proposed Process for Electronic Voting for National Amateur Judges

At the time of approval by the delegates, a template will be posted on ESSFT.com and emailed to field trial secretaries for collecting the names and emails of owners of placing dogs.

Interclub chairs will be enlisted to assist in getting the change of process put in place and help to gain compliance. Field trial secretaries will receive a notice of the new process so they can include it in their catalog or have the field trial chair speak to it at the trial.

Completed templates will be submitted via email to both the NOC and NAC secretaries with the results of the trial including email addresses of the owners of placing dogs.

The NOC and NAC secretaries will use the information in the templates to update contact information along with the normal collection of placement information.

Beginning with the first election in 2017, an email will be sent to all qualified NAC voters who have email addresses on file that the election is about to occur. A notice will also be posted on ESSFT.com that the election will be utilizing the electronic format.

Emails that bounce back from this initial notification will be corrected as much as practical. Once the election begins, any qualified voters who do not have a valid email will be sent a paper ballot that includes a request for their email address.

Qualified voters who send a valid email address along with their first ballot will receive a notification of the secondary election via email and be able to use the election software.

Qualified voters who still don't have a valid email address will continue to receive paper ballots for the secondary election.

Votes cast by paper ballot will be entered into the election software by the national secretary. Therefore all the votes will be stored in the election software.

Once the election is complete, a certified result of the election is sent to the secretary and can be posted to ESSFT.com.

Elections, including ballots and voting information, are retained for as long as needed. Ballots can be copied and altered for subsequent elections saving the secretary

significant effort.

It is hoped that over time, paper ballots will be phased out entirely. This may take three years. During that time paper ballots will be available so participation is not dependent on having an email account and internet access.

Amendment to the process for the selection of judges agreed at the Delegates meeting 2009:

- a) On August 1st the National Secretary will mail a letter to prospective judges requesting a response on their willingness and qualification to judge the following year's NAC.
- b) Responses to be received by the Secretary by mail on or before by August 30th.

Add:

- a) On or before August 15th, the National Secretary will upload the list of qualified voters to the Election Software.
 - b) The Election Software will be used to send an email to all Qualified Voters notifying them of the election.
 - c) Emails that bounce back will be reviewed by the National Secretary for resolution.
- c) The National Secretary shall prepare a ballot containing the list of qualifying judges who have agreed to be included and mail to the eligible list of voters on September 1st.

Change:

- a) The National Secretary shall prepare a ballot in the Election Software containing the list of qualifying judges who have agreed to be included.
 - b) On September 1st, the National Secretary will instruct the Election Software to issue an email to all Qualified Voters with a link to the ballot.
 - c) On September 1st, the National Secretary will print and mail ballots to any Qualified Voters who do not have a valid email address that includes a request for a valid email to be sent to the National Secretary.
- d) On or before September 30th, the Secretary shall receive one ballot from each eligible voter on which he/she has voted for four (4) individuals. Only ballots with 4 selections will be counted.

Change:

- a) On or before September 30th, the National Secretary will enter the votes for all hard copy ballots received from Qualified Voters who are not using the Election Software.
 - b) The National Secretary will close the election.
 - c) The Election Software will issue a certification of the results of the election to the National Secretary
 - d) The National Secretary will update the Election Software with any updates to email addresses received by Qualified Voters.
- e) The National Secretary shall prepare a ballot containing the names alphabetically arranged, of the five (5) nominees receiving the highest number of nominations by the eligible voters. The names of all nominees who have received the fifth highest number of nominations shall be included on the ballot. Each nominee will be asked to provide a short bio to accompany the ballot.

Process and Proposed By-Law Changes for Electronic Judges Voting for the National Open Championship

Current Process for the distribution, casting and tabulation of ballots used to select National Open Championship judges.

1. By May 1 of each year the Secretary prepares and mails a ballot to the eligible voters. This ballot, known as the preliminary ballot, contains the names of all prospective judges that meet the requirements identified in Section 4 of the bylaws. The bylaws require that a prospective judge has a) judged a minimum of six trials (Open All Age Stakes) of which two or more have been within the last three years, and b) must have handled an ESS in four all age licensed field trials in the US or Canada during the three year period ending on the election closing date, and c) have indicated his willingness to judge if selected.
2. On or before May 31, the eligible voters must return a completed and signed preliminary ballot on which the voter has selected up to four candidates. The ballot may be returned by mail, email of a scanned ballot, or fax.
3. The Secretary tabulates the results of the ballots that have been received and prepares the final ballot. The final ballot contains the names of the six prospective judges receiving the highest number of votes. In the event that more than one judge receives the sixth highest number of votes each prospective judge receiving that number of votes will be included on the ballot.
4. On or before June 15 the Secretary prepares and mails this final ballot to the eligible voters.
5. On or before July 15, the eligible voters must return a completed and signed final ballot on which the voter has selected two candidates. The ballot may be returned by mail, email of a scanned ballot, or fax.
6. The Secretary tabulates the ballots received and the two prospective judges receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the judges for the National Open Championship for the following year. If there is a tie, the judge who has judged the most trials shall be selected. The Secretary notifies the President who then notifies the judges who have been selected. Once that notification is made the results are posted on essft.com.

Proposed Process

The election software that is being recommended by the committee will use the NOC Secretary as the designated election administrator to input information with respect to the eligible voters and to create the ballot that will be used. An email blast will be sent to eligible voters using the email addresses included in the election set up. This email will notify voters that an email will be forthcoming that will include their login information and a randomly generated password which will allow them to cast a ballot in the election. The election administrator will be notified of any emails that are bounced back and they can be investigated and corrected. The administrator will enter the corrected emails into the eligible voter file. The system will then send the email with the information necessary to cast a ballot. During the election process the administrator will receive notification of any bounced emails or email inquiries and will do their best to resolve any issues. The administrator will have the ability to see who among the eligible voters have cast a ballot but will never have access to the actual ballot. This would allow for a second email blast to be sent to those

who have not cast ballots and to encourage voter participation. In the event an eligible voter can't be contacted by email there is an option to return a paper ballot with those selections entered by the election administrator.

Proposed By Law Changes

Article XI Section 3 (b)

Original Language:

On or before May 1 of each year the National Secretary shall prepare a ballot containing a list of qualifying judges

Proposed Language:

By May 1 of each year the National Secretary shall be responsible for providing all information necessary in order to cause a preliminary electronic ballot to be sent to eligible voters. The electronic election notification and ballot shall include instructions as to how to electronically cast a ballot.

Article XI Section (c)

Original language:

On or before May 31, each eligible voter shall forward to the Secretary one ballot on which he has voted for up to four individuals. The ballot must be submitted by mail, or a scanned e-mail or fax and must include a manual signature.

Proposed Language:

Each preliminary ballot cast shall include the selection of up to four (4) qualifying judges and shall be cast on or before May 31.

XI Section 3 (d)

Original language:

Immediately after May 31 the Secretary shall prepare a ballot containing the names alphabetically arranged, of the six nominees receiving the highest number of nominations.....

Proposed Language:

On or before June 15 the Secretary shall provide information necessary to prepare a final electronic ballot containing the names, alphabetically arranged, of the six (6) nominees receiving the highest number of nominations by the eligible voters. The names of all nominees who have received the sixth highest number of nominations shall be included on the ballot. The ballot shall be distributed electronically in the same manner as the preliminary ballot.

XI Section 3 (e)

Original Language:

On or before June 15 the Secretary shall forward the ballot..... (This has now been moved to 3 (d)

New 3 (e)

Each final ballot cast shall include the selection of two qualifying judges and shall be cast on or before July 15.

XI Section 3 (f)

Original Language:

On or before July 15 each eligible voter shall.....Now included in 3 (e)

Proposed Language:

XI Section 3 (g), (h), move to XI Section 3 (f) and (g)

XI Section 3 (i) move to XI Section 3 (h)

Original Language:

The names of the two individuals elected to judge the following National Championship Stake will be announced by internet posting not later than June 15. (Note: this was not corrected in an earlier By-Law Change.)

Proposed Language:

The names of the two individuals elected to judge the following National Championship Stake will be announced by internet posting as soon as practicable after July 15.

Delete XI Section (j) requiring all ballots to be part of a permanent file and available for inspection.

XI Section 3 (k)

Move to XI Section 3(j)

Add to XIII Amendments:

Section 5. Electronic communication is the preferred method of communication. The use of the term "mail" in these By-Laws shall be considered to be replaced by "mail or electronic mail".