

**Minutes – Subject to final approval at January 2018 Meeting.  
Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 2017.**

**Present:** Richard Mellon, Brian Lindsay, Jennifer Crane, Candice Leighton, Frank Lux, Carolyn Shrives, Martin Watt, Julie Pamplin, Pat Byrne, Aline Sinclair, Josh Ellen, Helen Strong and Leah Dutch.

**Apologies:** Jenny Millar, Louise Stephen, Steve Pitt and Shireen Pitt.

Meeting Opened at 7.30 pm via Go to Meetings Conference.

**ITEM 1. Starred Items.**

The following Items were adopted without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of the two November Meetings
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End Nov Bank Balance  
\$ 21,023.24 plus Invested funds of \$ 64025.73.

Treasurer recommended that we invest \$18,000 from the cheque account into a Term Deposit. Frank Suggested that we look at an ING Deposit. Treasurer to investigate.

- 4) Correspondence Out

**ITEM 2 Correspondences In. (See New Business)**

- Email from Judge re people in ring rule.
- Email from Wollongong re possible donation of Lights levy.
- Email from Member re change to Max Jump height.

**ITEM 3 Sanctioned Events Approved.**

Comp – Orange Krush – 3/02/18 – Summer daze – Elimbah Sportsground Elimbah QLD.

Comp – Berwick – 25/02/18 – Berwick Show Flyball – Akoonah Park Berwick.

Demo – Goulburn – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 – Goulburn Show – Braidwood Rd Goulburn.

Demos – Frank Lux – 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March – Sydney Royal Show – Dog Rings (Some or all of the days listed).

#### **ITEM 4 – Admin Matters.**

##### **i) – New Members**

Ayla Watt  
Kim Hibberd  
Madeline Vickers  
Gary van Vliet

ii) Stewards Exam passes - Janet Speed CRN 3037 and Gordon Chalmers CRN 462.

iii) Senior Timekeeper – the Committee accepted the recommendation from Richard and Supervisory Judge to appoint Gavin Bland as a Senior Timekeeper.

iii) Investigation of Lights - the Committee noted that Phil Lea had advised that all he had been able to establish re the UK Lights was that they are made in Poland for European Clubs and that they were technically quite different from the US lights.. Richard advised that contact with a Senior NAFA Judge to find out the current position re replacement lights was ongoing with no information as yet. Brian reported that he had ordered 24 replacement battery holders. Mike Douglas from Farmtek advised they no longer carried the green spacers and local options were now being explored. Frank asked if anyone had made contact with the Australian firm that made Agility lights mentioned by Jenny – he offered to explore whether they were likely to be able to assist with flyball lights.

#### **Item 5 General Business.**

##### **a) Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.**

Sub Committee had dealt with one black card for Griffon CRN 552E. Griffin crossed over and chased a small dog making contact and leaving saliva on the other dogs rear – no injury was evident. Griffon had no prior cards and had only just started racing. In line with the Protocol the Sub Committee recommended that Griffon be issued with a Warning 1 Letter suggesting the need for more focus training. Carried.

##### **b) –Report from Rules Sub Committee.**

Frank presented the Sub Committee report that contained specific draft wording for a number of the decisions taken at the November Committee Meeting regarding Open Racing format.

The amendments submitted are shown below and will take effect as On Trial Rules from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018:

1. Add at end of Section 1.1(g) "At least 3 dogs in every team shall not be listed in another class of competition".

2. Add new Section 9.6 -

"Section 9.6 - Limits on racing of dogs

- A dog cannot run more than 40 heats in a day.
- A team shall forfeit any heat where it is discovered during the race meeting that a dog in the team has run more than 40 heats in the day. Note: This does not apply if not discovered until after the race meeting.
- The health of a dog is the responsibility of the dog's owner / handler and it is the responsibility of the Club, Team captain and handler / owner to ensure that a dog does not run over the 40 heat limit in a day.
- An Owner / handler that runs their dog more than the maximum shall be subject to action under Section 2.1 (c) and 9.2(s) of the rules.  
Sanctions for the Handler under 2.1 (c) will apply regardless of when the breach is detected."

3. Amend Section 2.1 (c) by adding at end of existing text "or exceeding the 40 heat running limit in a day".

4. Amend first sentence of Section 9.2 (s) Black Card (iii) to read – "Inhumane treatment of a dog includes racing a dog under 12 months of age or exceeding the 40 heat running limit in a day". Then add at end of existing 9.2 (s) text re racing a dog under 12 months of age the following: "Where the 40 heat running limit is exceeded in a day the black card is issued against the handler for abuse of dog, the dog cannot run any more heats and any / every heat the dog ran beyond 40 is forfeited, while heats run up to 40 will still stand".

A number of changes to the Guidelines Document Number 1 dealing with Hosting of AFA Sanctioned competitions were also submitted and approved - the changes will be incorporated in the Guidelines Document available on the web shortly.

All above changes ADOPTED by Committee.

The Rules Sub Committee also submitted a new Draft Guideline dealing with arranging Training in the Ring. The new Guideline was adopted by the Committee and is shown below. The Guideline will be added to the Guidelines Documents available on the AFA Web site.:

## Guidelines for arranging training in the ring to support Policy 7.

1. Training in the ring is a privilege and should not interfere with the timely and successful running of a race meeting.
2. Training in the ring can be cancelled or altered at any time by the race meeting organiser or officials.
3. Entries for training in the ring may be taken on the day, or by submission of the training in the ring form at the time of submitting an entry to the race meeting, i.e. before the entry closing date for the race meeting.
4. The booking method should be shown on the race meeting sanction form and be included in the race meeting information on the AFA web site.
5. Entries taken on the day should be booked by the dog's owner or handler on a first come first served basis.
6. All entries must be checked to ensure the dogs entered for training are NOT entered in the race meeting.
7. Training slots may be allocated by a specific time period for a dog to be in the ring or a specific time for a club to be in the ring with the club deciding which dogs train.
8. Once the division splits and running order have been decided the organiser should estimate the amount of time likely to be available for training in the ring and limit the training accordingly.
9. If the number of entries exceed the allotted training time, an equitable approach should be taken on culling of entrants and the entrants that have been excluded informed as soon as possible.

### **c) Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.**

No Report.

### **d) 2018 Nationals Update**

Frank advised that Wollongong had established the necessary planning sub committees and was well advanced in seeking sponsorship.

### **e) AFA – consideration of establishing a Policy on AFA Donations.**

After discussion agreed to continue to deal with donation requests on a case by case basis.

## **ITEM 6 – New Business**

i) Email from Judge re people in ring rule. An AFA Judge had suggested that there was a need to clarify the existing Rule re the maximum number of people allowed to assist teams in the Ring and also suggested consideration of establishing a minimum age for children to be in the ring. The Committee in discussion considered that the existing Rules re helpers in the Ring were quite clear and that they did not need clarification. The matter of establishing a minimum age was considered and it was felt that this was also unnecessary. The Committee noted that both the Judge and the AFA Representative at events could rule on issues involving children in the ring if they were concerned as to safety issues.

ii) Email from Wollongong re possible donation of Lights levy given that their recent competition was a charity fundraiser. It was noted that this matter had been dealt with via email and a decision had been made to make a donation of \$250 rather than waive the Light levy.

iii) Email from Member re change to Max Jump height. A Member had submitted an email pointing out that the British Flyball Association had recently reduce the maximum jump height from 14 to 12 inches and suggesting that the AFA now do the same. The Committee noted that this type of decision was one that should involve the whole of the AFA Membership via a Motion being put forward to an AGM and accordingly subject to discussion and ballot. This had indeed been what had happened in the UK. The member had been advised of that process.

#### **Item 7 - Other Business.**

Date of Next Meeting- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed as a true record.

President.