

Minutes – Subject to final approval at January 2020 Meeting.
Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd December 2019.

Present: Richard Mellon, Jenny Millar, Brian Lindsay, Jennifer Crane, Frank Lux, Pat Byrne, Shireen Pitt, David Strong, Josh Ellen, Sally Elsom, Peter Samuels, Phil Lea, Michael Ashton, and Steve Pitt

Apologies: Martin Watt, Konrad Moscal, and Sam Brown

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 Nov Meeting.
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End November Bank Balance \$20,833.80 plus invested funds of \$82,161.
- 4) Correspondence Out

ITEM 2. Matters Arising
Nil

ITEM 3. Correspondences In.

Email from member suggesting that Weather Policy be amended to include air quality. The Committee considered the suggestion and after discussion on issues such as how to measure and set bounds and how to recognise local conditions the Committee came to the view that the best option was to leave consideration of air quality to event organisers and officials.

ITEM 4 Sanctioned Events Approved.

Demo – Tassie Flying paws – 08/12/19 – Domain Hobart.

Comp – Maximum Velocity – 08/02/20 – Maximum Velocity at Morisset Show – Morisset Showground. (Open with handicap option, Champions Trophy, Training in ring).

Demo /Training Day – SX- Camden Show 27/03/20 – Exeter St Camden

Comp – SX – 28/03/20 – Camden Show – Exeter St Camden (Handicap for Regular, Champions Trophy, Training in Ring. Limited Entry comp 20 Teams max)

Comp – SX – 10/04/20 and 11/04/20 – Flyball at the Easter Fair – Fairfield Showground. (Open Format, Handicap option, Regular with Handicap option Training in Ring).

Comp – Sydneysiders – 30/05/20 – Southerly Change – Waratah Field, Rawson Ave Sutherland (Open with Handicap option, Training in ring).

Comp – SX – 26/07/20 – Cool Runnings – Fairfield Showground Smithfield Rd Prairewood. (Regular with handicap option, Training in ring, Limited Entries – max 22 Teams.

Comp – Tassie Flying Paws – 19/11/20 – Out of the wilderness – Pontville Park Pontville Tassie (Open with handicap option, Training in ring).

ITEM 5 – Admin Matters.

Stewards Exam Passes*:

Emma Milharcic 3115 Stewards Pass

Lynda Gordon 3069 Stewards Pass

Jayden Shields 542.A2 Junior Stewards Pass

Drew Harrison 2830 Stewards Pass

Timekeepers Exam pass (Theory only) *

Joshua Hayman 2434.A2

Emma Milharcic 3115

Probationary Judges Application*

Ben Royes Awesome Pawsome Club CRN 2970.

Club of the Year and Novice club of the year criteria.

The Committee considered the report of the Sub Committee appointed to review Novice Club of the year criteria. After discussion it was decided to adopt the following definition of a Novice Club “ A Novice club must be one under 15 months old at time of assessment and must have a membership involving more than 50% members new to flyball since formation of club”. The definition to be added to criteria statement. In addition to the definition addition it was agreed to add a new criteria to both Club of the Year and Novice Club of the Year, namely “ The number of Sanctioned Demonstration hosted – 25 points per Demonstration. All other criteria to remain. CARRIED.

Review of policy of non-members being in flyball ring.

The Committee had been asked to reconsider the acceptability of having non-members of the AFA being in the ring and allowed to act as stewards, shaggers or box loaders. The enquiry also asked for clarification re young children being taken into the ring by parents/guardians who were racing a dog. After discussion and recognizing the new insurance situation the Committee decided that effective from 1st January 2020 **no** non-AFA members would be permitted to enter the flyball ring except at sanctioned training days where members of the public were allowed to participate under supervision. In considering the matter of young children being in the ring it was agreed that junior members under parent/guardian supervision were allowed in the ring PROVIDED they were considered not to pose a safety risk by their involvement. Children who are not junior members should not be permitted in the ring at any time. (Note the Committee has agreed that it will further consider the matter of how it might reintroduce the concept of honorary members being allowed to assist in the ring at competitions whilst also ensuring that insurance requirements were meet).

Item 6 General Business.

a) Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee on dog behavior had dealt with one

Black Card incident involving a dog called Tess CRN 2714A at recent Victorian Competition. The incident was deemed to be relatively minor, involving body contact between dogs with no evidence of bite contact. Tess had been racing for 5 years with only 3 cards for interference type issues. The Sub Committee recommended a “No Finding of Aggression” decision. CARRIED. Member to be notified of decision by acting Sub Committee Chair.

b) Report from Rules Sub Committee.

The Committee received the report from the Rules Sub Committee dealing with a number of issues. The Committee noted the Minutes of the Sub Committee Meeting of 13th November 2019 and the following recommendations arising there from:

- i) Amendments to Rules, Guidelines and Policies dealing with Cancellation of Events (and the decision at 2019 AGM re method of notification of cancellation. The amendments provided for a nominated Team Contact Name and phone number to be added to the Entry Form and for minor changes to be made to AFA Guideline 1 Hosting an AFA Sanctioned Race Meeting; Policy 4 Competition Cancellation Policy and the Team Entry Form. Secretary to make minor amendments to Guideline 1 and Policy 4 and Web Team to arrange amendment to Entry Form. CARRIED.
- ii) Amendments to Rules and AFA Guideline 3 dealing with Racing Divisions, Format and Running Orders. Amendments designed to eliminate single team divisions, recognizing the option of using handicap racing option in regular format to avoid single team format option and to provide clarification as to acceptable seed time gaps when handicap format should be considered. Amendments to Rules to be adopted as “On Trial – effective from Competitions closing on or after 1st January 2020”. CARRIED Secretary to arrange amendments.
- iii) Amendments to AFA Policy 7 dealing with Training in the Ring. Matter deferred to January Committee Meeting for clarification.

- iv) Minor amendments to Australian Record Time Assessment Sheet and Rules – amendments designed to provide for Australian records to potentially be recognized when run in handicap format and other minor clarifications. Amended Assessment Sheet to be submitted to Web Team for upload to web. Secretary to amend Rule 2.6 to include requirement for Assessment Sheet being signed to two neutral members of the AFA Committee.
CARRIED.

c) Report on Ulna Measuring System.

The Committee noted that the manufacturers had advised that the cost of 6 new ulna measures with the latest tested slides would cost \$152 each. Payment had been made and the measurers were due to be delivered to the Secretary before Xmas. The Committee discussed distribution of the new measures – agreed that the following Judges would be issued with one of the measures – Supervisory Judge; Josh and Steve (in Steve's case the measure being a replacement for a measure originally purchased by Steve as part of initial supply for testing). The other 3 measures to be held in stock by secretary. The Committee briefly discussed the matter of whether Clubs or members could now be allowed to purchase measures. It was decided to defer this matter until the AFA had had the opportunity to evaluate the satisfactory performance of the new measures.

d) Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.

Sun Committee due to meet on Tuesday night 3rd December .

e) Report from Sub Committee on Member behavior.

The Committee received the report from the Sub Committee established to investigate a complaint regarding an incident at the Kobe Klassic competition, involving an exchange of dialogue between a competitor and a Judge and a subsequent complaint regarding a facebook post related to the incident. The Sub Committee reported that:

- i) The exchange between the competitor and Judge was such as to conclude that both had been in breach of

Section 2.1 (a) dealing with Code of Ethics and Policy 8 dealing with Anti Bullying. In the case of the competitor's breaches it was accepted that comments made by the Judge were offensive and were a contributing factor to the reaction of the competitor. If the Judge's comments had not been made no incident would have occurred.

- ii) In the case of the later Facebook post by the competitor, the Sub Committee concluded that AFA Policy Number 9, dealing with Social media, had been breached.
- iii) In the case of the Judge's comments and later action when offering a form of apology to threaten to issue a Black Card in future, the Sub Committee concluded that this behavior was in breach of not only Section 2.1 and Policy 8 but also the Judges Guidelines Section 10.2. Judges are expected to be held to a higher standard of professional behavior given they are officials of the AFA.

The Sub Committee recommended that given the circumstances of the incident that the competitor should be issued with a warning to exercise more control in future and to deal with any incident by making a formal complaint to the AFA representative at the event. Given the mitigating circumstances no further action was recommended re the Facebook post.

In the case of the Judge's involvement in the incident the Sub Committee recommended that the Judge be issued with a formal warning regarding compliance with the AFA Code of Ethics and the behavior standards expected from an AFA Judge. The warning to include reference to the bullying nature of a threat to issue a black card for any future incident.

The Committee considered and endorsed the recommended actions. Secretary to formally write to both members as outlined above.

ITEM 7 New Business.

The Committee received a preliminary Commercial in Confidence proposal, with a request that the Committee

indicate in broad principal if the AFA would be interested in participating in the outlined project. The Committee, after discussion, agreed to indicate in principal interest, subject to receipt of further clarifications and AFA involvement in the development of relevant contractual arrangements.

Item 8 Other Business.

- i) Steve asked if the Committee would approve a change to the finish date of the 2010 Queensland Premiership – from end November 2020 to 27th November 2020.
AGREED.
- ii) David asked if it would be possible for the Secretary to investigate and obtain quotes from our insurance brokers for the AFA to hold Association and Officers Liability insurance. This type of insurance cover offered a level of protection to members of the Committee and Officials of the AFA in the event of litigation. Agreed that quotes be obtained.

Date of Next Meeting- **Monday 6th January 2020**. There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m.
Signed as a true record.

President.