

**Minutes – Subject to final approval at January 2019 Meeting.**  
**Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018.**

**Present:** Richard Mellon, Brian Lindsay, Jennifer Crane, Frank Lux, Martin Watt, Jenny Millar, Sam Brown, Michael Ashton, Robert MacDonald, and Shireen Pitt.

**Apologies:** Josh Ellen, Konrad Moskal, David Strong, Justin Allen, Steve Pitt, Pat Byrne and Lou Stephen.

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 November Meeting.
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End November Bank Balance \$ 15359.24 plus invested funds of \$82568.21.
- 4) Correspondence Out

**ITEM 2. Matters Arising**  
**Nil**

**ITEM 3. Correspondences In.**

Email from member re minimum length of runback area. (Dealt with under New Business).

**ITEM 4 Sanctioned Events Approved.**

Singles and Pairs racing plus beginners – Frankston Storm – 26/01/19 – Australia Day Singles and Pairs – FDOC Grounds Centenary Park Frankston.

Comp – Berwick – 24/02/19 – Berwick Show flyball – Berwick Showground Akoonah Park Berwick. (Half Day Comp plus singles and pairs racing – Open with handicap option, Training at lunchtime).

## **ITEM 5 – Admin Matters.**

i) New Members:

Makenzie Mills

Caitlin Taylor

Gayle Hynes

Lynda Buckton

Elizabeth de Montfort

ii) Stewards Exam Passes – Anne Newman CRN 2127 and Elisha Gardner 2977

iii) Timekeepers Written Exam - Michelle Gurney CRN 2388.

iv) Judges – Phil Lea advises that Paul Newman has satisfactorily completed his Level 2 Judges program and should be added to accredited judges. CARRIED.

v) Asset control – Justin reported that he was proposing that he personally test the mobile app label reader on the ACT set of lights for the next 3 local events to formalise an efficient and effective use of digital asset tracking. A report will then be produced on the benefits and challenges faced during the trial. AGREED.

vi) Report on possible merchandise options – Carried forward.

## **Item 6 General Business.**

a) **Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.** Martin reported that Kurbie, CRN 2938A had been reported for

possible aggression at Lillydale Show comp. After investigation the Sub Committee recommended that a “no finding” decision be recorded in that it was a fairly minor incident involving a new dog and there was no evidence of any contact between the dogs. CARRIED.

- b) **Report from Rules Sub Committee.** Frank reported that the Sub Committee had dealt with the review of the fouling in the ring rules and also the ulna measuring rule changes required to introduce the new measuring system. In processing the ulna Rules the Sub Committee had considered the clarification questions posed by a member as follows: - that no charge be made for a new height card where a member already has a card issued under the withers measure system; - that under the new system only one measure be required in order to obtain a height card, exact procedure to be followed will be stated in Rules; - that it not be compulsory for a dog to be measured under the new system when introduced but that this be reviewed in 12 months based on any concerns or evidence of abuse of process. The Committee noted and endorsed all 3 recommended positions. CARRIED. The Committee then proceeded to review the draft Rule changes which involved Sections 2.7 Definitions; 3.3 Jumps; 6.1 to 6.5 Measuring and Height cards; 7 Forfeit Rules; 9.1 Rules of Racing and the Schedule of fees.

The following minor changes were agreed – reference to padding on jumps in Rule 3.3 (d) to be removed and an editorial correction to 3.3 (b) to remove the second reference to a 2 inch border at top of base board; - add the requirement to remeasure for an Australian record to 6.1 (c); change decimals to fractions in Table 6.1; amend 6.2 (b) to refer to AFA Sanctioned event rather than competition. With these amendments the Committee agreed to the submitted draft TEXT. CARRIED. It was noted that a redraft of the Measuring Form was still required and that an Appendix G would be added to cover challenges to old Jump Cards. It was agreed that the Secretary would draft a suitable overview explanation of the Rule changes for issue to members. It was also agreed that every effort would be made to have the

revised Rules available on the AFA Web site by mid-December 2018. (See also Item 6 (c) below re Ulna Measuring decisions).

The Committee also considered Rule changes re Fouling in the ring – with addition of a new Section Rule 9(f) - If a dog fouls (defecates or urinates) in the ring at any time from the commencement of the warm up period for a race until the last heat of the race is declared by the Judge the dog's team will forfeit a heat in accordance with Section 7(f) and amended text in Rule 7 (f) (vii) to read - A dog fouls (defecates or urinates) in the ring. If the fouling occurs during a heat, the dog's team forfeits that heat. If the fouling occurs before a heat, the dog's team forfeits the next heat. (Refer 9.2(f)). Both changes CARRIED.

c) **Report on Ulna Measuring System.**

Richard reported that he had arranged to have a prototype made by a local manufacturer, who was also a flyball member, and that he expected to have the prototype available for inspection in a few days. Sam reported that her designer also was in the process of finalising a prototype and she expected to have it available for review within a week. The Committee noted that given this position it should be possible to make a decision re preferred manufacturer by mid-December. Both manufacturers had indicated a short production time and it appeared possible to have at least 6 measurers available for use in January. The Committee considered the preferred date for implementation of the new Rules and agreed that the preferred date was effective from the first competition in 2019 (which was the 12<sup>th</sup> of January). If necessary, entry details of height dogs on entry forms would be amended once measures were available. The provisional timeline for implementation was noted as:

- Publication of ulna Measuring Rules – mid December;
- Decision re manufacturer – mid December;
- Availability of 6 initial measures – pre-Xmas;

- Availability of all measures – end January;
- Measuring days scheduled at least for NSW, Victoria and ACT – early January.

**d) Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.**

Justin reported, as Secretary, that the Sub Committee had to cancel its last scheduled Meeting. He would be arranging a replacement Meeting shortly.

**e) Joint AFA/ANKC Agreement**

The Committee noted the revised Draft Agreement between ANKC and the AFA produced by the Working Party. After consideration it was agreed that the document was acceptable from the AFA viewpoint and that the ANKC Working Party Chair should be so informed. It was expected that ANKC would consider the draft at a Meeting in February 2019.

**2019 Nationals – Jennifer** – Item deferred due to time limitations.

**ITEM 7 – New Business.**

- a) Champions Trophy Rules. Item deferred until Steve was available to explain his concerns.
- b) Handicap format – it was suggested that the Rules Sub Committee be asked to consider amendment to Handicap Rules in Open format competitions to allow a mixture of handicap and regular racing on a Division by Division basis depending upon the seed time gap. The current Rules require that all Divisions be either handicap or regular. It was further suggested that similar consideration be given to handicap Division options in regular format racing. Agreed and matter referred to Rules Sub Committee.
- c) The Committee noted the email from a member suggesting that the minimum run back length be amended to at least 70 ft. It was pointed out that Members had voted on a Motion to increase the

minimum run back to 60 feet at the 2017 AGM and that the motion had been defeated by a significant majority (Reference to AGM Minutes indicated 90 members against change and 26 for). The Committee noted that the Rules contained both a stated minimum ring size and also a preferred ring size where space allowed – the preferred size was 40 ft by 110ft. The Committee noted that runback lengths were published by each host club in the Entry details on the web and that the norm was to allow a 65ft run back. In discussion it was noted that a 110m ft ring would not allow a 65 ft run back – given this now appeared to be the normal allowance it was Moved that the preferred length in the Rules be increased to 120 ft effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 – CARRIED.

### **Item 8 Other Business.**

Jenny reported that the plastic spacers made by a member had fractured fairly easily and that the member was now going to trial aluminium spacers – Richard suggested care needed to make sure that the aluminium did not damage the plastic poles.

Jenny also reported that the Victorian Headphones required replacing – agreed Jenny to obtain prices.

Date of Next Meeting- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019. There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.58 p.m.

Signed as a true record.

President.