

Minutes – Subject to final approval at December 2017 Meeting.

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 6th Nov 2017.

Present: Richard Mellon, Brian Lindsay, Jennifer Crane, and Candice Leighton. Frank Lux, Jenny Millar, Carolyn Shrives, Martin Watt, Louise Stephen, Shireen Pitt, J.Pamplin, Pat Byrne, and Steve Pitt.

Apologies: – Aline Sinclair, Josh Ellen, Helen Strong and Leah Dutch.

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 October Meeting
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End Oct Bank Balance
\$ 20580.32 plus Invested funds of \$ 64025.73.
- 4) Correspondence Out

ITEM 2 Correspondences In.

- Email from Orange Krush re Open format questions.
- Email from Psychos re limiting Open Team entries but unlimited Regular entries.
- Email from Wollongong re use of a training ring at 26th Nov comp.

ITEM 3 Sanctioned Events Approved.

Comp – Wollongong – 20/01/2018 – Albion Park Show – Albion Park Showground Webb Lane Albion Park. Open ,Vets, Open handicap option, Training in ring).

Comp – Frankston – 26/01/18 – The Great Australia Day Flyball BBQ – Centenary Park McClelland Drive Frankston

Comp – Pine Rivers – 3rd March 2018 – Purely for points – Rob Akers Reserve Bells Pocket Rd Strathpine.

Comp – Norwest – 11th March 2018 – Hounds in the Hills – Castle Hill Showground – off Showground Rd Castle Hill.(Open, Handicap option, Training in Ring).

Comp – Frankston – 24th March 2018 – Kingston Pet Expo – Corrival Oval Marcus Rd Dingley Vic.(Open, and Training in ring).

Comp – Psychos – Sat 24th March 2018 – Flyball goes Psycho – Wilson Park Silverwater (Open, Vets, Handicap option Training if time permits – Open limited to 6 Teams

Comp – Awesome Pawsome – 25/03/2018 – March Madness – RSPCA Flyball Arena – 139 Wacol Station Rd Wacol. (Vets, Open, Handicap Option, Champions Trophy, Training – possible change to Mats closer to comp).

Comp – Norwest – Sat 21st April 2018 – Howling in the Hawkesbury – Dog complex Hawkesbury Showground Clarendon. (Only Regular Format being offered)

Comp – Norwest – Sat 28th July 2018 – Chills in the Hills – Undercover Area Castle Hill Showground (Open and Training in ring).

Comp – Awesome Pawsome – 26/8/2018 – All Dogs Sport Spectacular – Dogs Qld Sports Ground 247 King Ave Durack QLD. (Open and Vets , Handicap Open, Champions Trophy and Training in ring)

Comp – Wollongong – 14th to 16th Sept 2018 – Australian National Championship – Kiama Quarry Sports complex Havilah Place Kiama (Open and Vets, Champions Trophy, Training in the ring)

Comp – Psychos – Sat 20th Oct 2018 – Welcome to the asylum – Wilson Park Silverwater (Open, Vets, Handicap option Champions Trophy – Training if time permits – Open limited to 6 Teams)

Mock Comp – Tuggeranong – Sat 25th Nov 2017 – TDTC
Open Night Mock Comp – Rowland Rees Cres Greenway
ACT.

Training Day – Psychos – 25th March 2018 – Wilson Park
Silverwater.

Demo – Wollongong – 26th and 27th January 2018 – Kiama
Show – Bong Bong St Kiama

ITEM 4 – Admin Matters.

I)– New Members

Debbie Stephens
Shannon Stephens
Haylee Tumanik
Kerry Fitzsimmons
Sheila Bond
Greg Bond
Sally Berridge
Jennifer Marwood
Cheryl Alexander
Ayla Watt

ii) Stewards Exam passes – nil

iii) Investigation of Lights:

The Committee agreed to again follow up the latest situation re Timing Light systems. Phil Lea to be contacted to see what he had been able to find out re the UK Timing System during his recent visit to UK. Secretary to contact NAFA to ascertain what if anything they were doing re a replacement for Signature Lights when existing reserve supply held by NAFA was fully utilized.

Item 5 General Businesses.

a) Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.

Sub Committee had dealt with one black card from Goulburn comp – Bella 2963A. The incident did not involve any contact between the two dogs and given this

was Bella's first card the Sub Committee recommended a "no finding". Carried – member to be informed of decision.

b) Report from Rules Sub Committee.

Frank presented the Sub Committee report, which included a number of matters regarding Open Racing format.

1. Over racing of a dog.

The Sub Committee had considered the issue of possible over racing of a dog given the Rules allowed dogs to be entered in both Regular and Open format teams at the same competition. This matter had been referred back to the Sub Committee. The Sub Committee noted that the current Guidelines for hosting a competition contained a section stating

“No more than 35 heats a day may be scheduled for any team entered in the competition if using 3 heat or 5 heat racing formats. If using a best 3 of 5 format for all races, then no team shall have more than 8 races scheduled in a day. Number of heats or races scheduled shall include any Champions trophy formats. If the requested format falls outside of these requirements, the State Representative shall seek approval of the format from the AFA Supervisory Judge who shall have the authority to approve where the requested format is deemed appropriate.”

This guideline actually allows a team to run up to 40 heats a day in the best 3 of 5 format (5 heats in all 8 races).

Taking into account the existing Guideline the Sub Committee considered what should be the situation when a dog was entered in two formats at the same competition. The Sub Committee RECOMMENDED

That:

- a. The following point be added to Appendix E of the rules; “Each team, both Open and Regular, must have at least 4 dogs in it that are not cross listed to race in another class on the day”.
- b. The following advice be added to Section 1 of the guide to hosting a competition (Race Meeting);

- i. The health of a dog is the responsibility of the dog's owner / handler and they are to ensure that their dog is not over worked or stressed from running at a race meeting.
- ii. A dog should not run more than 40 heats in a day.
- iii. Judges may excuse a dog from further racing at the race meeting if the number of heats run by that dog in a day exceeds 40, or at any time during the meeting if the dog appears to be stressed or over worked.

The Committee debated the issue in some detail, with several contrary views expressed, including the options of including the maximum number of heats a dog can run in the Rules rather than the Guidelines and actually changing the existing Rules to no longer allowing a dog to compete in both formats at same competition. After several unsuccessful proposals were subject to votes it was agreed to defer this topic to a Special Committee Meeting to be held on Wednesday the 15th November.

2.The sub-committee was asked to take another look at the training in the ring process to avoid over booking.

The sub-committee confirmed that training in the ring is a privilege and can be withdrawn or changed at any time.

In places where race meetings tend to be attended by less teams and where more time is available some organisers encourage clubs to list the dogs they would like to train in the ring at the time of submitting the entry form. However, this may not work for all race meetings due to time limitations on the meeting.

It was decided that the meeting organiser shall decide which method of booking is to apply and that information shall be promulgated on the web site with the race meeting details.

Time allotted to training in the ring may vary depending on the number of races in a day and the speed at which the meeting progresses. Should the training become oversubscribed the

organiser must have a fair and equitable method of culling the numbers.

The Sub Committee put forward the following
RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- a. The race meeting sanction form include a drop down selection that allows selection of booking for training in the ring to be taken either on the day, (first come first served), or submitted with the entry form prior to the event.
- b. That guide lines supporting Policy 7 be drawn up to provide advice for organisers on the ways training in the ring may be arranged. The guide lines should include:
 - i. Training in the ring is a privilege and can be cancelled or altered at any time by the race meeting organiser or officials.
 - ii. Entries for training in the ring may be taken on the day booked by the owner or handler on a first come first served basis, or by submission of the training in the ring form at the time of submitting an entry to the meeting.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. Training in the ring 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.

The Committee agreed to adopt the above recommendations but to add the reference to requiring an equitable approach to determining any limits on training. Rules Sub Committee to draft specific text for Guidelines.

3.Consider the potential ramifications around running Open and Regular classes at a limited entry comp, Including how to cull Open teams if it's over subscribed.

The Sub Committee considered this issue and made the following recommendation:

That the following be added to rule 1.1(f):

Should a limited entry Open class be oversubscribed the following method of culling teams should be used.

- Teams out where they already have one or more dogs in Regular (should not have been entered if Rule 1.1 (g) was followed).
- If there is still an oversubscription, team names should be drawn from a hat. Teams drawn are in until all places are filled.
- Teams outside of the draw should be advised as soon as possible.

Date of Effect: All Race Meetings with entries closing after 1 January 2018.

After discussion CARRIED.

4. A Club seeking clarification on the recent running of two AFA sanctioned competitions, which had Open Class racing only, submitted a question.

The Question related to the October Committee Minutes that stated “The Sub Committee had also been asked by a club to consider whether the Rules should be altered to allow Regular format racing to be combined with Open format racing where both formats were being run under handicaps. The Rules Sub Committee had advised the Club that such a change was unanimously opposed within the Sub Committee. The Rules Sub Committee suggested that in exceptional circumstances if the Competition organisers felt that running a single handicap format for all teams was a preferred draw option then they should consider asking nominated Regular Teams to consider re-entering as Open format teams. In the event all Regular teams so agreed then there was nothing in the Rules that prevented this.

This advice given by the committee was in response to a particular question where all the details and issues of the race entries were known. In the case being considered Regular class racing was offered but the resultant Regular entries made it difficult to construct a reasonable competition within that format.

In reconsidering this matter the Sub Committee took the view that as per rule 1.1-(g) regular class racing MUST be offered at each race meeting. However, once the entries have been received and the numbers of teams in each class /format is known if the Organiser and the Regional Rep agree it was difficult to achieve an acceptable division split and draw, based on the format entries submitted, then the Organiser may contact teams and with the competing teams' unanimous agreement, opt to run an all open class at the meeting. If unanimous agreement cannot be reached the original dual formatted division splits should be used. The Committee endorsed this approach.

5. A club submitted a question asking if they could run meetings with Open entries limited but with no limit on Regular Teams.

The Sub Committee noted Section 1.1 of the Rules of Racing recognises either Unlimited or Limited entry race meetings, and a combination of them is not envisaged. If an Organiser wishes to limit Open teams, it becomes a Limited Entry race meeting, which means they must also limit Regular teams. In deciding on limits the possible number of rings envisaged should provide a guide to maximum numbers. It is entirely up to the meeting organiser to decide the split of team numbers between Regular and any other class entered, however, the organiser must specify the maximum number of teams for each class of racing. CARRIED.

6. The effect of removing the height dog requirements from Open racing has on Veteran Class.

With the removal of the height dog requirement from Open Class racing, the only remaining differences between Open and Veterans classes are the age of the dogs (Must be over 7yo for Veterans while Open can have any age) and the limitation on the number of races Veterans are allowed to run in a day (6 x 3 heat or 4 x 3 of 5 heat races)

The sub-committee agreed that the new rule for heights in Open is still on trial and may be rejected so it is too early to decide that Veterans racing is no longer a valid option to offer at a race meeting.

The Sub Committee recommends that Veterans racing remain as an option as per the current rules. Carried.

7. Calculation of the declared time for a team.

During the last meeting of the sub-committee it was discovered that the wording for calculating a declared seed time by taking the times of the four fastest dogs in the team only referred to Open and Veterans classes of racing.

The sub-committee recommended that the wording used in the Rules under Appendix E - Open Class of Competition – Handicap format that “All open teams will declare a seedtime based on the assessed minimum time of the 4 fastest dogs in the team.” should be repeated under Section 1.4 – Seed Times and Breakout Penalties (b), i.e.

That the following be added to Section 1.4 (b) of the rules as a Rule on Trial:

“The declared seedtime must be based on the assessed minimum time of the 4 fastest dogs in the team.”

After discussion the amendment was carried - Date of Effect: All Race Meetings with entries closing after 1 January 2018.

c) Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.

Steve reported on the recent work of the Development Sub Committee that was focused on development of the concept of a State/Territory Flyball Premiership. He advised that the Sub Committee was looking at a single Premiership winner in each State/Territory – with Minor Premiers and then a Grand Final. They were envisaging a Premiership Season running from 1 March to 31st October each year. Details of how the Premiership would operate were yet to be finalized. The Sub Committee report was noted.

d) On Line Form Proposals.

Pat reported that a quote of \$1250 plus GST had been

received for the development of an automated on line entry form for competition entries. The Form would be used by Clubs to complete competition entries using information on the AFA database, in particular dog and handler details. After discussion the development of the system was approved in line with quote.

e) 2018 Nationals – Submission from Wollongong.

Frank introduced the submission from Wollongong Wonder Woofs to host the 2018 Nationals at Kiama on 14th, 15th and 16th September 2018. The comprehensive submission included details of available dog friendly accommodation and the proposed venue that could accommodate up to 4 rings. After discussion the Committee approved the hosting application and agreed to provide a \$3000 sponsorship to be used by the hosts for trophies and awards.

ITEM 6 – New Business

- Email from Orange Krush re Open format questions. Matter answered via Rules Sub Committee report – club to be notified.
- Email from Psychos re limiting Open Team entries but unlimited Regular entries. Matter answered via Rules Sub Committee report – club to be notified.
- Email from Wollongong seeking approval to have a separate Training Ring at 26th Nov Comp – request approved with normal conditions re supervision etc.

Item 7 - Other Business.

- i) Carolyn drew attention to the fact that several recent competitions did not allow the recommended 3 weeks between entry close and the competition date – this resulted in limited time being available to Regional reps to approve running orders etc. She asked that Clubs be reminded of the recommended close of entry

dates. Secretary to include in next Rule Clarification doc.

- ii) Frank advised that Sydney Royal had now contacted him re Flyball Demos at the 2018 Royal. They advised that at this stage it seemed that time was available on the 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th March to do similar demos to those in 2017. Committee agreed to consider this matter at the December Meeting.

- iii) Louise advised that she had received a request from a Judge to supply a list of dogs entered in both Regular and Open at a recent comp – she asked whose job it was to supply such information. Committee agreed it was a Comp Secretary responsibility. Louise also asked for clarification as to the AFA Policy on Social media. She advised that she was concerned that several recent posts on Facebook sites were not in the best interest of the sport. Richard suggested members of the Committee review the AFA Policy and then bring forward any concerns with screen shots of any offending posts.

Special Meeting Wednesday 15th Nov to finalise Rules Sub
Committee Report - Next regular Meeting Monday 4th Dec
2017

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at
10.00 p.m.

Signed as a true record.

President.