

**Minutes – Subject to final approval at November 2017 Meeting.
Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 9th
October 2017.**

Present: Richard Mellon, Brian Lindsay, Jennifer Crane, Candice Leighton. Frank Lux, Jenny Millar, Carolyn Shrives, Leah Dutch, Martin Watt, Louise Stephen, Helen Strong, Josh Ellen, Shireen Pitt, and J. Pamplin

Apologies: Pat Byrne, Aline Sinclair and Steve 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 September Meeting
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End Sept Bank Balance
\$ 19287.30 plus Invested funds of \$ 64025.73.
- 4) Correspondence Out

ITEM 2 Correspondences In.

- i) Suggestion re Laminating Certificates.
The Committee noted the suggestion put forward as a means of protecting Certificates from folding by Australia Post during delivery. View expressed that laminating may make framing of certificate difficult. Suggestion that use of a cardboard insert or even use of a tube would be a better idea. Agreed to trial insert of cardboard.

ITEM 3 Sanctioned Events Approved.

Comp – Croyden – 19th Nov 2017 – Lilydale Show – 27 Market St Lilydale – (Open and Training in ring).
Comp – Ballarat – 2nd Dec 2017 – Santa Ball – Military Drive Victoria Park Ballarat (Open format)
Comp – maximum Velocity – 11th Feb 2018 – Maximum Velocity @Moresset Show – Moresset Showground.
Comp – Maximum Velocity – 15th April 2018 – Maximum Velocity @Castle Hill – Castle Hill Showground
Comp – Orange Krush – 21/04/18 – Fly in the Sunshine – Beerwah Sportsground Berrwah Qld.
Training Day – Awesome Pawsome – 18th and 19th Nov 2017 – RSPCA Wacol Qld.
Demos – Tassie Flying Paws - 12/11 Brighton Show; 18/11 Huon Show and 9/12 Mock Comp Pontville Show.

Demo – Maximum Velocity – 11th Feb 2018 – Maximum Velocity @
Morisset Show – Morisset Showground

ITEM 4 – Admin Matters.

i)– New Members

Jennifer Michael Niedermeyer
Jill Bradfield
Cheryl Salter
Karen Mealey
Annette Lawson
Heather Mankelow
Louise Rowlands
Leanne Holgate
Debbie Stephens
Shannon Stephens

ii) Stewards Exam passes –

- Lynelle Tosch CRN 2952, Kathryn Royes 2970

iii) Approval of Running Orders by other than the State host Reg Rep. Question asked – under the Rules when should another State Rep approve running orders. After discussion it was accepted that where a Regional Rep was also involved in organizing a competition it was appropriate to ask for another Reg Rep to approve Running Orders. It was also noted that in rare cases a competition could be being organized by a club based in one State whilst the comp was to be held in an adjoining State and in that case the question arose – which Reg Rep should approve. Agreed to leave matter to Reg Reps to determine who was best placed to approve on understanding that Reg Reps will communicate with each other as required.

Item 5 General Business.

a) Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.

The Committee noted the Dog Incident Sub Committee had meet to consider Black Card issued to Pippa CRN 2805A. The Sub Committee had recommended a “No finding” but with a warning. The report had however not yet been submitted to the Secretary for distribution to Committee. Matter to be held over till paperwork available and then dealt with by email.

b) Report from Rules Sub Committee.

The Rules Sub Committee had completed a review of the Open Format Rules. The following recommendations were put forward for Committee consideration:

- i) That in open format an On-Trial Rule be adopted allowing teams to run their dogs at any height of jump they wish with changes to the height allowed throughout the day as the team sees fit. The rule change must include the caveats that the jump heights of all the dogs entered in an Open Class team must be declared on the entry form and that no dog shall be allowed to race where the jump height exceeds the declared height for that dog (as per Regular racing). Race officials will be responsible for ensuring that a dogs' declared jump height is not exceeded during racing.

Recommended additions to the wording in Appendix E – OPEN CLASS FORMAT to allow the Trail;

- New point: The jump height of all dogs entered in an Open team *MUST* be entered on the team entry form.
- New point: Teams may set the jumps at any height from 7" to the declared height of the smallest dog running in the heat (Refer Chapter 7 (v) 3)

There was considerable discussion re the proposal, including the view that given it was adopted Veterans racing format would become redundant. The Rules Sub Committee was asked to consider this matter.

After discussion matter put to vote and proposal was adopted by a majority decision. On Trail Rule to be adopted for Competitions closing after 1st November.

- ii) The Sub Committee considered the matter of false starts in Open format recognising that currently false starts were allowed in non- handicap Open but were not allowed in the Open handicap format. After discussion the Sub Committee recommended that false starts be eliminated in the non- handicap format of Open racing.

The Committee discussed the recommendation and noted that the main argument being put forward was that this would shorten the time taken in a days racing.

The matter was put to the vote and was defeated by majority decision. False starts to remain in non- handicap version of Open format.

- iii) The option of eliminating false starts in Regular format had also been considered by the Rules Sub Committee given the potential to reduce racing time – the Rules Sub Committee unanimously agreed that false starts should remain a feature of regular racing. The Committee agreed with this view.

- iv) The Rules Sub Committee also indicated it was considering looking into the option of establishing in the Rules, as an option, the elimination of all false starts, with this to be only adopted in event of a competition needing to be shortened due to concerns as to completion. The Committee was canvassed as to whether this consideration was worthwhile. The Committee, by majority, indicated that they did not see that as a desirable option. The matter would accordingly not be considered
- v) The Rules Sub Committee had also been asked to consider the acceptability of the current Rule that allows dogs to compete in both Regular and Open format at the same competition. It was noted that the matter had arisen as a result of concern for dog welfare as a result of potential for over racing. The Rules Sub Committee submitted a proposal to adopt as part of the Rules a mandatory hard maximum of restricting a dog entered in both Open and Regular formats to 36 heats in any days racing. The proposal included a process that would need to be followed to ensure that the proposed Rule was complied with.

The Committee in discussions agreed with the idea of establishing a maximum of 36 heats for a dog competing in the two formats but suggested that this should be included in the current Guidelines rather than as a Rule and that the onus on compliance should be with the member running the dog rather than with competition officials. After discussion the matter was referred back to the Rules Sub Committee for further consideration.

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 if the Competition organisers wanted to run a single handicap format for all teams then it should consider asking nominated Regular Teams to consider re-entering as Open format teams.

The Rules Sub Committee also advised the Committee that after discussion they had agreed with the view expressed by the Supervising Judge that the process used to start races (the words Line up, Teams ready, watch the lights) were not questions but rather a courtesy warning that the race was about to start. He was proposing to reflect this in an

update of the Judges Manual. The Committee noted and endorsed this view on the understanding that this was acceptable on the clear understanding that issues of safety of dogs and handlers would always be a priority when starting a race.

The Sub Committee had also been asked to consider the acceptability of items such as esky's containing cold water and cool coats being brought into the ring to cool dogs between heats. Concern was expressed that anything that constituted potential interference or a trip hazard should not be allowed in the ring. The options of continuing to allow these matters to be decided by the Judge or whether a Rule change was required were considered and the Committee was asked to decide which was preferable. The Committee determined that the matter of what was acceptable in the ring should remain a decision of the Judge – taking into account safety as a first priority.

The Rules Sub Committee had also been asked to consider a matter of Divisional Break outs. The Submission pointed out that at some race meetings the division splits have been such that the break out time for a slower team with a declared time was slower than the running time for the faster team in the same division. This was seen as unfair as to win the slower team would need to break out.

The proposal submitted for consideration was as follows:

“Once the divisions are worked out, that the breakout time is a" divisional breakout" based on the #1 seed's breakout (as happens if lodging a web time).”

It was noted that the reason for imposing the 1-second breakout time for teams with a declared time was to prevent manipulation in order to achieve an advantage, giving them, the advantage of a divisional breakout time would encourage such manipulation.

It was generally accepted by the majority of the subcommittee that this is the way division splits occur and is just a fact of life that affects most teams at one time or another and that no change was necessary to the current rules.

c) Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.

Steve reported that he had contacted the new members on the Committee and was in the process of organizing the first meeting of the Sub Committee.

d) On Line Form Proposals.

Matter held over till Pat was available.

ITEM 6 – New Business

Item 7 - Other Business.

- i) Frank reported on 2018 Nationals proposal – Wollongong were still progressing the proposal – the likely venue was however now the Kiama Showground. There was a meeting scheduled for latter this week and the Club hoped to be able to submit full details for approval to the November Committee Meeting.
- ii) Carolyn asked for clarification as to the acceptability of a Competition Organiser also being a Judge at a Competition. The Committee noted that this was not unusual and was not considered to give a conflict of interest.
- iii) Lou asked for clarification regarding how Training in the Ring should be organised. She pointed out that some clubs were submitting lists of beginners at time of entry – should they get priority? How should a Competition Organiser decide who gets to train and who misses out. In discussion it was noted that in some States training was done in blocks throughout the day whereas in others it was restricted to Lunch and at times this meant dogs missed out. There also seemed to be an increase in dogs wanting to train. Perhaps in some States consideration should be given to having a training in ring period before start of competition as well as at lunchtime. Suggestion made that matter be referred to Rules Sub Committee for consideration. Agreed.

Next Meeting Monday 6th November 2017

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed as a true record.

President.