# AFA Statement on Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic

Date: 15 March 2020

The AFA National Committee has considered the rapidly evolving situation involving the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and offers the following advice to Members and affiliated Clubs of the AFA in regards to Flyball activities.

The highest priority for the Committee is the health and safety of participants and spectators of Flyball in Australia.

There are both Federal and State websites providing official information and advice on COVID-19. While the AFA is not in a position to provide advice on links to every relevant State web page, to assist members here is a link to the Federal Department of Health COVID-19 Health Alert, which is updated daily: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Flyballers must rely, and continue to rely, on official advice from professionals, State Governments and the Federal Government on whether or not to hold a Flyball event. The situation on events and mass gatherings is changing almost day-to-day, therefore, we advise that it is the responsibility of event Organisers and Host Clubs to continually monitor official advice relevant to their local area in order to make an informed decision on cancellation.

The primary responsibility for preventing the transmission of the virus rests with individuals because we (the administration of Flyball in Australia) cannot monitor every participant. Current practice is that individuals monitor their own health and possible exposure and make their own decision on self quarantine should the circumstances indicate that it is appropriate. Again, I emphasise that individuals and Clubs must continually monitor official advice relevant to their local area when making this decision.

Similarly, it rests with each individual to decide whether they take part in events, based on their personal circumstances and official advice on those at risk of the most serious consequences should they become infected.

Individuals who are diagnosed with the virus within 14 days (or other period as per official advice) after an event should notify their Club and the AFA in addition to their obligations under Government and Public Health requirements.

Event organisers must provide a hygiene system such as soap and water washing facilities, hand sanitiser rub and/or sanitiser wipes at all events. Organisers are also required to include in the Captains’ Briefing a statement about the need to be vigilant and conscientious about following “best practice” hygiene practices, which will need to be updated as they change over the course of the pandemic.

No AFA fees will apply to any team that withdraws from an event prior to commencement of racing because of COVID-19 concerns, and the AFA requires that the AFA fees paid in the Entry Fee be either refunded to the team or credited to a future event. The AFA recommends that host Clubs consider returning the balance of the Entry Fee to the team given the special circumstances, using the same method as for the AFA fees.

Events that are cancelled or abandoned due to COVID-19 fall under the scope of Policy 4 – RACE MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY, and refunds shall be as defined in that policy.

In closing, I want to reiterate that the health and well-being of everyone is paramount. Information surrounding COVID-19 is continually evolving, which is why details in this statement have been kept to a minimum, and why it frequently refers to the need for individuals and Clubs to refer to the most current official advice when making decisions about events in a specific State and at a specific time.

Keep safe,

R Mellon.

President, Australian Flyball Association.