**Message to all AFA Members – Member behaviour.**

**The AFA Committee wishes to bring to the attention of all members its concerns to ensure that all members understand the intent and requirements of the various AFA Rules, Policies and Protocols designed to encourage and guide members as to what is acceptable behaviour.**

**The AFA understands that member may not regularly read or refer to the various statements dealing with what is acceptable behaviour, both between members on a physical basis and in communications. It is important that members understand the various requirements that they have accepted by signifying that they will abide by AFA Rules and Policies when joining the AFA and what may happen if they breach those requirements.**

**The main elements of the AFA behaviour requirements are outlined in:**

* **The AFA Rules – particularly Rules 2.1 and 2.2 dealing with Code of Ethics and member misconduct;**
* **The AFA Constitution – particularly Cluse 8 - Members and Clause 14 dealing with discipline;**
* **The various AFA Policies – particularly Policy 1 dealing with Privacy; Policy 8 dealing with anti- bullying behaviour; and Policy 9 – dealing with Social Media Policy;**
* **The various Guidelines and Protocol documents – particularly Protocol 1 dealing with dog incidents and Protocol 2 – dealing with Member discipline.**

**It is important that members actually read and understand the requirement as outlined in these documents. They should provide a sound basis for an understanding of acceptable behaviour – one member to another.**

**All of the above documents are available to members on the AFA Web site under the drop-down menu Racing and the sub head Rules, Guidelines and Protocols.**

**The Committee itself is also subject to its own behaviour protocol statement dealing with matters such as Confidentiality, Respect, Impartiality, Conflict of interest and breaches of the protocol. This document has not to date been posted to the web however the Committee believes it is important for all members to be aware of Committee requirements and standards and hence the document will now be added to the Protocols documents on the web. Members should understand that some elements of this Protocol can extend to non- Committee members.**

**As a general rule member are expected to be civil in all dealing with other members and also in their dealings with the Committee. Where a member is concerned about any matter or wishes to disagree with a position taken or decision made by the Committee the correct process is to correspond with the AFA Secretary for referral to the Committee for consideration. Members should avoid confronting or directing such concerns to individual Committee members or using social media to make statements that may be cause to bring the sport of flyball into disrepute and in particular should avoid the use of intimidatory or bullying language in any communication.**

**Breaches of the various Rules and Policies regarding acceptable behaviour are likely to result in disciplinary action being instituted – not something that is pleasant for anyone.**