**AFA Notification No.81– April 2020**

The AFA Committee at its April Meeting adopted a Number of decisions that need to be communicated to Members – these are in the main decision of an administrative nature and do not relate to Rules or Policies of the AFA. Extracts from the April Minutes are shown below:

1. **Membership –free extension of 2019/20 membership fees** **to existing members recognizing corona virus impact on AFA activities.**

The Committee discussed whether existing members should be granted an extension of their 2019/20 membership, recognizing that all AFA Sanctioned activities ceased in early March 2020 and were unlikely to resume before September – a six -month period. After discussion it was AGREED that all existing members of the AFA would be granted a free 12- month extension of their membership – covering Members, Associates and existing Registered Dogs. Members are advised that they should still complete the normal renewal application for 2020/21 membership but that no fee will be applied. Normal fees will continue to apply for new membership applications received in 2020/2021and new (additional) dogs.

1. **Club of the year and Novice Club** **2020.**

The Committee noted that a significant part of the scoring for these awards was linked to Sanctioned activities that had been suspended. The question arose as to whether the 2019/2020 Awards (normally determined at end June 2020) should be deferred and combined with the 2021 Awards – after discussion the Committee agreed to defer the 2019/20 Awards and combine with 2020/21. The new On - Trail Rules regarding points for these awards would accordingly continue until the 2020/21 Awards were determined and the changes put to an AGM.

1. **Planning for possible options for 2020 AGM.** The Committee noted that under the AFA Constitution the AFA’s AGM should be held within two months of the end of the financial year i.e. be held in August and that planning for the AGM would normally commence in May. – at this stage it appeared unlikely that this timeline would be possible. It was noted that the Associations Incorporation legislation requires Associations to lodge their Annual Returns within 6 months of year end i.e. by end December 2020. At this stage it was determined to defer the 2020 AGM to a date to be determined, hopefully prior to end December 2020, so lodgement on time was still possible.
2. **Appointment of Chief Editor and Sub Editor for the new focus on flyball news on the AFA Landing page of the web.** As members are aware an AFA Sub Committee has been working on the development and design of a new home page for the AFA web site. It is planned that the new page will have a focus on news and articles linked to flyball. As part of that planned process, we are now appointing a Chief Editor and a Sub Editor to oversee and manage to publications on the web. The new appointments follow the request to members with journalism experience to express interest in being involved in the new development. The appointments will commence in July 2020 and be initially for a two- year period with the option for renewal. Details of the appointment of the Chief Editor are shown below:

 **Chief editor -** Jodie O'Brien, Brisbane, QLD.

 Working print and online journalist and editor.
 Started Flyball in 2008, and racing with the Flyball Fanatics
 (CRN 2172).
 First racing dog, Boston the border collie (died 2018).
 Dog in training (still, sigh lol) over past few years: Blaze.

1. **Notice to Members who volunteer as Stewards .**

The AFA greatly appreciates the assistance of members functioning as stewards at sanctioned competitions. Without your help and commitment to the sport of flyball competitions would simply not be possible. That said it has been noted that recently some members whilst functioning as stewards seem to become involved in the race taking place before them and in doing so forget that there basic function is to watch for errors in the lane they are stewarding and to notify the Judge of each error by raising their stewards flag and holding it aloft until acknowledged by the Judge. In particular it has been noted that stewards are at times missing dropped balls and failure of dogs to trigger the box. We will be asking Judges to include reminders regarding what to look for as a steward at the team briefings before competitions. We also suggest that members might now consider refreshing their memories as to what are the duties of box and line stewarding by reading the stewarding guidelines on the AFA web site. It may also be a good opportunity to actually sit the steward’s exam if you have not already done so.

And finally – given the status of the government regulations re gatherings and sporting events we are withdrawing Sanction from the two competitions that are scheduled to close before the May Committee Meeting. At the May Meeting we will further review the forward status of scheduled events.

 Brian Lindsay ( AFA Secretary).