

AFA Rule Notification No.80 – February 2020

The AFA Committee at its February Meeting agreed the following amendments to the AFA Rules, Policies and Guidelines:

Policy No 7 – Training in the Ring.

This Policy has been updated to include information previously included in Guideline no.17 which has allowed that Guideline to be deleted effective 3 February 2020. The updated Policy also now makes it clear that training in the ring at competitions is a privilege and not a right and organisers have the right to limit or cancel training, if necessary, to avoid interference with conduct of the competition.

Guideline No. 3 – Calculating Divisional Splits.

This Guideline has now been updated to reflect the Rule amendments contained in Notification No.78 dealing with racing formats. The new Rules adopted in December 2019 detail how racing formats and Division splits are to be calculated and make it clear that single team Divisions are not allowed. The revised Guideline details by example how Division splits are to be calculated based up seed times of teams. The Guideline also shows when handicap format should be used in a mixed format race meeting draw. This is an important Guideline for those involved in organising race meetings.

Rule 1.3 Format and Schedule and Appendix A Part 2 b.

This Rule was amended in December 2019 and the revised Rule was identified as being “On Trial” effective from 1.01.2020. That Rule amendment has now had a minor clarification related to the approval process for racing Divisions, formats and running orders. The new wording ensures both Rule 1.3 and Appendix A contain the same details re approval process. These further changes are now included as part of the On -Trial Rules effective from 1.01.2020.

Rule 10.4 – AFA Representatives Duties.

This Rule has been amended in order to clarify the process where an AFA Representative excuses a dog or handler from competition for an incident that has occurred outside the flyball ring. The amendment makes it clear that this action is the equivalent to that involving the issue of a Black Card and the same reporting process applies. This clarification takes effect immediately.

Rule 11.2 (b) and (c) – Annual awards – Club of the Year and Novice Club of the year.

The Rules for determining these two awards have been amended by adding to the adjudication criteria the hosting of Sanctioned Demonstrations – involving 25 points per demonstration. This change will be On Trial effective from 1st July 2020 – this will mean that the changes will have first effect in the calculation of the 2021 Awards. The Rule for determining the Novice Club of the Year (11.2 c) has been amended to require that to qualify for the Award the new Club must have a membership involving more than 50% of the members to be new to flyball since the formation of the new club. This amendment will be On Trial effective from 1st March 2020 – allowing the On -Trial Rule to be applied in the calculation of the 2020 Award. It is planned that both changes will be submitted to the 2020 AGM for member ballot.

The specific wording for the above amendments are in the process of being incorporated into the Rules, Policies and Guidelines documents on the AFA Web site.