



## AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION

### FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF RULE CHANGES OR RULE CLARIFICATIONS # 1

The AFA Committee hereby formally notifies Judges and Club Co-ordinators of:

- 1) changes adopted as " New Policies of the AFA" and placed on trial before submission to the members for ballot;
- 2) proposed changes to existing Rules (those that will simply be subject to member ballot before adoption)
- 3) clarifications to the Rules and Policies of the AFA. Dates of effect are shown in the notification.

Can Club co-ordinators please ensure all Club members are informed of the Committee decisions which were also shown in the May 2008 AFA Meeting Minutes

This notification will also be published in the next Flying Times.

### PROPOSED CHANGES TO CURRENT RULES FOR MEMBER BALLOT

1. Section 12.1 of Red Rules and Policies Book currently states, " Motions to change the AFA Rules and Policies book may be presented in writing to and from the AFA Committee. Final decision will be by Ballot of members by simple majority of respondents." Taken literally this wording REQUIRES that ANY amendment to ANY wording contained in Red Book requires a Members ballot. The Sub Committee agreed that changes to "Rules" (Chapters 1 to 13) should indeed require a member ballot but that minor editorial changes, wording clarifications of existing Rules and changes to Guidelines (Appendix A onwards) should be capable of determination by decision of Committee" The Committee therefore will be submitted the following MOTION for ballot as part of the 2008 AGM :

That the wording of Chapter 12.1 be altered to read, "Motions to change the AFA Rules (as contained in Chapters 1 to 13 of Rules Book) may be presented in writing to and from the AFA Committee. Final decision on any proposed Rule change must be by ballot of members, by simple majority of respondents. Rule clarifications and minor editorial changes or changes to Guidelines contained in the Rule Book require majority decision of Committee.



2. The wording of the current Rules (Chapter 4.3 second (b) Ring Layout) in referring to racing tapes states “The tapes are not to be placed down the centre line between the two racing lanes. This Centre Line is to be marked with spray paint only”.

It has been argued that this wording does not REQUIRE that there must be a marked Centre line – only that if there is one it should only be marked by spray paint.

The Committee was of the view that the Rules should clearly state that a marked centre line was required and that both spray paint or tape (if indoor) should be acceptable.

The Committee therefore will be submitting the following MOTION for ballot as part of the 2008 AGM

– Delete the second sentence in 4.3 second (b) and add the following wording as 4.3 (d) “The Ring Centre Line shall be marked in solid or broken line by spray paint or, if indoors, by tape”

3. The current Rules do not contain a requirement that a common process be used by Competition organisers to determine a Competition winner in event of a tied points result in a Round Robin format. The “Guidelines for a Round Robin Competition - Section B-4 do contain a suggested process but as it is a Guideline only it is not a requirement that it be used by Competition organisers. It has also been found that the wording is unclear where it refers to the “weighted average time shall be best two out of three races and what happens when more than two teams are tied” The Committee was of the view that the Rules SHOULD clearly state how tied results shall be decided and that ALL Competitions using the Round Robin format should be required to adopt the stated AFA common Rule.

The Committee therefore will be submitting the following MOTION for ballot as part of the 2008 AGM– That the following wording be added to Section 9.2 after sub Para (p)

“ q) Determining the winner of a Round Robin Competition. In the event that two or more teams have the same number of competition points, one of the following tie breakers are to be used 1) a head to head run off between the teams with best two out of three heat format (where more than two teams are involved each must race the other with Competition points recorded for each result) OR 2) count back based first on head to head RACE wins during competition (where more than two teams are tied the count back for each team shall be the total RACE wins scored against all of the teams that are tied (the combined number of wins); if two teams are still even - then best average time



## AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION

using all completed head to head heats for each team (i.e. add time of all completed heats ran by each team head to head and divide by number of completed heats by each team to determine average completed heat time. Best average time wins.) If average time is even - then fastest heat time head to head decides the winner. Competition organisers must state which option is to apply in Competition Schedule and announce this at start of Competition.”

Current wording in Section B4 of Guidelines to also be amended to above wording with reference added – see Rule 9.2 q.

4. The current Rules do not state that a dog must cross the start line between the start gates when entering and exiting the run. The Rules simply refer to crossing the start finish line. The Committee discussed whether a dog failing to cross between the timing gates constitutes a foul or whether this was acceptable. The view of the Committee was that not crossing between the start gates had been commonly treated as a foul and that this should continue to be the case. In order to make the Rule clear the Committee therefore will be submitting the following MOTION for ballot as part of the 2008 AGM :

“That the following wording be included in 9.2 (b) as the replacement first sentence.

MOTION – “ The Run. Dogs may start from a stationary or running start. Each dogs is to cross the start line between the start gates, hurdle all four (4) jumps in succession, trigger the box and return over all 4 jumps with ball in its mouth and cross the finish line between the start gates.”

The 4 above Rule changes will be circulated to members for ballot as part of the 2008 AGM. Pending member ballot the existing Rules wording must continue to exist and apply. In the case of motions 2 and 4 above the current common interpretation is as shown in the proposed Rule Change and the Committee recommends that the Competition organisers note and apply the common interpretation.



## RULE CLARIFICATIONS

The AFA Committee has determined the following as the “correct interpretation” of existing Rules where it has become evident that different interpretations are being applied. The advised clarifications are to be uniformly adopted effective from 1st June 2008

### Clarification 1 – Combined Divisions.

Where a Competition involves combined Divisions all heats within the combined Division shall earn AFA title points. COMPETITION points however shall only be awarded when teams are racing within their own Division. This ensures that only races involving teams within the same Division count for determining results of that Division.

### Clarification 2 – Interpretation of Rule where all 4 dogs do not run in any heat or do not complete a race.

AFA Rules do not REQUIRE all 4 dogs in a team to be run in heat or for all 4 dogs to complete the race. Where either situation arises the correct interpretation is that the team has failed to complete the heat and shall be awarded a DNF.

### Clarification 3 – AFA Representatives role.

Where a Judges decision is questioned (or formally appealed) at a Competition the AFA representative is likely to be involved. The AFA Representative should ensure that the correct process has been followed; that the process is recorded for reporting to the AFA and that the facts are clear. The Judge is however the final determinant of the Rules and the AFA Representative does not have the power to overturn a Judges decision except where it involves an issue of safety. Competitors should understand that the Judges decision is final. The AFA accepts that members have a right to submit written requests for Rule clarifications or to formally submit a protest after the competition. The Committee will deal these with as promptly as possible. Requests to reverse a Judges decision and/or to change Competition results will however not be approved. The Judges decision at the competition must be treated as final.

### Clarification 4- Manual Start signals by Judges.

That in future all Judges should adopted the following common start signals where a manual start to racing is required. Voice signals “one”... “two”... “three”... followed by a whistle – all with one second spacing.



AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION