

## **NOTIFICATION OF AFA RULE AMENDMENTS ADOPTED AT 2008 AGM.**

The following Rule changes were adopted following member ballots at the 2008 AFA Annual General Meeting. The amended Rules take effect from the date of the AGM unless a deferred implementation date was shown as part of the approved Motion – the only such motion was that relating to Rule Amendment 8 dealing with amended jump heights. The amended jump height Rule will apply effective from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008.

It will take some time for the AFA to arrange to have the new Rules incorporated into a reprinting of the Red Rule book. Pending such a reprint the Committee suggests that those members who wish to update their Rule Books print a copy of this advice and insert it into the Rule Book .

The Amended Rules are shown in the order of ballot at the AGM.

### **Rule Amendment 1 – Champion Trophy Format.**

Insert in Appendix F – Racing Schedules

## **Champions Trophy Racing**

Champions Trophy Racing utilising the handicap software on the Signature Judging System gives Flyball Racing access to a level playing field for the first time in the sports history.

Competition organisers now have the opportunity to include Champions Trophy Racing in competition formats (must be approved by AFA committee) and advertised.

Organisers knowing regular racing will finish at approximately 3pm can invite sponsors and media to the Champions Trophy round where close exciting racing is almost guaranteed.

Champions Trophy Racing must be run as single elimination racing, best of 3 heats, or best 3 of 5 heats.

How to run Champions Trophy Racing:

Rules for the conduct of Champions Trophy Racing are the AFA rules for single elimination racing with following variations:

To accommodate handicap structure there will be no rerun for first false start. Where the start dog from either team false starts that dog must run again as a 5<sup>th</sup> dog;

The sound system on the Signature lights is to be disconnected so that both teams receive light signals only. (If sound is not disconnected then under the handicap structure the first team only receives a sound countdown).

The Competition Organisers will request that Team Captains and the AFA Representative check competition points calculations on Timesheets before the start of the Elimination races in order to confirm Divisional winners to take part in Eliminations.

- At the conclusion of regular competition the winning team from each division has automatic entry into the Champions Trophy round, should a first place team in a division be unavailable for the Champions Trophy round NO! other team will be eligible to substitute.

#### Calculating Handicaps and Breakouts: Example

- Division 3 racing division 2, the team winning division two's best time was 20.890 and division 3 winners best time was 26.973 the handicap would be 6.08 seconds.
- the breakout time for the division 3 team will be the listed breakout time for that team for the regular competition (26.00) and will be entered into the signature system, the breakout time for the faster team (20.50) will be the breakout time that team used during normal competition plus the handicap.

Therefore:

Div 2 Breakout 20.50, Best Time 20.890  
Div 3 Breakout 26.00, Best Time 26.973

Therefore  $26.973 - 20.890 = 6.08$  seconds

Handicap = 6.08 Seconds

Breakout time for Div 3 Team is 26.00 seconds  
Breakout time for Div 2 Team is  $20.50 + \text{handicap of } 6.08 = 26.58$

Division 1 team has no breakout entered as per AFA rules and policies.

This process equates to the same breakout controls used in regular racing to restrict sandbagging.

Please note that the console only works in 100<sup>th</sup> of a sec, we will go backwards not upwards with times.

- Layout for 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 team single elimination is contained in the AFA rules and policies.
- Two team single elimination is self explanatory and requires only one best of race.
- Three team single elimination will be:

Race 1: Div 2 v Div 3

Race 2: Winner of race 1 v Div 1.

Console Operating Instructions for Handicap Racing

1. Press Setup.
2. Press Next Choice.
3. Press Enter to Set Handicap.
3. Key-In Handicap Time L
4. Press Enter
5. Key-In Handicap Time R
6. Press Enter
  
7. Done!

If the team racing in the left lane is 3.24 seconds slower than the team in the right lane you need to enter the 3.24 second handicap in the Left lane.

Handicap is calculated by subtracting the fastest time raced by both teams during Regular competition.

All teams racing in Champions Trophy Racing accept first division will have a breakout time applied, simply follow the current procedure for entering these.

Champions Trophy Racing is single elimination.

**Rule Amendment 2 – Breakout Rule.**

Amendment to AFA Rules and Policies Section 1.4 (c) and (d)

Delete text:

(c) Penalty for first and second break out for the same team in a competition will result in forfeit of each heat in question.

(d) Should a team break out three (3) times in a single competition, the penalty will be exclusion from placing in their division for the competition.

Insert text:

c) When the first breakout occurs, the time is recorded on the timesheet with B/O written next to the time and the heat is awarded to the team that did not break out. The breakout team gains one point if a clean run (4 dogs) and the opposing team gains one title point if a clean run (4 dogs) and one title point for the win. If the opposing team has not completed a clean run it gains no title points.

This is the same for the next two breakouts by the same team.

After the third breakout, the team forfeits the right to place in the competition but does not forfeit the right to gain an AFA title point if they complete a clean

heat with 4 dogs. A team that has broken out three times in a competition can only win a maximum of one title point per heat completed cleanly with 4 dogs in the following heats. The breakout team is unable to win any further heats during this competition.

If the opposing team finishes the heat they will be awarded one title point for a clean run (4 dogs) and an additional title point for a win. If the team does not have a clean run with 4 dogs they gain no AFA points for that heat.

Where a team breaks out and is eliminated from a round robin competition all teams racing the breakout team (before and after the breakout) will be awarded competition points for wins or ties against the breakout team.

A team that has already broken out three times in a preceding round robin format cannot race in either single or double elimination racing to decide the placings of the competition.

### **Rule Amendment 3 - Points and Interference Rule**

AFA Rules and Policies Section 9.2 (i)

Note – the following Approved Text is already shown in Red Rule Book as part of section 9.2(i) as it has been a “on trial” Rule since 2006:

If a team is interfered with, the team gets one bonus title point for the win and no points for the completion.

### **Rule Amendment 4 – Minor Editorial Amendments to Rule Book**

AFA Rules and Policies Section 12.1

Delete text:

Motions to change the AFA Rules and Policies Book may be presented in writing to and from the AFA Committee.

Final decision will be made by ballot of members, by simple majority of respondents.

Insert text:

12.1 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 Appendices to the Rule Book require majority decision of Committee.

**Rule Amendment 5 – requirement for the ring centreline to be marked.**

AFA Rules and Policies Section 4.3 Ring Layout

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Delete text:

(Second sentence of second sub para b) in Section 4.3 – (towards end of para 4.3)

This Centre Line is to be marked with spray paint only.

Renumber existing sub pars a),b) and c) at end of 4.3 as sub para’s i),ii) and iii)

Insert text:

(new sub para c at start of 4.3)

c) The Ring Centre Line shall be marked in solid or broken line by spray paint or, if indoors, by tape securely fastened in order to not be a trip hazard.

Renumber existing sub Para c) an d) as d) and e).

**Rule Amendment 6 – Process to determine placings in a tied Round Robin.**

**(NOTE A second Motion amending the following Rule wording was the subject of a ballot where the result has been placed in suspense pending the Committee obtaining an interpretation of the wording of the Constitution relating to voting and the determination of the 75% majority Rule. Pending a decision on whether the subsequent Motion was won or lost the following Rule adopted via postal ballot of Members operates.)**

That the process for determining the competition divisional winner in the case of a tie after the completion of a round robin competition be defined in Rules.

AFA Rules and Policies Section 9.2 and B-4

Delete text:

All text in Guidelines Section B-4

Insert text:

Section 9.2 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 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.

Notes:

1. The existing sub para q) is required to be re-numbered to be sub para r).

**Rule Amendment 7 - That dogs be required to cross the Start / Finish Line between the gates for a run to be “clean”.**

AFA Rules and Policies Section 9.2 (b)

Delete text:

(Paragraph 1 sentence 2)

Each dog is to hurdle the four (4) jumps in succession, trigger the box and return over all four (4) jumps with the ball in its mouth.

Insert text:

(Paragraph 1 sentence 2)

Each dog is to cross the start-finish line between the start gates, hurdle all four (4) jumps in succession, trigger the box, retrieve the ball from the box, return over all 4 jumps with the ball in its mouth, and cross the start-finish line between the start gates.

## **Rule Amendment 8 – Determining dog jump height.**

“ That effective from 1st November 2008 the following amendments be adopted as ‘On Trial’ Rules for a period of 12 months:

Chapter 3.3 (c) - " Jump heights shall be set at 127 mm (5 inches) lower than the height at the withers of the smallest dog on the team running in the heat, to a minimum of 177.8 mm (7 inches). Maximum jump height shall be 355.6 mm (14 inches).

Chapter 9.1(a) - "Jump heights shall be set at 127 mm (5 inches) lower than the height at the withers of the smallest dog on the team running in the heat, to a minimum of 177.8 mm (7 inches). Maximum, jump height shall be 355.6 mm (14 inches).

Add Chapter 6.1 (e) - Heights are only be recorded on AFA Height Card Application Forms when the measure has been performed using an AFA Approved, standard, measuring wicket. One such wicket to be made available by AFA in each State or Territory holding a set of AFA Lights (Signature or Judges).

Implementation of above Rules to involve an automatic downward adjustment by 25.4 mm (1 inch) of existing height card measurements of dogs in the range 304.8 mm (8 inch jump height dog) to 457.2 mm (14 inch jump height dog). Members to have option of having any dog re measured using the new standard wickets if they prefer."

## **ADOPTION OF AFA POLICIES.**

The following 3 Policy statements were also formally adopted by the Members at the 2008 AGM.

AFA Privacy Policy.

AFA Dog Behaviour Policy

AFA Training Day Policy.

All 3 Policies statements are available in full on the AFA Web site under the Rules and Policies Section of the web.