

Notification#8 - 3 x Rule amendments to be adopted and implemented effective from 21st February 2009 as “on trial” Rules.

1. Amendment to Chapter 9.2 (I) dealing with interference and Crossing and aimed at clarifying that Rule applies during warm up period as well as during races.

Delete:

Existing wording of Part 9.2 (i)

Insert:

9.2:

i) Interference or Crossing

Where a dog or any team member Interferes With or Crosses Onto the opposing team within the ring at any time from prior to the first heat (during warmup period) until the last heat of the race has been declared by the Judge, the team causing the Interference or Crossing will forfeit a heat in the following way:

- If a heat is in progress at the time of the Interference or Crossing, the Judge shall stop the heat and award the win to the opposing team. The non-offending team gets one bonus title point for the win and no points for completion.
- If a heat is not in progress at the time of the Interference or Crossing, both teams shall run the subsequent heat. The forfeiting team cannot win or receive title points. All other Rules of Competition apply.

In addition, the Judge may issue a Yellow, Red or Black card (as appropriate). Refer to the Card system for issue of cards for this offence, including Judge's discretion for Crossing in the inbound area.

This section 9.2 (i) covers Interference or Crossing in the racing lane, in all runoff / inbound areas, and in the area where dogs are waiting to run.

A dog chasing its team's loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily Interference or Crossing.

Interference:

- Interference is described as crossing the imaginary centre line and becoming a safety hazard to the dogs racing in the other lane and obstructing the other team's dog from running its race.
- An example of interference is when "Team A" and "Team B" were racing. A ball from "Team B" rolled across to the edge of "Team A's" lane next to a jump. Two dogs from "Team A" ran by the ball without incident. The third dog however, stopped and picked up the ball. This is interference on "Team B" because the ball was from their lane. Even though the first two

dogs ran past the ball, the ball was not supposed to be there and by its presence it prevented "Team A" from completing its run.

2. Amendments to Chapter 7 dealing with forfeit Rules and aimed at clarifying circumstances involving forfeit situations, including delayed reporting for races and claims for forfeit with just cause situations.

Delete:

All existing wording of Chapter 7

Insert:

Chapter 7: Forfeits

a) Reporting for Races.

- i) Teams are required to promptly report for all races.
- ii) In the event that a team member is delayed with Just Cause (eg involved in another ring, involved in the prior race) the Team Captain (or other representative) shall advise the Judge before reporting for the race. The Judge shall make any decision as to what constitutes "Just Cause" under these Rules and may delay the race start or reschedule the race.
- iii) If one or more team members are more than three (3) minutes late for a race without 'just cause' and all else being in readiness, the Judge may declare that the Team has forfeited the first heat and start the first heat. The team present and ready shall run the first heat without opponent. All normal rules of racing shall apply.
- iv) If the team has not reported by the time all is ready for the second heat, it shall also be run without opponent, and so on until the required number of heats has been completed for the race to be won (Note 1).
- v) If the team reports during the race, they shall race in the first heat that is started after they report.

b) Teams that forfeit without Just Cause.

- i) Forfeiting teams that do not show Just Cause will be excused from the competition by the Judge and may be subject to further discipline.
- ii) Teams scheduled to race a team that has been excused shall race (without opponent) until the required number of heats has been completed for the race to be won (Note 1).

c) Teams that forfeit with Just Cause.

- i) Teams wishing to claim Forfeit with Just Cause must advise the Judge of their reason for claiming "Just Cause to Forfeit". Such cause must be outside the reasonable control of the Team and its members (examples: 4 dog team where a dog has been given a red card and must sit out 3 heats - team could claim Just Cause for the 3 heats in question; team dog

- temporarily injured - ant bite or the like - team could ask for forfeit for one single race).
- ii) Where a Judge agrees Just Cause exists for temporary forfeit the team will be excused from competitive racing, but the available members of the team must run against the opposing team on a non-competitive basis. The opposing team gains one point for the win and a further point if it completes a clean run with 4 dogs.
 - iii) The maximum number of heats where a Just Cause ruling can apply is 5 heats. If a team cannot return to competitive racing after 5 scheduled heats it must be declared non-competitive for the remainder of the competition.
- d) If a team has to forfeit when their "A" and "B" teams are in the same race, the faster team must run and the slower team must forfeit. If the faster team wishes to forfeit they will forfeit for the rest of the competition.
- e) Non-Competitive teams.
- i) Where a team wishes to forfeit without demonstrating Just Cause or in circumstances where the team cannot continue to compete with 4 dogs it shall be declared “non- competitive” for the remainder of the competition.
 - ii) From that point onward the team cannot gain competition points or AFA Title points.
 - iii) Teams scheduled to race a team that has been declared Non-competitive shall race until the required number of heats has been completed for the race to be won (Note 1), in order to gain AFA Title points. The competitive team:
 - May elect to run without opponent or with the non -competitive team,
 - Shall run under normal Rules of Competition.
 - iv) Once a team is declared non competitive they will be ineligible for placement and shall be placed in the lowest seed in any elimination.
 - v) A non competitive team is subject to all Rules of Competition with the exception of the following:
 - 3 or 4 dogs may be run in a heat;
 - False starts are not in effect for this team (Note: the EJS shall be set up with a false start for this team prior to each heat starting to ensure the competitive team has a recorded time);
 - Any jump height between 7” and 14” is allowed, except that it shall not exceed the jump height of any dog in the team;
 - If a team dog receives a flag it may complete its run but can not rerun;
 - The Judge may excuse the team from the race for failure to comply with these conditions or other AFA Rules.
- f) Forfeit for Infringement of the Rules of Competition.
- A team will forfeit a heat in which any of the following (non-cardable) infringements apply:
- i) Second or subsequent incident of “distraction” during a race (refer 9.2 k));

- ii) Second malfunction of box during a race or claimed malfunction not agreed by Judge or malfunction with no replacement box available (refer 9.2 k));
- iii) Box loader infringement (refer 9.2 g));
- iv) Second time handler enters ring not displaying CRN (refer 5 g));
- v) Training in ring except for practice run period or approved re-run after interference (refer 8 c));
- vi) Team jumping incorrect height in a round robin competition format (in this case the team forfeits all heats run at the improper jump height (refer 6.1 b));
- vii) If a dog fouls (relieves) itself in the ring at any time from prior to the first heat (during warmup period) until the last heat of the race has been declared by the Judge.

In all of the above heat forfeit situations except box malfunction (Item ii)), both teams (if present) shall run or complete the heat. The forfeiting team cannot win or receive title points. All other Rules of Competition apply.

For Item ii) Second box malfunction or no fault found with box, the unaffected team shall be awarded one title point for each run so affected except where they have completed their run before the heat was stopped. In this case they shall be awarded points in accordance with the Rules of Competition.

g) Forfeit for Break-out (as approved at the 2008 AGM)

- i) 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.
- ii) This is the same for the next two breakouts by the same team (Note 2).
- iii) 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.
- iv) 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.
- v) 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.
- vi) 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.

NOTES:

(1) The term “the required number of heats has been completed for the race to be won” is used in this Chapter 7. For clarity, this is defined to mean:

- For “Three Heat Race” format – three heats shall be run.
- For “Five Heat Race” format – five heats shall be run
- For “Best Three out of Five” format – three heats shall be won by the non-defaulting team or five heats shall be run, whichever occurs first.

(2) The wording in this part f) ii) is as approved by the 2008 AGM but it contains a minor drafting error. For clarity, the provisions of part f) i) apply for the first two breakouts only. Third and subsequent breakouts incur the provisions of parts iii) – vi).

3. Amendment to Chapter 9.1 (e) dealing with Fouling in the ring and aimed at clarifying that rule applies during warm up period and that teams should be required to run heat where a foul occurs in order to allow non offending team to gain Title Points.

Delete :

All existing wording of Chapter 9.1 (e)

Insert:

9.1(e) Fouling.

If a dog fouls (relieves itself) in the ring at any time from prior to the first heat (during warm up period) until the last heat of the race has been declared by the Judge, the dogs team forfeits a heat.

Both teams shall run or complete a heat if in progress. The forfeiting team cannot win or receive title points. All other Rules of Competition apply.