**AFA Rule Notification No. 36 – Issued July 2012 – On Trial Rules Amendment dealing with Champion Trophy Format Rules.**

**(Revised Rule applies from 1st August 2012).**

**Appendix C – Champions Trophy Racing**

Champions Trophy (**CT**) 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 sport’s 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.

At the conclusion of regular competition the winning team from each division has automatic entry into the Champions Trophy round. Should the first place team in a division be unavailable for the Champions Trophy round NO! other team will be eligible to substitute. Their first opponent will get an automatic win.

Champions Trophy Racing must be run as single elimination racing, best of 3 heats, or best 3 of 5 heats. Normal Rules of Racing apply except where otherwise stated in this Appendix C.

If a CT Race is drawn (equal wins and losses), the winner of the Race will be decided by the Best Heat Time in that Race as indicated on the console (ie including the handicap).

**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 5th dog;
* The sound system on the Signature lights is to be disconnected during the start sequence 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). It may be reconnected after the first team’s start to signal bad crosses.
* 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.
* Handicap times will be calculated for each and every race based on the Best (Heat) Times that the two teams achieved during the preceding regular competition (the Qualifying Round for the CT), including Breakout Time if any.
* Breakout Times for every team in the CT will also be based on their Best Time minus 0.5 seconds. This allows any team that has genuinely improved on its original seed time during the Qualifying Round to not be disadvantaged in the CT round. It will also prevent a team in a single-team division from sandbagging to get a better handicap.
* All teams (including Division 1 winner) will have a Breakout Time in the CT round.
* No breakouts are allowed in CT racing – in other words, one breakout means elimination.
* Breaking out of the CT does NOT mean that the team also breaks out of the regular competition – it still retains its first place in the regular competition.
* Cards from the regular competition DO carry over to the CT round.

**Calculating Handicaps and Breakouts:**

Handicap Time: The Handicap Time is the difference between the Best Times from the regular competition for the Left and Right lanes. Example: Division 3 Winner racing Division 2 Winner, the team winning Division 2’s Best Time was 20.890 and Division 3 winner’s Best Time was 26.973, therefore the handicap is 26.973-20.890=6.08 seconds.

Programming the Signature Console: The Handicap Time is entered for the slower team and 0.00 is entered for the faster team.

 Breakout Time: The Champions Trophy Breakout Time for *every* team is its Best Time in the regular competition minus 0.5 seconds. Example: the Division 2 winner above with a Best Time of 20.890 seconds will have a Breakout Time of 20.39 while the Division 3 winner with Best Time of 26.973 will have a Breakout Time of 26.47 seconds.

Programming the Signature console: enter the new breakout for the slower team, and the new breakout *plus the handicap time* for the faster team..

Therefore, for the Division 2 winner vs Division 3 winner example, where:

Div 2 Winner Best Time 20.890, CT Breakout 20.39

Div 3 Winner Best Time 26.973, CT Breakout 26.47

The information for programming the Signature console is worked out as follows:

Handicap = 26.973 – 20.890 = 6.08 seconds

Breakout for Div 3 Team = 26.47 seconds

Breakout for Div 2 Team = 20.39 + handicap of 6.08 = 26.47 seconds

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

Please note that the console only works in 1/100th of a sec while seed times and Best Times go to 1/1000th of a sec. When entering Breakouts in the console, we will round times downwards not upwards, eg 26.473 will be entered as 26.47.

 Layout for 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 team single elimination is contained in the AFA rules and policies or on the AFA Website.

 Two team single elimination is self explanatory and requires only one best of race.

 Three team single elimination will be:

Race 1: Div 2 winner v Div 3 winner

Race 2: Winner of race 1 v Div 1 winner.

**Console Operating Instructions for Handicap Racing:**

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

**Quick guide to Champions Trophy racing:**

* Handicap is calculated by subtracting the fastest time raced by both teams during Regular competition (includes Breakout times).
* The Handicap is entered for the Slower team, so 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 and 0.00 in the Right lane.
* Every team’s Breakout Time for the CT round = its Best Time - 0.5 seconds
* All teams racing in Champions Trophy Racing *including first division winner* will have a breakout time applied, simply follow the current procedure for entering these but don’t forget to add the Handicap time to the Breakout Time for the faster team.
* Champions Trophy Racing is single elimination, and all Rules of Racing apply except where otherwise stated in this Appendix.