AFA Rule Notification to Members No. 53 –June 2015.

This rule Notification deals with the following two Rule clarifications:

**1. Meanings of Restart and Rerun in the Rules.**

The Rules Sub Committee has reviewed the use of the words “restart” as opposed to “rerun” in the Rules and the consideration of what the differences were. It was noted that the word restart is used in a number of locations but the word rerun is only used to indicate restarting a heat in 9.2 (i)ii), 9.2 (m), Appendix A after *How to run Round Robin handicap Racing* and Appendix C after *How to run Champions Trophy Racing*. The word rerun is used elsewhere to describe dogs rerunning after making a mistake. It was the view of the subcommittee that in the locations identified above ,the word rerun should be substituted with restart for clarity.

The subcommittee also discussed whether any false starts in existence should be carried through in a restart. It was considered that it would be unfair on the opposing team if the heat was restarted from scratch and therefore false starts should carry over in a restart.

Discussion also occurred on whether there were any circumstances where dogs could be substituted prior to a restart. It was confirmed that this was not appropriate but as previously agreed, the running order could be changed. Consideration was given as to whether a dog that was injured could be substituted, but after discussion, it was agreed that this should not be allowable as it could be open to abuse. In this situation, the team would forfeit the heat.

It was agreed that the above interpretations were clarifications of the existing rules and not rule changes.

The SUBCOMMITTEE recommended that the word *rerun* in 9.2 (i)ii), 9.2 (m), Appendix A after *How to run Round Robin handicap Racing* and Appendix C after *How to run Champions Trophy Racing* be amended to *restart* for clarity and that the clarifications that any false starts be carried over and no substitutions of dogs be allowed be accepted and issued to members. Above changes and clarifications were agreed as adopted by AFA Committee at its June 2015 Meeting.

**Clarification - Forfeit after being more than three minutes late for a race – Rule 7(a)(iii).**

The matter of at what time did the three minutes commence in the situation where no notification is given of a clash to a judge/official was discussed by the Rules Sub Committee as it was not considered to be made clear in Rule Clarification 14. It could be interpreted as three minutes after the time at which teams could enter the ring (ie at the start of the warm up) or three minutes after the end of the warm up.

The Rules Sub Committee recommended that as a matter of clarification, the three minute period should be from the time the teams are flagged to enter the ring for warm up. It was also noted for clarification that warm up should only occur in the allowable time i.e. if a team entered after 90 seconds (being the specified warm up period), they could not warm up after that period.

The AFA Committee agreed that the above clarification be accepted and issued to all members as a Rule clarification.