AFA Rule Notification to Members No. 54 – July 2015.

This rule Notification deals with the following matters:

1. **Rule amendment – Section 2.8** added to Rules with immediate effect as a minor Rule change added for safety reasons:

 “***Section 2.8 Footwear***

All persons within a ring during competition must wear appropriate fully enclosed footwear. Sandals with open toes, thongs and bare feet are not permitted. This includes, judges, stewards and box loaders as well as competitors.”

1. **Rule clarification regarding reserve dogs required to be held by handler and not tied up in or near the ring.**

The Committee considered whether it was acceptable for a reserve dog to be tied up in or close to the ring rather than being held by a handler. The Committee further clarifies that in line with the intent of the Rules all dogs must be held by a handler, with one handler for each dog, and that reserve dogs cannot be tied up.

1. **Combined Open and Veterans Class – Rule to apply re number of heats and races.**

The Committee reviewed Open Class Rules and the issue of what should be the rules around number of heats and races in a combine Open and Vets race situation. It was considered that in these circumstances the rules around number of heats and races should be as per Vets racing as this would be the lower of the two. The Rules Sub Committee is developing amended wording for Open Class Format to clarify this issue.

1. **Training in the Ring Policy – Membership card required to be shown when booking a dog for training.**

The Committee noted that it had come to notice that at a recent competition a member had listed on the Training in the Ring booking sheet a dog that had not at that time been affiliated with the AFA. The Committee noted that all members and all dogs entering a flyball ring at a competition had to be affiliated – this was in large part to ensure that in the event of an accident insurance cover was not compromised. The Training in the Ring policy to date relied on the honesty of members to indicate that the dog was affiliated. Entries were taken on the day and hence organisers could not easily check CRNs to the AFA Web site. Given that all members received a new Membership Card when any dog is added to membership in future all members will be required to show evidence of dog affiliation. If the member has added a dog but has not yet received the replacement membership card they may use the soft copy receipt for the new dog as evidence of affiliation of the dog.

The Training in the Ring Policy and associated Booking Form are being updated to reflect the new requirements.