

AFA Rule Notification to Members No. 56 – December 2015.

This rule Notification deals with the following matters:

1. Clarification of Open Racing Format Rules relating to Open Teams entered by a single Club.
2. Clarification regarding handicap racing in a situation where a handicap time gap between teams exceeds 10 seconds.
3. Clarification regarding Dogs entering more than one class (example Regular and Open) at a Limited Entry Competition.

Item 1. Clarification to Open Racing format Rules (On Trial) .

The Committee has received number of enquiries as to whether the current Rules allow dogs from a single Club to enter as a team in an Open Racing format competition or whether dogs from at least two separate clubs must be represented in any Open team.

The Committee confirms that the On Trail Rules **do** allow a team to comprise dogs from one single club. Clause 2 of the Rules specify that “Open teams can consist of a minimum of 4 dogs and a maximum of 6 dogs and dogs need not be from the same Club.” This wording clearly allows dogs from the same Club to form an Open Team or for the team to be made up of dogs from more than one Club. The Committee also advises that based on experience to date with this racing format there does not seem to be any reason to alter the On Trial Rules to prevent a single club entering a team in Open Formats.

Item 2. Clarification regarding handicap racing in a situation where a handicap time gap between teams exceeds 10 seconds.

The Committee has ascertained that the AFA Farmtek lights have a limit of a maximum 10 second gap for handicap racing programing. The lights will accept data entry for more than a 10 second gap however the maximum of 10 seconds overrides the

entered data. The Committee has confirmed with Farmtek that this restriction cannot be altered by changing the Light settings.

The AFA Rules Sub Committee will review what actions are possible to deal with this issue. In the meantime where entries to a handicap formatted event do exceed a 10 second gap it is suggested that the Competition Organisers consider whether it is possible to run a Divisional format that would avoid the issue of the 10 second maximum. It is recognised that circumstances may prevent adoption of a Divisional format. Where this is the case Competition organisers will need to use a work around –for example stopwatch starts for the faster team where the gap is in excess of 10 seconds.

Item 3. Clarification regarding Dogs entering more than one class (example Regular and Open) at a Limited Entry Competition.

The attention of members, and in particular Competition Organisers, is drawn to Rule 1.1 (g) which applies to dogs entering more than one class of competition at a Limited Entry competition. Under this Rule dogs may not be entered in both Regular and Open classes at any competition where Limited entry conditions apply, unless all entries for the Regular Class are accepted.