

Rule Notification FY2324-11 - Additional rule and policy changes regarding under age dogs

Further to the clarification in Rule Notification FY2324-10 that dogs less than 18 months old cannot be listed on timesheets and cannot warm up at a race meeting the AFA committee at its meeting on 6 May 2024 agreed that further changes to the rules and the Training in the Ring Policy were required to prohibit dogs less than 18 months old from being included on entry forms and to clarify that dogs under 12 months old can do flat recalls only at flyball events. The committee also agreed that there needed to be clarity in the rules on the processes for both entering and withdrawing teams.

Changes to the rules and policy are set out below and are effective from 1 June 2024. The rules and policy published on the AFA website will be updated shortly.

Rule Changes

Amend rule 2.7

2.7 Notice to clubs and team entries

Promptly after a **race meeting** has been sanctioned, the **host club** must give notice of the **race meeting** to all **clubs** by completing details on the **AFA** website including details of any special conditions applicable to the **race meeting** approved by the **AFA committee**.

To enter a **team** in a **race meeting** a **club** must:

- complete an **entry form** and submit it online before 12 midnight Sydney time on the **close of entry date**; and
- pay the entry fee for the **team** as directed by the **host club**.

A dog must not be included on an **entry form** for a **race meeting** unless the dog:

- has a valid **CRN**;
- will be at least 18 months old on the day of the **race meeting**; and
- is not under suspension.

If a **club** withdraws a **team's** entry after the **close of entry date** the **club**:

- remains liable to pay the entry fee for the **team** if not already paid; and
- is not entitled to a refund of the entry fee for the **team** if already paid.

unless the **host club** otherwise agrees or the **club** is permitted to withdraw under the Policy on Delegated Authority to Alter Entries and Changes to Sanctions.

Amend second paragraph in rule 4.3

Dogs less than one year old are only permitted to do flat recalls~~must not run over jumps or train on a box~~ at any **flyball event**.

Amend third paragraph in rule 5.5

However:

- -a request to alter an **official timesheet** to add, delete or substitute a dog may only be made before the scheduled start of the first **race** between any **teams** at the **race meeting**; and
- a dog that does not have a valid **CRN** or is less than 18 months old or is under suspension may not be added or substituted for another dog.

Policy Change

Amend Training in the Ring Policy

A dog **training in the ring**:

- May ~~may~~ be of any age, but is only permitted to do flat recalls ~~must not run over jumps or train on the **box**~~ if under 12 ~~8~~ months of age;
- must be registered with the **AFA**;
- must not be entered in the **race meeting**;
- must not jump at a height more than the appropriate maximum for the dog. If the dog has not yet been measured by a **judge**, the maximum height must err on the low side.