

Rule Notification FY2425-8 Offering only pairs class at race meetings

At its meeting on 5 May 2025 the AFA committee resolved to amend the rule regarding the classes to be offered at race meetings to allow for a host club to offer pairs class without having to also offer regular class. The committee also resolved to amend the rules to clarify the process to be followed when approval is given to run only pairs class when insufficient entries are received in other classes.

The changes to the rules are set out below. They will be effective from 1 July 2025 and will be included in the next published version of the rules.

Background

Under the current rules pairs class racing can only be offered at a race meeting if regular class is also offered with the rider that where insufficient teams enter in classes other than pairs class the host club may seek approval to run only pairs class.

Feedback to the committee has indicated that clubs would like the ability to host race meetings with pairs class only. It has also become clear that in some instances there is no likelihood of sufficient teams entering regular class and the need to wait until after close of entries to seek approval to run pairs class only merely delays calculation of division spits and preparation of running orders.

In light of the above the committee considered it appropriate to allow clubs to apply for sanctioning of race meetings for pairs class only.

The committee also accepted a recommendation from the rules sub-committee that when a race meeting is changed to a pairs class only race meeting teams entered in other classes be allowed 48 hours after being notified of the change to nominate pairs class teams comprised only of those dogs entered in the other classes.

Rule change

Rule 2.5 is amended as shown by tracking below:

2.5 Classes of racing

AFA recognises three classes of racing:

- **regular class** in which each **team** must be comprised of dogs that are all registered in the **AFA** database on the day of the **race meeting** as belonging to the same **club**;
- **open class** in which **teams** may comprise:
 - dogs that are all registered in the **AFA** database on the day of the **race meeting** as belonging to the same **club**; or
 - a combination of dogs that are registered in the **AFA** database on the day of the **race meeting** as belonging to different **clubs** or no **club**;
- **pairs class** in which **teams** may comprise:
 - dogs that are all registered in the **AFA** database on the day of the **race meeting** as belonging to the same **club**; or
 - a combination of dogs that are registered in the **AFA** database on the day of the **race meeting** as belonging to different **clubs** or no **club**.

*Note: Special rules applicable to **open class** and **pairs class** are contained in Appendices 6 and 7 respectively.*

Host clubs may offer at a **race meeting**:

- **regular class** only; or
- **regular class** with either **open class** or **pairs class** or both **open class** and **pairs class**; or
- **pairs class** only.

A dog may not be listed on more than one **timesheet** in the same class at a **race meeting**.

Dogs may not run in both **regular class** and **open class** at a **race meeting** except where:

- entry to **regular class** at the **race meeting** is unlimited; or
- entry to **regular class** at the **race meeting** is limited and all entries received for **regular class** have been accepted.

At least three dogs in every **team** in **regular class** and **open class** for a **race meeting** must not be listed on a **timesheet** for any other **team** in **regular class** or **open class** at the **race meeting**.

A dog listed on a **timesheet** for **pairs class** for a **race meeting** may not run in any other class at the **race meeting**.

If:

- less than four **teams** enter a **race meeting** in classes other than **pairs class**; or
- after the **close of entry date** for a **race meeting** one or more **teams** withdraw leaving less than four **teams** entered in classes other than **pairs class**,

the **host club** may request approval from the **AFA committee** to run only **pairs class** at the **race meeting**.

When the **AFA committee** approves the **host club's** request:

- the **host club** must invite **clubs** that have entered **teams** in other **classes** to enter **teams** in **pairs class**;
- those **clubs** may enter **teams** in **pairs class** within 48 hours after receiving the invitation;
- only dogs that had been included on the **entry form** for a **team** entered in another class may be included on the **entry form** for a **team** in **pairs class**.