

Update: **October 2019**

#	<u>Description of Notification</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Current status</u>
1.	Notification for Member Ballot for 2008 AGM: 1. Changes to AFA Rules & Policies 2. Marking Ring Centreline 3. Determining placings with a tied result Rule 9.2 (q) 4. Dogs must cross between start gates Rule 9.2 (b) Rule Clarifications: 1. Combined Divisions Points 2. Clarification if all 4 dogs do not run 3. AFA Representative role 4. Manual starts by judges	June 2008	Incorporated in rulebook
2.	On Trial Rule: Combined Division competition points	July 2008	Incorporated in rulebook
3.	5. Champions trophy racing 6. Breakout rules 7. Points & Interference rule 8. Minor editorials 9. Ring centreline to be marked 10. Determining placings with a tied result 11. Dogs to cross between starting gates 12. Dog jump height 5 inches below withers & 7" minimum 13. AFA Privacy Policy 14. AFA Dog Behaviour Policy 15. AFA Training Day Policy	2008 AGM	Incorporated in rulebook
4.	On Trial Rule: Determining competition placings with a tied result	Sep 2008	Incorporated in rulebook
5.	Implementing new jump heights – new wickets	Oct 2008	
6.	AFA Regional Rep responsibilities	Nov 2008	Incorporated in rulebook
7.	Division Splits calculation guideline	Dec 2008	
8.	On Trial Rules: 1. Interference, including active during warm-up 2. Forfeit Rules rewrite 3. Fouling in Ring active during warm-up	Jan 2009	Incorporated in rulebook

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9.	Clarification: taking Web times from AFA website for competition seed times	May 2009	Incorporated in rulebook
10.	Dog Vaccination Policy	May 2009	

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11.	_____	_____	_____
	Competition Special Conditions to be notified	May 2009	Incorporated in rulebook
12.	Mistreatment of a dog	Aug 2009	Incorporated in rulebook
13.	AFA Representative duties	Oct 2009	Incorporated in rulebook

#	Description of Notification	Date	Current status
14.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forfeits for late teams (3 minute allowance) 2. Chasing in other team's lane 3. Rerunning after a false start 	Nov 2009	
15.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interference by ball crossing to other lane 2. Interference definition 	Dec 2009	
16.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location of ball bucket 2. Pre event training in the ring 	Jan 2010	
17.	Veterans Class rules	Apr 2010	Incorporated in rulebook
18.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliberate false starts 2. Use & calculation of Declared Seed Times 3. 90 second changeovers 	Apr 2010	
19.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No breakouts for Division 1 2. Forfeit teams no false starts or re runs 3. Box Malfunctions & Distraction rules active during warm-up 4. Running height 	June 2010	Incorporated in rulebook Incorporated in rulebook Incorporated in rulebook NOT in 2010 rulebook
20.	Appointment of Supervisory Judge	Oct 2010	Incorporated in rulebook
21.	AFA Cancellation Policy & Refunds	Oct 2010	Incorporated in rulebook
22.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amateur Competition update 2. Interference wording correction 	Nov 2010	Incorporated in rulebook
23.	Clarifications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Box Loader behaviour 2. Handling protests in the ring 3. Calculating team seed times 	Dec 2010	
24.	Nationals Planning Policy	Jan 2011	Incorporated in rulebook

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25.	Official Measuring of Dogs	Jan 2011	Incorporated in rulebook
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26.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarification on dog measuring, 2. Clarification for points for breakout teams, 3. Approvals for competition formats etc, 4. Timing system batteries 	Feb 2011	
27.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revised Incident report Forms, 2. Update re Jumps Specification 	May 2011	
28.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Junior Handlers 2. Clarification: Interference, 3. Clarifications: Veterans Format, Fouling in the Ring, 4. Use of competition ring at lunchtime, 5. Clarification: Judges Accreditation Process. 	June 2011	
29.	Sandbagging rule clarification	June 2011	Incorporated in rulebook
30.	Jumps design specification	June 2011	Incorporated in rulebook
31.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amended Countback rule 2. Clarification – one handler running two dogs in one heat 	Aug 2011	

#	Description of Notification	Date	Current status
32.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collection of loose balls; 2. Allowable in warm up period 	Dec 2011	
33.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role of Regional Rep; 2. Training in the Ring; 3. Title Points in incomplete or cancelled competitions 	Dec 2011	
34.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disability Action Statement; 2. Teams on centreline; 3. Aggression incidents before or after an AFA event 	Feb 2012	
35.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interference & Crossing; 2. Measuring of racing lanes; 3. Training in the Ring; 4. Dog measuring 	May 2012	
36.	On Trial Rule: Champions Trophy Format	Jul 2012	

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37.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarification regarding approvals for any competition involving time limitations and the use of 60 second change overs; 2. Rule amendment re Signage on Jump base boards; 3. Rule amendment – Rule 9.2 (h) regarding conduct of box loader resulting in assistance to own team’s dogs or distraction to other team dog/s. 4. Rule amendment to eliminate duplication of wording in Rule 9.2 (b). 5. Rule amendment to clarify requirement to rerun dogs in order of fouls - rule 9.2 (n) 6. Process clarification re approval of competition division splits, formats and racing orders – Rule addition - Definition of Supervisory Judge in Section 2.7 of Rules. 7. Addition of Matting Levy to Appendix E - Schedule of Fees in Rule book. 	— Oct 2012	—————
38.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Handicap Racing Format 2. Clarification: Meaningless Heat 3. Clarification: clean return run 4. Revised Timekeepers Quiz 5. Clarification: Limited Entry competition 6. Clarification: Stewards Exam in own words 7. Clarification: No change of points after Team Captain signs timesheet 	Nov 2012	
39.	Signal cards review Rule 9.2 (r)	Jan 2013	
40.	Round Robin Handicap Racing Format	May 2013	
41.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training in the Ring Policy 2. Minor rule changes – remove contradiction; terminology “Backstop”; redraft section on Barriers / Backstops 3. Clarify meaning of “Suspending” a dog 4. Clarify restrictions on what Honorary members can do 5. Anti-smoking legislation 6. Process for posting dog title points 	May 2013	

#	Description of Notification	Date	Current status
42.	Review of Round Robin Handicap Racing Format	May 2013	
43.	1. Withdraw On-Trial Rule for Red carding dogs for	Nov 2013	

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	<p>crossing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Breaking the start in Handicap racing to gain an unfair advantage3. Clarification of Countback Rule where ties involve more than two teams4. Clarification to Rule 9.2 r) "Signal Cards"5. Reminder to use latest version of Forms from AFA Website		
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44.	<p>1. On Trial Rule: <u>Clubs to renew affiliation to</u> take part in AFA Activities</p> <p>2. Eliminate hard copy of Flying Times</p>	Feb 2014	_____
45.	On Trial Rule: Suspension of Crossing Rule	Mar 2014	
46.	<p>On Trial Rules:</p> <p>1. Rule 9.2 (b): Dogs to take jumps on way to box</p> <p>2. Age for Junior Stewards</p>	Apr 2014	
47.	On Trial Rule: New Rule 1.6 – Relief Judges	Jun 2014	
48.			
49.	Rule Clarification – Handler running two dogs in same heat.	Feb 2015	
50.	<p>Rule Notification No 50</p> <p>Advice to clubs and members regarding ways to promote membership growth and involvement in the sport of flyball.</p>	Feb 2015	
51.	<p>AFA Rule Notification to Members No. 51.</p> <p>Minor Changes to the Rules</p> <p>The introduction, On Trial, of a new format of racing – Open format class racing The Rules for the new format will be on trial for a minimum 12 month period commencing 1st April 2015.</p>	March 2015	

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<p>52.</p>	<p><u>AFA Rule Notification No 52</u></p> <p>This rule Notification deals with the following:</p> <p>1. Adoption of an On Trial Rule dealing with requirement for Branch structured clubs to treat each regional branch as a separate club/team for purposes of Rules 1.0 and 2.4. More complete information regarding this matter can be found in the April 2015 AFA Committee Minutes.</p> <p>The new On Trial Rule will apply effective from 1st July 2015. The Committee has also determined that the On Trial Rule will be submitted to the AFA membership for ballot as part of the 2015 AFA AGM process. This will give all AFA members the opportunity to vote on adoption of the Rule or not.</p> <p>On Trial Rule amendment :</p> <p>“Section 2.7 Definitions – add</p> <p>A Club/Team for AFA membership and racing purposes shall consist of an affiliated entity to which members and their nominated dogs are recorded as members. Each branch of a branch structured club (Clubs registered as operating in more than one State/regional area of Australia) shall be treated as a separate Club/Team for affiliation and racing purposes and shall be subject to the requirements of Rules 1.0 and 2.4. “</p> <p>2. Clarification regarding correct process to be followed where a Team has a “clash” as a result of back to back races at a competition.</p> <p>Where a team recognizes that it has a clash and will not have all team members ready to enter the ring for a race it should immediately inform the Judge that there is a clash and not enter the ring to start its warm up. The Judge will inform the other Team of the clash and will delay the start of the warm up period for both teams.</p> <p>When all team members are present the Team Captain should inform the Judge that the Team is now ready to begin warm up. Both teams will then be advised by the Judge to start their warm ups.</p>	<p><u>April 2015</u></p>	<p>_____</p>
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#	Description of Notification	Date	Current status
53.	<p>AFA Rule Notification No 53</p> <p>This rule Notification deals with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meanings of Restart and Rerun in the Rules. 2. Clarification – Forfeit after being more than threeminutes late for a race – Rule 7(a)(iii). 	June 2015	
54.	<p>AFA Rule Notification No 54</p> <p>This rule Notification deals with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Rule amendment - Section 2.8 Footwear 4. Rule clarification regarding reserve dogs required to be held by handler and not tied up in or near the ring. 5. Combined Open and Veterans Class – Rule to apply re number of heats and races. 6. Training in the Ring Policy – Membership card required to be shown when booking a dog for training. 	July 2015	
55.	<p>AFA Rule Notification No 55</p> <p>This rule Notification deals with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minor changes to the Open Racing Format On Trial Rules. 2. Amendments to the Guidelines for Hosting a Competition document available on the AFA Web site. 3. Restricted entry competitions which also include an Open format class. 	August 2015	

56.	<p>AFA Rule Notification <u>No 56</u></p> <p>This rule Notification deals with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>December 2015</p>	<p>_____</p>
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#	Description of Notification	Date	Current status
57.	<p>AFA Rule Notification No 57</p> <p>This rule Notification deals with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New AFA Policy - Anti Bullying 2. New AFA Policy - Social Media 3. Revised Policy – National Championship Planning 4. Request to all Competition Organisers to make an announcement at start of competition to remind team captains to check dog CRNs on Timesheets. 	<p>January 2016</p>	
58.	<p>AFA Rule Notification No 58</p> <p>This rule Notification deals with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lane spacing when using a minimum or restricted size Flyball ring. 2. Guidelines for competition organisers running handicap racing where a gap of 10 seconds or more exists between Teams. (Document also on AFA Web under “hosting a competition”) 3. Guidelines for use by Regional Representatives when asked to approve a running order. (Whilst this document is meant for use by Regional reps the content will be of interest to any Competition Organiser and hence is circulated to all Judges and Club Co-ordinators. (Document also on AFA Web under “hosting a competition”) 	<p>February 2016</p>	

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59.	<p>AFA Rule Notification <u>No 59</u></p> <p>This rule Notification deals with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minor wording error in Notification no. 58 – Para 5 in Guidelines for Regional Reps when approving running orders. 2. Clarification of Rules – Section 1.4 dealing with seed times and breakout penalties. 3. Rule Clarification – Section 9.2 (q) – Determining the winner of a Round Robin Race Competition. 4. Clarification of use of Team names in Open format 	<p><u>March</u> <u>2016</u></p>	<p>_____</p>
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#	Description of Notification	Date	Current status
60.	<p>AFA Rule Notification No 60</p> <p>This rule Notification deals with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adoption of On Trial Rule Amendment re additional wording added to Section 9.4 dealing with taping of dogs (other than leg wrap) not being permitted. 2. The adoption by the AFA of a set of Extreme Weather Guidelines to be taken into account by event organisers. 	May 2016	

<p>61.</p>	<p><u>AFA Rule Notification No 61</u></p> <p>This Notification deals with the decision taken at the November 2016 Committee Meeting to abolish the rear inbound stewards position on a “ON Trial” basis effective from 1st December 2016. For competitions scheduled after 1st December 2016 there will be no requirement to have rear steward in place.</p> <p>The following are the amendments to the Rules relating to this change:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 10.1 (a) amend to read One Judge, Four (4) stewards and etc; 2. Section 10.1 (b) delete “one (1) inbound steward shall be positioned (sitting) in the middle at the rear of the ring in the inbound area:” 3. Section 10.1 (c) deleted from line 1 and 4 the words “inbound steward”; 4. Section 10.1 (d) delete the words “the inboundsteward” from line 6. 5. 10.3 (g) – delete sub para and renumber following sub paras. 6. 10.3 new (i) delete the words “inbound steward and” from line 1. 	<p align="center"><u>November</u> 2016</p>	<p align="center">_____</p>
<p>62.</p>	<p>AFA Rule Notification to Members No. 62 –</p> <p>March 2017. This Rule Notification deals with the following two matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration of the existing Rules dealing with display of the dogs CRN. Given that each competing dog’s CRN information is available on each team’s timesheet consideration was given as to whether there was a need for a handler to display the dogs CRN as per the current rules. Given the increasing prevalence of dogs being run by members with a different membership number to the dogs CRN, consideration has been given to the rule being amended to require each member to display their membership number so that judges and other officials could be assured that all people running dogs were financial members of the AFA. In most cases it is the members CRN that is currently displayed. 		

	<p>Consideration was also given to the application of section 5(h). Section 5(h) makes provisions for a team to forfeit a heat where a member, after being notified that they must display their dogs CRN, is later found to still not be displaying that CRN. It was suggested this provision was no longer required.</p> <p>It was decided by the Committee that on an On-Trial Basis from April 2017 the following rewording apply to Rule 5 (g)</p> <p>“All competitors will display their membership number whilst racing. The membership number must be of a suitable size to be easily read by the Judge”.</p> <p>The Committee also decided on an On-Trial basis to delete section 5(h) dealing with penalty.</p> <p>Both proposals were viewed to be changes to the rules and therefore needing to be treated as “On trial” effective from April 2017.</p> <p>2. The second matter related to Microchipping of dogs. The committee discussed the application of the current microchipping requirements and the frequency with which these provisions are used. It was noted that there are several member jurisdictions that do not require dogs to be microchipped and hence members in these areas may not have microchips inserted.</p> <p>Furthermore, to the best of the sub committee’s knowledge, the checking of a microchip number has only occurred in extremely rare circumstances and is not actively applied. Accordingly, the Committee decided to delete the requirement in Section 6.2 to have dogs microchipped. Section 6.2 (b) was accordingly deleted on an On-Trial basis as was Section 6.2 (e) and the remaining paras renumbered.</p> <p>Both On-trial change to the rules effective April 2017.</p>		
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63.	AFA Rule Notification No 63 Rewording of Rules Chapter 6 Measuring and Height Cards	May 2017	
64.	AFA Rule Notification No 64 On-Trial Rule for applying Countbacks in Handicap Racing Format	August 2017	
65.	AFA Rule Notification No 65 Elimination of inbound steward position Amended names for 3 top Titles No need to display CRNs in ring	August 2017	
66.	AFA Rule Notification No 66 Jump heights for Open format racing	October 2017	
66.	AFA Rule Notification No 66 (Duplicated Number) How to eliminate Open Teams in a restricted comp Limit on number of heats a dog can run in a day (max 40). Amendment to how to calculate declared time for a team. Guidelines for Training in ring Restricted entry comps – all classes must be restricted Open Class only competitions allowed under certain circumstances Closing dates for entries – minimum of 3 weeks recommended	Dec 2017	
67.	AFA Rule Notification No 67 Clarification on Declaring dog heights on Open Entries	Feb 2018	
68.	AFA Rule Notification No 68 Clarification re abandoned Round robin competitions where complete RR has not occurred	March 2018	
69.	AFA Rule Notification No 69. Clarification re dog title points in a suspended competition (this clarification over ruled in Notification 77). Extreme weather Policy Statement – Heat stress meter		
70.	AFA Rule Notification No 70. Clarification re fouling in ring.	July 2018	
71.	AFA Rule Notification No 71. Advice re unacceptable use of electronic collars in flyball	August 2018	

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72.	AFA Rule Notification No 72. Rule change re fouling in ring Introduction of Ulna Measurement rules; Increase in preferred ring size to 120ft; Decision to replace Competition with Race Meeting in all Rules	Dec 2018	
73.	AFA Rule Notification No 73. Update on Ulna Measuring devices	Dec 2018	

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74.	AFA Rule Notification No 74. Advice to members re changes in Public Liability Insurance cover	Jan 2019	
75.	AFA Rule Notification No 75. Amendments to Rules to allow handicap racing in Regular Divisions; Sanction approval needed for any “special or unusual” activities in ring	Feb 2019	
76.	AFA Rule Notification No 76. Height Card application rules for ulna measuring Dog title points in tied heats – dogs in each team get 2 points	May 2019	
77.	AFA Rule Notification No 77. In suspended competitions dog title points are given for all completed heats; In suspended competitions all completed heats are taken into account for fastest times.	July 2019	
78.	<p>AFA Notification No. 78 December 2019.</p> <p>This Notification deals with a number of Rule clarifications/amendments and some associated changes to Policies and Guidelines documents:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1. Review of policy of non AFA members being allowed in flyball ring.</p> <p>The Committee reconsider the acceptability of having non-financial members of the AFA in the ring and allowed to act as stewards, shaggers or boxloaders. The review also aimed to provide clarification re young children being taken into the ring by parents/guardians who were racing a dog. After discussion, and recognizing the new insurance situation, the Committee decided that effective from 1st January 2020 no non- financial AFA members would be permitted to enter the flyball ring, except at sanctioned training days where members of the public are allowed to participate under supervision. In considering the matter of young children being in the ring it was agreed that Junior members under parent/guardian supervision were allowed in the ring PROVIDED they were considered not to pose a safety risk by their involvement. Children who are not Junior members are not permitted in the ring at any time. (Note the Committee has agreed that it will further consider the matter of how it might reintroduce the concept of Honorary</p>		

<p>members being allowed to assist in the ring at competitions whilst also ensuring that insurance requirements were meet).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2. Amendments to Policy 4 and Guideline 1 dealing with cancellation of an AFA event before the event commences.(Effective for Comps closing on or after 1st January 2020).</p> <p>The decision taken at the 2019 AGM, requiring competition organisers to use text messages to notify teams of the cancellation of a competition, if that decision was made before the competition was commenced and whilst teams were likely to be travelling, necessitated amendments to AFA Policy 4 dealing with Competition Cancellation and Guideline 1 dealing with Hosting an AFA Sanctioned Race meeting.</p> <p>The following has been added after Point 27 in Guideline 1:</p> <p>CANCELLATION PROCEDURE BEFORE EVENT COMMENCES</p> <p>If within 24 hours prior to the commencement of the event that due to matters beyond the control of the event organiser there is a likelihood the event could be cancelled then the organiser is to communicate with team contacts in accordance with Policy 4 – Competition Cancellation Policy. Team contacts are also required to follow the process within that policy.</p> <p>Insert in the “Day Before” section of the FINAL CHECKLIST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the team contact list is printed and available in case of possible event cancellation. <p>Policy 4 Competition Cancellation Policy has also been</p>		
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<p>amended as follows:</p> <p>Cancellation of event before teams arrive</p> <p>The Competition Organiser must have, before the commencement of the event, a Team Contact text group list that contains mobile numbers that has been compiled from the event entry forms.</p> <p>If the event is to be cancelled prior to the arrival of travelling teams or individual members then the Competition Organiser is responsible for sending a text to all Team Contacts that the event has been cancelled.</p> <p>Team Contacts are responsible for passing on any information they receive to their team members.</p> <p>This process is a Best Endeavours approach where the Competition Organiser’s responsibility ends once the text is sent; he/she will not be held accountable for failures in the text delivery system.</p> <p align="center">3. Amendments to Australian Record Run verification process and associated Form (Effective from 1st January 2020) .</p> <p>The process for verification of an Australian record run required amendment to reflect the introduction of handicap racing format option in regular competition. This was necessary to allow times (with handicap removed) established under handicap format to be recognized for Australian record purpose. A amended Form incorporating this circumstance has been added and the following amended wording to Rule 2.6 dealing with Record Times has been added to Rules:</p>		
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Section 2.6 – Record Times

The requirements for having an Australian record time recognised are:

(a) The heat must be run under electronic timing;

b) A continuous video of the heat must be made that includes the start, all passes and the finish, and showing the console display and the time sheet after the completion of the heat. During the heat, the video must be in line with the start / finish line, with a clear view of the gate poles and the light tree;

(c) If the heat is a Handicapped heat, then the handicap actually entered must be recalled to the console display and videoed as part of the continuous take, and verified by the Judge;

(d) The Judge must confirm that the heat was completed in compliance with the Rules of Racing;

(e) The heat must be timed with a stopwatch when the video is reviewed to confirm that the take is of the actual run in question;

f) The Judge and two neutral members of the AFA Committee must complete and sign Form C13.

4. Amendment is designed to provide guidance to Organisers and officials involved in approving competition Formats and Division splits. (On Trial effective from 1st January 2020). (Guideline 3 dealing with calculating Division Splits will be updated in due course to reflect amended Rules).

The following amended Section 1.3 and 2.7 reflects the main elements of the change:

REVISE Section 1.3 – Racing Divisions, Format and Running Order

a) The racing divisions, format and running order for each race meeting must be approved by a Regional Representative or the Supervisory Judge.

b) The Race Meeting Organiser must send the proposed

<p>racing divisions, format and running order to the Regional Representative or Supervisory Judge not less than seven days before the race meeting.</p> <p>c) Promptly after the racing divisions, format and running order are approved the host club must make them available on the AFA website.</p> <p>d) In determining divisions for a race meeting the following criteria apply:</p> <p>i) single team divisions are not permitted – each division must have a minimum of three teams unless the Regional Representative or the Supervisory Judge agrees to approve a division comprising two teams;</p> <p>ii) combined divisions are not permitted;</p> <p>iii) where the Division Spread is one second or less the division must be run in non-handicap format;</p> <p>iv) where the Division Spread is more than two seconds the division must be run in handicap format;</p> <p>v) where the Division Spread is more than one second but not more than two seconds the division may be run in non-handicap or handicap format at the election of the Race Meeting Organiser in consultation with the Regional Representative or Supervisory Judge.</p> <p>e) The race meeting format includes:</p> <p>i) the divisions and whether each division will be run in non-handicap or handicap format;</p> <p>ii) the teams in each division and their respective seed times (either Web Seed Time or Declared Seed Time) and breakout times;</p> <p>iii) the format of racing, for example, round robin, single elimination, double elimination, or a combination of round robin and elimination;</p> <p>iv) The number of round robins per division;</p> <p>v) the number of heats per race;</p> <p>vi) how ties will be broken.</p>		
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	<p>ADD New Definition in Section 2.7</p> <p>Division Spread: the difference between the fastest and slowest seed times (whether Web Seed Times or Declared Seed Times) of the teams in a racing division.</p>		
<p>79.</p>	<p>AFA Notification No. 79, January 2020.</p> <p>This Notification deals with a further review of how the AFA can allow volunteers to assist to continue to assist in running flyball competitions, whilst also ensuring insurance coverage applies to such volunteers.</p> <p>The Committee at its December 2019 Meeting decided that effective from 1st January 2020 no non- financial AFA members would be permitted to enter the flyball ring, except at sanctioned training days where members of the public are allowed to participate under supervision. This decision was taken recognizing that the AFA’s insurances only apply to “financial members of the AFA”. After this decision was taken at the December Meeting concerns were expressed by several Committee Members that this decision had the potential to make it difficult for clubs to host competitions in the smaller States as they relied on volunteer non members (such as past retired Members or families of members) to act as stewards, shaggers, timekeepers or even box loaders.</p> <p>Given these concerns further consideration was given to ways to allow such volunteer assistance whilst also ensuring insurance coverage applied to such volunteers. Those</p>		

	<p>expressing concern indicated that in most cases the same people helped on a regular basis and clubs were aware of the names of their likely volunteers and would be in a position to nominate them for membership, either at start of the financial year or pre the Competition, if there was a mechanism to allow them to be granted membership.</p> <p>After discussion it was proposed and AGREED that Clubs would be allowed to identify and nominate people who regularly volunteered to assist in running flyball competitions (normally ex members or relatives of members) as “volunteer Associate Members” and the club pay the \$5 annual membership fee to cover these people as financial members. Additional volunteers identified by clubs could be added during the year, if necessary. Our Rules require all nominations for membership to be submitted to the Committee for formal approval prior to membership being granted, so it was not possible to continue with the Honorary members form simply being completed at competitions. . The AFA Web team will design a suitable bulk membership form for volunteers to become Associate members.. It was noted that the “volunteer Associate Members” would be restricted to boxloading, stewarding, shagging or the timing table and could not run dogs.</p> <p>In considering the matter of young children being in the ring it was agreed that Junior members were allowed in the ring under parent/guardian supervision PROVIDED they were considered not to pose a safety risk by their involvement. Children who are not Junior members are not permitted in the ring at any time.</p>		
<p>80.</p>	<p>The AFA Committee at its February Meeting agreed the following amendments to the AFA Rules, Policies and Guidelines:</p>		

<p>Policy No 7 – Training in the Ring.</p> <p>This Policy has been updated to include information previously included in Guideline no.17 which has allowed that Guideline to be deleted effective 3 February 2020. The updated Policy also now makes it clear that training in the ring at competitions is a privilege and not a right and organisers have the right to limit or cancel training, if necessary, to avoid interference with conduct of the competition.</p> <p>Guideline No. 3 – Calculating Divisional Splits.</p> <p>This Guideline has now been updated to reflect the Rule amendments contained in Notification No.78 dealing with racing formats. The new Rules adopted in December 2019 detail how racings formats and Division splits are to be calculated and make it clear that single team Divisions are not allowed. The revised Guideline details by example how Division splits are to be calculated based up seed times of teams. The Guideline also shows when handicap format should be used in a mixed format race meeting draw. This is an important Guideline for those involved in organising race meetings.</p> <p>Rule 1.3 Format and Schedule and Appendix A Part 2 b.</p> <p>This Rule was amended in December 2019 and the revised Rule was identified as being “On Trial” effective from 1.01.2020. That Rule amendment has now had a minor clarification related to the approval process for racing Divisions, formats and running orders. The new wording ensures both Rule 1.3 and Appendix A contain the same details re approval process. These further changes are now included as part of the On -Trial Rules effective from 1.01.2020.</p> <p>Rule 10.4 – AFA Representatives Duties.</p> <p>This Rule has been amended in order to clarify the process where an AFA Representative excuses a dog or handler from competition for an incident that has occurred outside the flyball ring. The amendment makes it clear that this action is the equivalent to that involving the issue of a Black Card and the same reporting process applies. This</p>		
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<p>clarification takes effect immediately.</p> <p>Rule 11.2 (b) and (c) – Annual awards – Club of the Year and Novice Club of the year.</p> <p>The Rules for determining these two awards have been amended by adding to the adjudication criteria the hosting of Sanctioned Demonstrations – involving 25 points per demonstration. This change will be On Trial effective from 1st July 2020 – this will mean that the changes will have first effect in the calculation of the 2021 Awards. The Rule for determining the Novice Club of the Year (11.2 c) has been amended to require that to qualify for the Award the new Club must have a membership involving more than 50% of the members to be new to flyball since the formation of the new club. This amendment will be On Trial effective from 1st March 2020 – allowing the On -Trial Rule to be applied in the calculation of the 2020 Award. It is planned that both changes will be submitted to the 2020 AGM for member ballot.</p> <p>The specific wording for the above amendments are in the process of being incorporated into the Rules, Policies and Guidelines documents on the AFA Web site.</p> <p>AFA Rule Notification No.80 – February 2020</p> <p>The AFA Committee at its February Meeting agreed the following amendments to the AFA Rules, Policies and</p>		
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Guidelines:

Policy No 7 – Training in the Ring.

This Policy has been updated to include information previously included in Guideline no.17 which has allowed that Guideline to be deleted effective 3 February 2020. The updated Policy also now makes it clear that training in the ring at competitions is a privilege and not a right and organisers have the right to limit or cancel training, if necessary, to avoid interference with conduct of the competition.

Guideline No. 3 – Calculating Divisional Splits.

This Guideline has now been updated to reflect the Rule amendments contained in Notification No.78 dealing with racing formats. The new Rules adopted in December 2019 detail how racing formats and Division splits are to be calculated and make it clear that single team Divisions are not allowed. The revised Guideline details by example how Division splits are to be calculated based up seed times of teams. The Guideline also shows when handicap format should be used in a mixed format race meeting draw. This is an important Guideline for those involved in organising race meetings.

Rule 1.3 Format and Schedule and Appendix A Part 2 b.

This Rule was amended in December 2019 and the revised Rule was identified as being “On Trial” effective from 1.01.2020. That Rule amendment has now had a minor clarification related to the approval process for racing Divisions, formats and running orders. The new wording ensures both Rule 1.3 and Appendix A contain the same details re approval process. These further changes are now included as part of the On -Trial Rules effective from 1.01.2020.

Rule 10.4 – AFA Representatives Duties.

This Rule has been amended in order to clarify the process where an AFA Representative excuses a dog or handler from competition for an incident that has occurred outside

	<p>the flyball ring. The amendment makes it clear that this action is the equivalent to that involving the issue of a Black Card and the same reporting process applies. This clarification takes effect immediately.</p> <p>Rule 11.2 (b) and (c) – Annual awards – Club of the Year and Novice Club of the year.</p> <p>The Rules for determining these two awards have been amended by adding to the adjudication criteria the hosting of Sanctioned Demonstrations – involving 25 points per demonstration. This change will be On Trial effective from 1st July 2020 – this will mean that the changes will have first effect in the calculation of the 2021 Awards. The Rule for determining the Novice Club of the Year (11.2 c) has been amended to require that to qualify for the Award the new Club must have a membership involving more than 50% of the members to be new to flyball since the formation of the new club. This amendment will be On Trial effective from 1st March 2020 – allowing the On -Trial Rule to be applied in the calculation of the 2020 Award. It is planned that both changes will be submitted to the 2020 AGM for member ballot.</p> <p>The specific wording for the above amendments are in the process of being incorporated into the Rules, Policies and Guidelines documents on the AFA Web site.</p>		
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<p>81.</p>	<p>AFA Notification No.81– April 2020</p> <p>The AFA Committee at its April Meeting adopted a Number of decisions that need to be communicated to Members – these are in the main decision of an administrative nature and do not relate to Rules or Policies of the AFA. Extracts from the April Minutes are shown below:</p> <p>i) Membership –free extension of 2019/20 membership fees to existing members recognizing corona virus impact on AFA activities.</p> <p>The Committee discussed whether existing members should be granted an extension of their 2019/20 membership, recognizing that all AFA Sanctioned activities ceased in early March 2020 and were unlikely to</p>		
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	<p>resume before September – a six -month period. After discussion it was AGREED that all existing members of the AFA would be granted a free 12- month extension of their membership – covering Members, Associates and existing Registered Dogs. Members are advised that they should still complete the normal renewal application for 2020/21 membership but that no fee will be applied. Normal fees will continue to apply for new membership applications received in 2020/2021 and new (additional) dogs.</p> <p>ii) Club of the year and Novice Club 2020. The Committee noted that a significant part of the scoring for these awards was linked to Sanctioned activities that had been suspended. The question arose as to whether the 2019/2020 Awards (normally determined at end June 2020) should be deferred and combined with the 2021 Awards – after discussion the Committee agreed to defer the 2019/20 Awards and combine with 2020/21. The new On - Trail Rules regarding points for these awards would accordingly continue until the 2020/21 Awards were determined and the changes put to an AGM.</p> <p>iii) Planning for possible options for 2020 AGM. The Committee noted that under the AFA Constitution the AFAs AGM should be held within two months of the end of the financial year i.e. be held in August and that planning for the AGM would normally commence in May. – at this stage it appeared unlikely that this timeline would be possible. It was noted that the Associations Incorporation legislation requires Associations to lodge their Annual Returns within 6 months of year end i.e. by end December 2020. At this stage it was determined to defer the 2020 AGM to a date to be determined, hopefully prior to end December 2020, so lodgement on time was still possible.</p> <p>iv) Appointment of Chief Editor and Sub Editor for the new focus on flyball news on the AFA Landing page of the web. As members are aware an AFA Sub</p>		
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	<p>Committee has been working on the development and design of a new home page for the AFA web site. It is planned that the new page will have a focus on news and articles linked to flyball. As part of that planned process we are now appointing a Chief Editor and a Sub Editor to oversee and manage to publications on the web. The new appointments follow the request to members with journalism experience to express interest in being involved in the new development. The appointments will commence in July 2020 and be initially for a two- year period with the option for renewal. Details of the appointment of the Chief Editor are shown below:</p> <p>Chief editor - Jodie O'Brien, Brisbane, QLD. Working print and online journalist and editor. Started Flyball in 2008, and racing with the Flyball Fanatics (CRN 2172). First racing dog, Boston the border collie (died 2018). Dog in training (still, sigh lol) over past few years: Blaze.</p> <p>v) Notice to Members who volunteer as Stewards . The AFA greatly appreciates the assistance of members functioning as stewards at sanctioned competitions. Without your help and commitment to the sport of flyball competitions would simply not be possible. That said it has been noted that recently some members whilst functioning as stewards seem to become involved in the race taking place before them and in doing so forget that their basic function is to watch for errors in the lane they are stewarding and to notify the Judge of each error by raising their stewards flag and holding it aloft until acknowledged by the Judge. In particular it has been noted that stewards are at times missing dropped balls and failure of dogs to trigger the box. We will be asking Judges to include reminders regarding what to look for as a steward at the team briefings before competitions. We also suggest that members might now</p>		
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	<p>consider refreshing their memories as to what are the duties of box and line stewarding by reading the stewarding guidelines on the AFA web site. It may also be a good opportunity to actually sit the stewards exam if you have not already done so.</p> <p>And finally – given the status of the government regulations re gatherings and sporting events we are withdrawing Sanction from the two competitions that are scheduled to close before the May Committee Meeting. At the May Meeting we will further review the forward status of scheduled events.</p> <p>Brian Lindsay (AFA Secretary).</p>		
<p>82.</p>	<p>AFA Rule and Policy Clarifications No.82 – January 2021</p> <p>The AFA Committee at its January 2021 Meeting agreed to update the Policy dealing with charges for use of AFA Equipment, namely the AFA Lights and Mats. Recognising that all equipment has a finite life and that usage does involve a wear and tear element the Committee reviewed what should be its Policy for the various types of usage outside the normal use at competitions where a fee per team entered applies. The following general situations were identified and associated fees that will apply from 1st January 2021 were established as shown in the following table.</p> <p>The Committee has reserved the right however to review the. Identified charges taking into account the exact circumstances of each hire /access request and the likelihood of wear or damage in the use request.</p> <p>The Committee has reconfirmed its position that AFA Equipment will not be hired to non AFA organisations in circumstances where the AFA and its general members are not involved in the activity.</p>		

Event	Cost of Lights	Cost of Mats
AFA Flyball Competitions ¹	As per fee schedule (\$20 per team as at 1 Jan 2021)	As per fee schedule (\$10 per team as at 1 Jan 2021)
AFA Flyball Demonstrations ¹	No charge	No charge
AFA Mock Competitions ¹	No charge	No charge
AFA Training Days ¹	No charge	No charge
Club Training Days ²	\$100 per day or as per fee schedule from 1 Jan 2021	\$50 per day or as per fee schedule from 1 Jan 2021
Restricted Seminars/Training Days or Special Events ^{2,3}	Minimum \$100 per day but fee to be set by AFA	Minimum \$50 per day but fee to be set by AFA
<p>Notes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The use fees for these events are as listed above based on unrestricted entries, unless otherwise approved on a different basis by the AFA. The use fees for these events are listed above based on restricted entries (i.e., club based only or restricted entry numbers) unless otherwise approved on a different basis by the AFA. For events organised by AFA affiliated clubs or members which provide training and/or one-on-one training for participants but have a restricted number of participants even though open for all AFA members the use charges are negotiated and then set by the AFA on event approval. Or for Special Events where the AFA or AFA members are involved which promotes the flyball as a sport. <p>B.Lindsay (AFA Secretary).</p>		
<p>83. AFA Rule Amendments and Policy Clarifications No.83 –May 2021</p> <p>The AFA Committee at its May 2021 Meeting agreed to adopt the following changes to Rules as On Trial effective from 1st June 2021 –</p> <p>On Trial Rule Amendments effective 1st June 2021:</p> <p>Rules 9.2 (s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yellow Card item (vi) - amended to read “Interference where no contact is made with another dog”. - Red Card Item (v) amended to read “Interference where contact is made with another dog”. <p>Existing Item (v) renumbered (vi).</p> <p>Clarifications and other matters agreed at Meeting:</p> <p>Timekeepers:</p> <p>The Committee considered the matter of whether it was</p>		

	<p>expected that Timekeepers should closely watch races and offer comments to Judges. It was agreed that Timekeepers should only offer comments to Judges if asked for an opinion.</p> <p>Handicap Format: The Committee reviewed Appendix A, Section 2 of Rules - dealing with handicap format – the Committee agreed that para 2 (a) had become unnecessary with the addition of Section 2 (b) and agreed to the deletion of 2 (a) as part of the overall Rules procedural rewrite to be submitted to members at 2021 AGM.</p> <p>Requirement under Rule 1.2 for title points to be awarded: The Committee considered a request to clarify Rule 1.2 dealing with requirement for 4 teams to have actually competed to qualify as a competition for title points to be awarded. Issue enquired about was what was situation if 4 teams entered competition and one team either had to withdraw or became non- competitive during competition. Committee confirmed that if a Team withdrew prior to start of competition resulting in only 3 teams taking part in competition then event could not be classified as a competition for title points purposes and would be reclassified as a demonstration. If however a team was forced to withdraw or became non -competitive after commencement of racing and taking part in at least one heat then four teams had “competed” and it remained a valid competition for title points purposes.</p> <p>Checking of Lights and Equipment at hand-over using QR code system: The Committee noted that with the development of the new QR code checking and reporting system for Light sets and other competition equipment at each hand-over there was a need for a set of Instructions outlining who was responsible for conduct of check and the procedural requirement to check all items and submit reports. This will be done in near future.</p> <p>2021 AGM Date and format: The Committee agreed Sat 16th October as the date for the 2021 AFA AGM with use of Go to Meeting system – clubs will be invited to nominate venues to their regional representatives closer to date.</p>		

84.

AFA Notification No.84 – July 2021

The AFA Committee at its July 2021 Meeting discussed a number of matters that the Committee wish to draw to all members attention.

Clarification – Nationals Seed time cut-off.

The Secretary requested that the Committee clarify the cut of date for updating the web seed times for the Nationals, given that there were two competitions scheduled to be held on the close of entry date of 1st August and results for these competitions may or may not be available on 1st August. It was pointed out that after the recent cancelled competition the August competition in Victoria was seen as essential to Victorian teams getting web seed times. After discussion it was agreed to request Belconnen to amend the close of entries date for Nationals to 2nd August (this date change was confirmed with Organiser during meeting). Clubs conducting competitions on 1st August are requested to promptly submit results to the web team for update of web seed times

Clarification - Conduct of Novelty events.

The Rules Sub Committee recommended that sanctioned novelty events have the same status as training in the ring and that the novelty events be declared at the time of seeking sanction and that those participating in the novelty events must be AFA members. The issue of Novelty events at the 2021 Nationals was discussed by the Sub Committee – the Sub Committee recommended that the Nationals 3-day event be split into two sanctioned events – the Nationals 2 days (Sat & Sun) and the Pairs/Singles/Open/Novelty 1 day (Mon). This will allow dogs competing in Regular teams at the Nationals to participate in the Novelty events on the Monday without breaking rules such as maximum number of races, training in ring etc.

The Committee noted that the Nationals Monday novelty program had been sanctioned as a separate demonstration event. It was agreed that this allowed dogs entered in Regular teams to also take part in the novelty events. Dogs entered in Open teams on the Monday however could not also take part in Novelty events. This clarification to be made available to Nationals Race Meeting organizer and the general membership.

Declared Seed times, sandbagging and Break-out rules.

The Committee noted that there seemed to be a growing incidence of teams using declared seed times that were marginally more than 1 second above a listed web time for the team and, on occasions, then breaking out at the competition. The checks and balances process in these circumstances are the rules re sandbagging and break-out. To ensure that these rules are applied it is essential that Judges take appropriate action where any suggestion of sandbagging was evident. The Committee agreed that members should be reminded that sand bagging is cheating. It was suggested that all members be reminded that declared seed times should be the assessed

minimum time the team can run. Members also need to be aware that when a team has broken-out at a competition for first time it is not appropriate to start to use techniques such as increasing pass gaps, delaying release of a start dog, changing start dog to a dog who does not normally start and thereby increasing start gaps. These are all examples of sandbagging. Members are also informed that the Committee will be requesting that Judges carefully observe all teams for sandbagging, especially teams that have broken out at a competition.

AFA Notification No.85 – July 2021

The AFA Committee, at a special Committee Meeting on 12th July 2021, discussed a number of matters that the Committee now draws to all members attention.

Rules Sub Committee Report – On Trial Rule 1.3.

The Rules Sub Committee submitted three alternative wording options for amended Rule 1.3 designed to reflect Committee decision to clarify the circumstances when a two team Division can be approved for a Race meeting. The only reason for the need for a two team Division in future would be where the only alternative was to have a Division with more than a 4 second time gap. The Committee after discussion adopted version iii) as show below:

Replace 1.3 d) i. and ii. with:

- I. single team divisions and combined divisions are not permitted.
- ii. two team divisions are only permitted if the Regional Representative or Supervisory Judge agrees that the best alternative division split results in a division of three teams with a Division spread of more than four seconds.

The Committee agreed that this would become a On Trial Rule with date of effect being for events with a Close of Entries date on or after 1st August 2021. Members to be Notified of On Trial Rule change.

Premiership Guidelines - Points Amendments.

After discussion the Committee agreed that the following amended point score system would be adopted effective from the start of each of the new Premiership seasons. No change would apply to the current seasons. This effectively means that the new points system will commence in Victoria from 1st September 2021, in ACT from 1st May 2022 and in NSW, Qld and S.A. from 1st March 2022.

Effective from those dates replace existing points section with:

Premiership points are awarded to teams placing in each division of regular class at race meetings held during the relevant premiership season in each team's home State or Territory as follows:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for divisions with three or more teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ four points for first placing in the division. ○ three points for second placing in the division. ○ two points for third placing in the division. ○ one point for each other placing in the division. • for divisions with two teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ two points for first placing in the division. ○ one point for second placing in the division. <p>Teams which do not place in a division, namely non-competitive teams and breakout teams, cannot be awarded premiership points.</p> <p>If an interstate team places above a home State or Territory team the premiership points will not default to a lower placed team. For example, if an interstate team places second in a division, a home team finishing in third place will be awarded two points only.</p> <p>Judge Mentor Positions. The AFA recently called for expressions of interest by Level 1 Judges in becoming Judge Mentors to assist in the development and training of Judges. The Committee received six applications from existing Level 1 Judges. The Committee concluded that all applicants were experienced Judges who understood the role of Judge Mentor and were keen to assist in the development of other Judges. The Committee accordingly agreed to the appointment of all 6 for a two-year term commencing from 1st August 2021. The Committee thanks and congratulates Steve Pitt, Karen Shields, Robyn Addie, Josh Ellen, Tim Slade and Jo Slade on their appointments.</p> <p>Brian Lindsay (AFA Secretary).</p>		
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