



AUSTRALIAN
FLYBALL
ASSOCIATION

Disability Action Policy

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Whilst recognising that the safety of dogs and exhibitors is paramount to Flyball, the AFA advocate a policy of encouraging all its members, regardless of any disability, to participate in Flyball, including official duties, to the best of their competency and ability.

Policy implementation Guidelines

The AFA takes the position that in general there should be no reason to disregard anyone from undertaking a role for which they are deemed to be fit and competent. Competency should be assessed by applying the following Guidelines, recognising that in all cases the final decision as to fitness for role must be at the discretion of the officiating Judges and AFA representative at the race meeting.

Guidelines

The AFA accepts that both permanent and temporary disabilities will be recognised within the AFA Policy.

Dog Handling – A person with a disability must still be expected to exercise reasonable control over their dog to the levels required for safety of racing under AFA rules.

The disabled person will be working as part of their team and as such the team should take the disability into account and organise the team to minimise any potential danger or safety concern. As an example the positioning of the dog in the running order should reflect optimum safety arrangements for all participants.

The AFA has recognised that certain types or levels of disability may require the disabled person to have a specific “helper” in the ring with them to safely run their dog. In these circumstances the “helper” shall NOT be counted as one of the two runners allowed under Rule 5(a). The “helper” should recognise that their role is restricted to providing assistance as required to the disabled member and not as a third runner. Helpers must be full or associate members of the AFA. Where a member with a disability is of the view that they require a helper’s assistance this should be drawn to the attention of the Organiser and AFA Representative prior to entry to Ring with the helper. The AFA Representative should notify the Judge of the request for assistance. The Judge has the sole responsibility during the race of determining whether the helper arrangement is warranted and can be safely accommodated in the Ring.

Stewarding – A member with a disability wishing to steward should be competent to undertake the duties laid down under Section 10.3 paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) and have the ability to witness any transgression of the rules of racing and react accordingly.

Should the officiating Judge consider a person stewarding not to be competent for that steward position the Judge may ask the person to move to another stewarding position that they may be better suited ,or ask for the steward to be replaced. This Guideline applies to both members with or without a disability who are undertaking the stewarding role.

Timekeeping – In order to become a timekeeper there is a practical component of timekeeping for at least one race meeting. Through observation, a person with a disability will be assessed as to their competency to perform the timekeeping role during this process.

Judging – A person with a disability must still undergo the current Judges competency assessment.

The assessor will sympathetically take into consideration the members disability and whether this is likely to significantly affect their ability to perform the functions of a Judge. A disabled candidate will still need to be assessed as reasonably self-sufficient in their ability to manoeuvre around the ring in order to safely discharge the responsibilities of the Judges Role.

Ring Layout – Organisers are requested to take into consideration reasonable mobility requirements for both able bodied and disabled members when setting up competition rings. This is particularly relevant in the layout and size of entry/exit gates and the space between side of ring and the backboards at the box end. Judges may request an adjustment of the ring where it is clear that insufficient space has been allowed for reasonable access by any member and their dog.

