



AUSTRALIAN
FLYBALL
ASSOCIATION

Rules Management Policy 23 October 2024

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RULES MANAGEMENT POLICY

Purpose

The **constitution** empowers the **AFA committee** to:

- make and interpret rules not inconsistent with the **constitution** regulating the activities of the association, the conduct of members and their dogs, the conduct of **flyball events** and other matters considered necessary for the management of the association;
- amend or repeal rules as it considers appropriate;
- seek the views of **AFA members** about proposed rules or the amendment of them in such manner as the **AFA committee** considers appropriate.

The **AFA committee** has established a rules subcommittee whose responsibilities include to:

- consider, and present recommendations to the **AFA committee** in relation to, any proposed amendments or additions to the **rules** referred to it by the **AFA committee**;
- submit to the **AFA committee** for consideration additions or amendments to the **rules** which the subcommittee considers appropriate;
- recommend interpretations of **rules** if requested by the **AFA committee**.

The purpose of this policy is to set out the processes which the **AFA committee** will follow in exercising its powers relating to the making, amendment, repeal, and interpretation of **rules**.

Definitions and Interpretation

In this policy:

- **rule changes** includes the making of new rules and the amendment or repeal of existing rules;
- words and expressions defined in the **rules** have the same meaning where used in this policy;
- the principles of interpretation contained in the **rules** apply.

Policy Statement

The **AFA committee** aims to keep the **rules** consistent and fair for all competitors and ensure that any **rule changes** are made for the benefit of the sport and the welfare of **AFA members** and their dogs.

Starting the process for rules changes

A **rule change** may be proposed by:

- the **AFA committee**;
- the **rules subcommittee**;
- any **AFA member in good standing**.

A proposal by an **AFA member** for a **rule change** should include:

- the intention of the proposed **rule change**;
- suggested wording for the **rule change**;
- a statement of the rationale for the **rule change**;

- supporting evidence or research where appropriate.

Initial consideration of AFA member proposals

The **AFA committee** will discuss any proposal by an **AFA member** at its next meeting. If the **AFA committee** considers the proposal to be of value it will be referred to the **rules subcommittee** for further evaluation. If no value is seen in the proposal the **AFA committee** will inform the proposer giving its reasons.

Evaluation of proposed rule changes

Rule changes proposed by the **AFA committee** and **rules changes** proposed by an **AFA member** and considered of value by the **AFA committee** will be referred to the **rules subcommittee** for evaluation.

The **rules subcommittee** will evaluate the impact and feasibility of the proposed **rule change** and report to the **AFA committee** with its recommendations as to whether the **rule change** should be approved, approved with amendments or refused, giving reasons for the recommendation.

In evaluating a proposed **rule change** the **rules subcommittee** may have regard to any matters which it considers relevant including:

- whether the proposed **rule change** gives effect to the stated intention;
- whether the proposed **rule change** would be inconsistent with other **rules** and how any inconsistency might be resolved;
- whether the proposed **rule change** would necessitate changes to other **rules**;
- whether the intention of the proposed **rule change** might be better achieved in a different way;
- any cost which would be incurred by **AFA members** or **clubs** arising from the proposed **rule change**;
- how the issue which the proposed **rule change** seeks to address is dealt with in the rules of other flyball associations, if at all.

With the prior approval of the **AFA committee** the **rules subcommittee** may seek advice on a proposed **rule change** from a person with relevant expertise, for example, a veterinary surgeon or animal behaviourist.

Seeking views

Before making a decision on a proposed **rule change** the **AFA committee** may:

- invite comments from **AFA members** and **clubs** on the proposed **rule change**;
- conduct an informal survey;
- conduct a binding or non-binding postal or electronic poll of **AFA members**.

Effective date for rule changes

Normally a **rule change** approved by the **AFA committee** between 30 November in any year and 1 June in the following year will come into effect on the next 1 July and any **rule change** approved by the **AFA committee** between 31 May and 1 December in any year will come into effect from 1 January in the

following year. However, where a **rule change** relates to personal or dog safety or welfare the **AFA committee** may decide that that the **rule change** will take effect from an earlier date.

Publication of rule changes

The **AFA committee** will publish all approved **rule** changes, including the effective date of the **rule changes**, on the **AFA** website promptly after approval.

Publication of rule book

The **AFA committee** will publish an updated version of the **rules** on the **AFA** website in June and December each year.

Rule interpretations

Any **AFA member in good standing** may request the **AFA committee** to interpret or clarify any **rule**.

The **AFA committee** may ask the **rules subcommittee** to review a request for interpretation or clarification and make recommendations to the **AFA committee**.

The **AFA committee** will:

- publish every interpretation or clarification on the **AFA** website;
- if appropriate include the interpretation or clarification in the next publication of the rules by way of a **rule change** or by including a note or example.