



# **Rules of the Australian Flyball Association Inc**

**Approved AGM 14 August 2023**

**(includes AGM 2023 Ballot Rules and Trial Rules since 14 Aug 2023)**

**Effective from 5 February 2024**

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## 1 **General**

### 1.1 **Purpose**

The purpose of these rules is to provide a set of rules and instructions for the racing of dogs, the conduct of ***race meetings*** and related matters.

### 1.2 **Policies and guidelines**

The **AFA committee** may also publish:

- *policies on matters relating to person and dog behaviour and safety;*
- *guidelines containing advice on practical matters.*

### 1.3 **Inconsistencies**

If there is any inconsistency between the **constitution**, these **rules** and any **AFA policies** or guidelines the following order of priority applies:

- *first, the **constitution**;*
- *second, these **rules**, including the appendices;*
- *third, AFA policies;*
- *fourth, guidelines.*

### 1.4 **Definitions**

In these **rules** and in any **AFA policies** and guidelines, except so far as the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:

**AFA** means the Australian Flyball Association Inc.

**AFA committee** means the general committee of the **AFA** elected under the **constitution**.

**AFA member** means a member of the **AFA**.

**AFA policies** means the policies published by the **AFA committee**.

**AFA representative** means the person nominated as such for a **flyball event**. See rule 7.5.

**AFA secretary** means the secretary of the **AFA** elected under the **constitution**.

**aggression** see rule 1.5.

**approved measuring device** means an **AFA** approved device for determining a dog's **jump height**.

**Australian record time report** means the form prescribed by the **AFA committee** for use for verifying an Australian record time.

**authorised approver** means:

- *the **regional representative** for the State or Territory in which a **race meeting** is being held;*
- *or*
- *the supervisory judge; or*
- *in the absence of both, another **regional representative** or the **AFA secretary**.*

**barrier** see rule 3.4 and Appendix 1.

**box** see rule 3.6 and Appendix 1.

**box line** means the line which determines where **boxes** must be placed.

**box loader** means the person loading the **box** with balls for a **team**.

**box steward** see rule 7.4.

**breakout** means that a **team** has finished a **heat** in a time faster than its **breakout time**.

**breakout time** means the time 0.5 second (or if **manual timing** is used, 1.5 seconds) (in each case rounded down to one decimal place) faster than:

- for racing in **scratch format**:
  - a team's declared seed time; or
  - if the **team** does not have a **declared seed time**, the fastest **seed time** of all **teams** in the relevant **division**;
- for racing in handicap format a team's seed time.
- 
- Example: Team A has a **declared seed time** of 20.712 seconds and Team B has a **declared seed time** of 26.978 seconds. The **breakout time** for Team A is 20.2 seconds and the **breakout time** for Team B is 26.4 seconds.

**breakout team** means a **team** which has:

- a **breakout** in two **heats**; or
- a **major breakout** in any heat.

**case officer** see Appendix 11.

**champions trophy** see Appendix 5.

**clash** means a conflict which delays a **team** reporting for a **race**.

*Example: A member of the **team** was involved in the immediately preceding **race** or is involved in a **race** in another **ring**.*

**clean run** means that a **team** has finished a **heat** without any dog being required to run again.

**close of entry date** means the date specified by the **host club** as the last date for receipt of entries for a **race meeting**.

*Note: The **close of entry date** should be not less than three weeks before the date of the **race meeting**.*

**club** means an entity, which may be an individual or a group of individuals, affiliated with the **AFA** under these **rules** and representing one or more **teams**.

**club coordinator** means the person nominated as such by each **club** and who is the point of contact between the **club** and the **AFA**.

**constitution** means the constitution of the **AFA**.

**CRN** means a dog's competition registration number. See rule 5.2.

**declared seed time** means, for any **team**, the fastest expected **heat** time of any combination of four dogs that the **team** plans to run in a **heat**. If a **declared seed time** is slower than the **team's web seed time**, the **declared seed time** must be at least one second slower than the **team's web seed time**.

*Example: If the **team's web seed time** is 25.452 seconds, then the slower **declared seed time** must be at least 26.452 seconds.*

**demonstration** means an event for the purpose of promoting the sport of flyball in which participation is limited to **AFA members** and dogs with **CRNs**.

**distraction** means any action by a member of one **team** that divides the attention or disturbs the concentration of a dog in the opposing **team**.

*Examples: Bouncing balls, using a **box** at the end of the **racing lane**, throwing objects including balls, toys, frisbees, dummies, gloves and treats.*

**division** means each group of **teams** into which those **teams** entered for a **race meeting** are split. See rule 2.10 and Appendix 8.

**division spread** means the difference between the fastest and slowest **seed times** of the **teams** in a **division**.

**DNF** means did not finish and applies when a **team** does not finish a **heat**.

**dog incident sub-committee** means a sub-committee appointed by the **AFA committee** comprising three members of the **AFA committee** best qualified to assess dog behaviour. See Appendix 14.

**early pass** see rule 6.7.

**EJS** means the electronic judging system.

*Note: Instructions for setting up and operating the **EJS** are contained in the AFA Light Sets Manual.*

**elimination format** means a racing format in which **teams** compete until beaten. See Appendix 3.

**entry form** means the online form used by **clubs** that wish to enter **teams** in a **race meeting**.

**false start** see rule 6.6.

**fee schedule** means the Schedule of Fees published on the **AFA** website.

**flyball event** means a **race meeting**, **demonstration** or **training day**.

**good standing** means that a **club** or **AFA member** is current in paying all monies owed to the **AFA** and is not on suspension.

**handicap format** means that the **teams** in a **heat** start at different times based on the difference between their respective **seed times**. See Appendix 4.

**handicap time** means for each **race** in **handicap format** the difference, rounded down to one decimal place, between the **seed times** of the **teams** running in that **race**.

- *Example: Team A has a **seed time** of 20.712 seconds and Team B has a **seed time** of 26.978 seconds. The difference between the **seed times** is 6.266 seconds. The **handicap time** for a **race** between Team A and Team B is 6.2 seconds.*

**handler** means the person holding, releasing and catching a dog in a **flyball event**.

**heat** means a single competition scheduled to be run between two **teams**.

**height card** means a height card issued for a dog in accordance with rule 8.3. It includes, when appropriate, a **pre-existing height card**. The existence of a **height card** may be demonstrated:

- *through the AFA online database;*
- *by production of a membership card endorsed with the dog's **jump height**;*
- *by production of a separate **height card**.*

**height card application form** means the form prescribed by the **AFA committee** for use when applying for a **height card**.

**height dog** means the dog running in a **heat** with the lowest **jump height** of all dogs in the same **team** running in that **heat**. ~~Any dog used as a **height dog** must have its **jump height** recorded on the **official timesheet** for its **team**. **Teams** must include on the **entry form** for a **race meeting** the **jump height** of any dog with a **jump height** of less than 14 inches and which could be used as a **height dog** for the **team**.~~ **[Changes in red on-trial from 1 March 2024]**

**host club** means the **club** hosting a **flyball event**.

**inbound area** means the whole of the area from the **start/finish line** to the back of the **ring**.

**incident report** means a report in the form prescribed by the **AFA committee**.

**inhumane treatment** includes:

- *violence to a dog, including by shaking, smacking or kicking;*
- *racing a dog under 18 months of age;*
- *racing a dog for more than 40 **heats** in a day.*

**interference** see rule 1.5.

**judge** see rule 7.2.

*Note: The various categories of **judges** are set out in the Judges Accreditation Process booklet on the AFA website.*

**jump height** means the jump height of a dog determined in accordance with **rule** 8.1 or as shown on a **pre-existing height card**. ~~The **jump height** of every dog in a **team** must be recorded on the **official timesheet** for the **team**. **Teams** must include on the **entry form** for a **race meeting** the **jump height** of every dog in the **team**.~~ **[Changes in red on-trial from 1 March 2024]**

**junior member** means an **AFA member** who is less than 18 years of age.

**just cause** means circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the **team**.

*Example: A dog in a **team** of only four dogs has incurred a red card and is required to sit out three **heats** or suffers a temporary disability such as an ant bite.*



**limited entry race meeting** means a **race meeting** where the **host club** places a limit on the number of **teams** which may enter. See rule 2.8.

**line steward** see rule 7.4.

**manual timing** see rule 6.25.

**major breakout** means that a **team** has finished a **heat** in a time 0.5 seconds or more faster than its **breakout time**.

**misconduct** means any behaviour or altercation that would leave a person with an unfavourable opinion of the sport of flyball. It includes:

- *use of foul or abusive language;*
- *demonstration of dissatisfaction with a **judge's** decision;*
- *mistreatment or inhumane treatment of a dog;*
- *demonstration of unsporting behaviour;*
- *wilful violation of these **rules** with intent to gain an unfair advantage.*

**mistreatment** includes any unreasonable treatment of a dog that causes the dog to display obvious and sustained distress.

**new club** means a **club** which has not had a **team** run in a **race meeting**.

**non-competitive team** means a **team** which has been declared to be non-competitive. See rule 5.10.

**official** means a **judge**, an **AFA representative**, a **timekeeper** or a **steward**.

**official timesheet** means the original copy of a **timesheet** for use only by officiating **timekeepers**, **judges** and **AFA representatives**.

**open class** see rule 2.5 and Appendix 6.

**owner** means the **AFA member** recorded in the **AFA** database as the owner of a dog.

**pairs class** see rule 2.5 and Appendix 17. **[Changes in red on-trial from 1 January 2024]**

**pre-existing height card** means a height card issued before, and remaining valid at, 24 February 2019.

**race** means a group of **heats**.

**race meeting** means an event where **teams** compete in **races** under these **rules**.

**race meeting organiser** means the person nominated as such on a **sanction application** for a **race meeting**. The **race meeting organiser** cannot be a **judge** or an **AFA representative** for the race meeting.

**race meeting points** means points awarded to **teams** for winning or tying **races** in **round robin format**. See rule 5.14 and Appendix 2.

**racing area** means that part of the **ring** in front of the **start/finish lane**. The **racing area** for each **team** is the area between the centre line of the **ring** and the side of the **ring**.

**racing lane** means each lane in which the jumps are placed and dogs run. Each **racing lane** extends from the barrier behind the **box**, through the **box** and the jumps and to the ends of the **ring**.

**racing schedule** see rule 2.10.

**regional representative** means a regional representative elected under the **AFA constitution**.

**registered AFA representative** see rule 7.5. [Changes in red on-trial from 1 March 2024]

**registered steward** see rule 7.4.

**registered timekeeper** see rule 7.3.

**regular class** see rule 2.5.

**restart** means the fresh start of a **heat** which has been stopped by the **judge** for any reason.

**required number** means:

- for **races** comprising three **heats**, all three **heats**;
- for **races** comprising five **heats**, all five **heats**;
- for **races** comprising best three of five **heats**, the number of **heats** required to be run for the **team** to finish three **heats**, but not more than five **heats**.

**ring** means the area in which flyball racing occurs. See rule 3.1 and Appendix 1.

**round robin format** means a racing format in which **teams** race against every other **team** in their **division** an equal number of times. See Appendix 2.

**rules** means these rules, including the appendices.

**rule change** means any change to these **rules** and includes introduction of a new rule.

**rules of racing** means the rules in Part 6.

**running order** means the list of **races** for a **race meeting**.

**sanction application** means an application to the **AFA** to sanction a **flyball event**. See rule 2.2.

**sandbagging** means any action taken by a **team** to avoid a **breakout** in a **heat**.

**scratch format** means that both **teams** in a **heat** start at the same time.

**seed time** means a **team's declared seed time** or **web seed time**.

**start/finish line** means the line which determines the plane which a dog crosses to start and end its run.

**steward** means a **line steward** or a **box steward**.

**supervisory judge** means the **judge** appointed to that position by the **AFA committee**.

**team** see rule 5.3. **Teams** are created by a **club** to compete at **race meetings**.

**team captain** means the person nominated as such on the **official timesheet** for the **team**.

**timekeeper** see rule 7.3.

**timesheet** means the form used for completing **team** details and recording results for a **race meeting**.

**title points** means points awarded to dogs at a **race meeting**. See rule 9.1.

**training day** means an event held for the purpose of providing the opportunity for **AFA members** and dogs with valid **CRNS** to train in conditions similar to those normally found at **race meetings**.

**training in the ring** means where, once racing has started and before the end of racing, a **team** uses techniques or devices that would be used to train a dog but would not normally be used in racing. It does not include, for example:

- *use of a motivator to encourage a dog's return from the **box**; or*
- *coaching a **handler** on where to stand or when to release a dog.*

**unsporting behaviour** includes:

- *purposely delaying the start or restart of a **heat**;*
- *using a false start as a deliberate delaying tactic.*

**veterans class** see rule 2.5 and Appendix 7.

**volunteer associate member** means a person elected to that category of membership by the **AFA committee**.

**warm up period** means the period designated by the **host club** for **teams** to warm up dogs before the first **heat** of a **race**. See rule 6.1.

**web seed time** means for each **team** entered in a **race meeting** the fastest **heat** time recorded by the **team** at a **race meeting** at which the **team** has raced in the four months before the **close of entry date** for the **race meeting** as processed by the **AFA** at the **close of entry date**. If the **team** has recorded times at more than three **race meetings** in that period, then only times recorded at the three most recent **race meetings** are taken into account.

*Note: **Heats** in all completed **races** at a **race meeting** are taken into account even if the **race meeting** is cancelled after racing has started. The fastest **heat** time may be from a **heat** in which a **team** has a **breakout**. In **handicap format** the fastest **heat** time is the fastest **heat** time after adjusting for the handicap.*

**witness statement** means a statement in the form prescribed by the **AFA committee**.

### 1.5 Key concepts

**aggression** is any behaviour meant to intimidate or harm a person or an animal. Aggressive behaviour may vary in severity.

As a guide the following behaviours are potential demonstrations of **aggression** by a dog:

- *lunging, snapping or nipping at another dog or a person with intent;*
- *engaging in heavy growling or intimidating another dog by eyeballing with intent;*
- *chasing and frightening another dog with intent;*
- *chasing and biting another dog or a person with or without a resultant sign of injury;*
- *attacking another dog or a person.*

Use of the expression “with intent” requires the relevant **official** to form an opinion that the dog is showing behaviour designed to intimidate or actually harm another dog or a person.

A dog following another dog down a **racing lane**, even in close proximity, is not necessarily an aggressive act.

**Interference** is anything which:

- *causes a dog to deviate in its run or not be able to start or finish its run cleanly;*
- *otherwise obstructs a **team** from running cleanly or in typical fashion.*

**Interference** may be caused by:

- *a dog or a person crossing into the other **team’s racing area** and becoming a hazard to dogs running in that **racing lane**;*
- *a ball or other object from one **team** entering the other **team’s racing area**;*
- *any other actions of dogs or persons on one **team** that hinders the other **team’s** ability to run in typical fashion.*

*Note: Dropping a dog’s lead at the dog’s release point is not considered to be **interference**.*

The **judge** determines what constitutes **interference** in any particular circumstance.

A **team** cannot cause **interference** against itself.

### 1.6 Interpretation

Reference to:

- *the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular;*
- *one gender includes each other gender;*
- *a person includes a body corporate and an unincorporated association.*

Other parts of speech and grammatical forms of words or expressions defined in these rules have corresponding meanings.

The use of “includes” or “for example” or similar words or expressions does not limit what else may be included.

If a provision includes an example of the operation of the provision:

- *the example is not exhaustive;*
- *the example does not limit, but may extend, the meaning of the provision.*

An example of the operation of a provision is part of the provision.

A note to a provision is part of the provision.

### 1.7 Changes to rules

These **rules** may only be changed by a motion approved by:

- *a simple majority of **AFA members** who respond to a ballot; or*
- *a three quarters majority of **AFA members** present and voting at a general meeting of the **AFA**.*

Any **AFA member** may propose a change to these rules by submitting a motion to the **AFA secretary** and the motion must be put to the next general meeting of the **AFA**.

If the **AFA committee** wishes to test the application of a **rule change** before submitting it for a vote of **AFA members**:

- the **AFA committee** must fix a trial period of not more than 12 months and the date from which the trial of the **rule change** will start;
- the **AFA committee** must publish on the **AFA** website the **rule change** and the date from which it is to apply;
- if at the end of the initial trial period the **AFA committee** considers that more time is required to evaluate the **rule change** the **AFA committee** may extend the trial period for not more than two further periods each of not more than six months;
- at the end of the trial period, including any extension, the **rule change** must be submitted for a vote of **AFA members** failing which the **rule change** will lapse and the **rules** applicable before the **rule change** was put on trial will be reinstated.

### 1.8 Affiliation

An entity, which may be an individual or a group of individuals, may become affiliated with the **AFA** in accordance with the **constitution** by:

- making application to the **AFA committee**; and
- paying the affiliation fee.

Every **club** must renew affiliation annually by paying the annual affiliation fee by 31 July in each year failing which its affiliation will lapse. A **club** may have its affiliation reinstated within two years after its affiliation lapses but only if it pays all affiliation fees, including late fees, as if its affiliation had not lapsed.

*Note: All fees are shown in the **fee schedule**.*

Each branch of a branch structured entity will be treated as a separate entity for affiliation.

### 1.9 Transitional

These **rules** replace the rules (**previous rules**) in place at 1 January 2022 (**replacement date**).

The replacement of the **previous rules** does not:

- revive anything not in force or existing at the **replacement date**;
- affect a right, privilege or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the **previous rules**;
- affect a penalty imposed under the **previous rules**.

For example, this means that:

- **title points** earned and titles awarded under the **previous rules** are not affected;
- a suspension imposed under the **previous rules** remains in effect;
- height cards issued under the **previous rules** remain valid until successfully challenged under these **rules**.

## 2 Hosting Events

### 2.1 Club eligibility

Only **clubs** in **good standing** may:

- *host flyball events;*
- *enter teams for race meetings.*

### 2.2 Applications for sanction

A **club** may not host a **flyball event** unless it has been sanctioned by the **AFA committee**.

A **club** wishing to host a **flyball event** must:

- *complete and submit a **sanction application** through the **AFA** website;*
- *pay the sanction application fee.*

*Note: Information to assist **clubs** in hosting **race meetings** is contained in the guideline **Hosting an AFA Sanctioned Race Meeting**.*

### 2.3 Time for sanction applications

A **sanction application** must be made:

- *for a **race meeting** with no limit on the number of **teams** which may enter, at least 60 days before the **close of entry date** for the **race meeting**;*
- *for a **race meeting** with a limit on the number of **teams** which may enter, at least 120 days before the **close of entry date** for the **race meeting**.*

The **AFA committee** may reduce these time periods when it considers there is reasonable justification for doing so.

*Note: A **sanction application** is made through the **AFA** website. The fees for a **sanction application** are shown in the **fee schedule**. The **sanction application** must include any special conditions applicable to the **race meeting** and any special activities for which approval is sought.*

### 2.4 Restrictions on approving sanction applications

A **sanction application** for a **race meeting** will not be approved if:

- *any dog having a **CRN** would not be permitted to participate at the place proposed for the **race meeting**;*
- *another **race meeting** has been sanctioned for the same date at a place:*
- *within 100 kilometres if the other **race meeting** is a local race meeting;*
- *within the same State or Territory if the other **race meeting** is a State or Territory championship **race meeting**;*
- *within Australia if the other **race meeting** is a national championship **race meeting**.*

### 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 as belonging to the same **club**; or*

- a combination of dogs that are registered in the AFA database as belonging to different **clubs** or no **club**;
- **veterans class** in which **teams** may comprise:
  - dogs that are all registered in the **AFA** database as belonging to the same **club**; or
  - a combination of dogs that are registered in the AFA database as belonging to different **clubs** or no **club**;
  - but all dogs must be at least seven years old on the date of the relevant **race meeting**.
- **pairs class** in which **teams** may comprise:
  - dogs that are all registered in the **AFA** database as belonging to the same **club**; or
  - a combination of dogs that are registered in the AFA database as belonging to different **clubs** or no **club**. **[Changes in red on-trial from 1 January 2024]**

Note: Special rules applicable to **open class**, ~~and~~ **veterans class** and **pairs class** are contained in Appendices 6, 7 and 17 respectively. **[Changes in red on-trial from 1 January 2024]**

**Regular class** must be offered at every **race meeting**.

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

Dogs may not run in more than one class at a **race meeting** except where:

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

At least three dogs in every **team** must not be listed on a **timesheet** in any other class at a **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 seek approval from the **AFA committee** to run only **pairs class** at the **race meeting**. **[Changes in red on-trial from 1 January 2024]**

## 2.6 Racing formats

Racing may be conducted in:

- round robin format with or without champions trophy; or
- elimination format; or
- a combination of both round robin format and elimination format; and
- either scratch format or handicap format for each division.

Note: For **round robin format** see Appendix 2, for **champions trophy** see Appendix 5, for **elimination format** see Appendix 3 and for **handicap format** see Appendix 4.

### 2.7 Notice to clubs

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**.

### 2.8 Limited entry race meetings

A **host club** may limit the total number of entries to a **race meeting** but not to fewer than four **teams**.

A **host club** must limit entry to every class of racing offered at a **limited entry race meeting** but not to fewer than three **teams** in each class.

After the **close of entry date** for a limited entry **race meeting**, the **host club** may reallocate the number of entries originally allocated to one class to another class when entries for the first class are under subscribed and entries for the other class are over subscribed.

*Example: A **sanction application** for a **limited entry race meeting** specifies a limit of 20 **teams** for **regular class** and four **teams** for **open class**. Only three entries are received for **open class**. The **host club** may now accept 21 entries for **regular class**.*

When entry to **regular class** is limited:

- the **host club** must accept entries to the class in the order received;
- if a **club** enters more than one **team** it must indicate the priority for acceptance for those **teams** and the entries will be treated as a single entry until after the **close of entry date**;
- if the class has not been filled at the **close of entry date**, the **host club** must accept, in order, the second **teams** from **clubs** with multiple entries, then the third **teams** from **clubs** with multiple entries, and so on until the class is filled.

Within seven days after being notified that one or more of its **teams** cannot be accepted, a **club** may alter **seed times** and dogs for any of its **teams** which have been accepted.

When entry to **open class** or **veterans class** is limited, the relevant class must be filled by:

- first, eliminating any **team** in which one or more dogs are also entered in **regular class**;
- second, by drawing **team** names from a hat until the class is filled.

Promptly after **team** names are drawn, the **host club** must notify **clubs** of those **teams** that have not been drawn.

### 2.9 Seed times

Each **team** entered in a **race meeting** is seeded based on its **web seed time** unless the **team**:

- does not have a **web seed time**, in which case the **team** must provide a **declared seed time**;  
or
- elects to use a declared seed time.

*Note: If a **team** elects to use a **declared seed time** slower than its **web seed time** it must include on its **entry form** a proper justification for doing so. If the **authorised approver** is not satisfied with the justification the **authorised approver** may require the team to use its **web seed time**.*



### 2.10 Racing schedule

The **racing schedule** for each **race meeting** must be approved by an **authorised approver**.

*Note: The **authorised approver** should not be a member of the **host club**.*

The **racing schedule** includes:

- whether racing will be in **round robin format**, **elimination format** or a combination of both;
- the divisions and whether each **division** will be run in **scratch format** or **handicap format**;
- the **teams** in each **division** and their respective **seed times** and **breakout times**;
- the number of rounds for each **division** in **round robin format**;
- the number of **heats** in each **race**;
- the running order;
- how ties in placings will be broken.

The **race meeting organiser** must submit the proposed **racing schedule** for approval not less than seven days before the **race meeting**.

*Note: Examples of the calculation of **division** splits are contained in Appendix 8. Guidelines for an **authorised approver** in approving a **running order** are contained in Appendix 9.*

Promptly after the **racing schedule** is approved the **host club** must make it available on the **AFA** website.

In determining **divisions** for a **race meeting**, the following criteria apply:

- **divisions** of single **teams** are not permitted;
- **divisions** of two **teams** are only permitted if the **authorised approver** agrees that the best alternative **division** split results in a **division** of three **teams** with a **division spread** of more than four seconds;
- combined **divisions** are not permitted;
- when the **division spread** is one second or less, the **division** must be run in **scratch format**;
- when the **division spread** is more than two seconds, the **division** must be run in **handicap format**;
- when the **division spread** is more than one second but not more than two seconds, the **division** may be run in **scratch format** or **handicap format** at the election of the **race meeting organiser** in consultation with the **authorised approver**.

*Note: Principles for determining **division** splits are contained in Appendix 8.*

After a **racing schedule** has been approved by an **authorised approver** it must not be changed unless the changes are approved by the **authorised approver**.

*Note: If both **regular class** and **open class** are offered at a **race meeting** and after the **close of entry date** the **race meeting organiser** and the **authorised approver** agree that it is difficult to achieve an acceptable divisional split and draw based on the number of entries received for each class the **race meeting organiser** may elect to run the whole **race meeting** as **open class** but only with the unanimous agreement of all entered **teams**.*

### 2.11 After a race meeting

Within 14 days after a **race meeting** the **host club** must:

- pay the **EJS** levy and, if applicable, the matting levy to the **AFA**;
- submit to the **AFA** scanned copies of:

- **official timesheets; and**
  - *witness statements, if any.*
- *complete online the **title points** workbook.*
- *Within 48 hours after a **race meeting** the **host club** must complete online the **race meeting** results form.*

*Note: Penalties apply for late compliance. See **fee schedule**.*

### 3 Ring and Equipment

#### 3.1 Ring

Flyball racing takes place in a **ring**.

The minimum size for a **ring** is 30 feet wide by 90 feet long.

*Note: The **AFA committee** recommends that, when possible, a **ring** should be at least 40 feet wide by 120 feet long.*

The boundaries of a **ring** must be delineated by fencing, bunting or other appropriate means.

A separate entry and exit must be provided for each **racing lane**.

At each **race meeting** the **host club** must set up the number of **rings** required.

#### 3.2 Ring footing

When a **ring** is indoors or on a hard surface, the **host club** must provide matting or other non-slip footing to the minimum extent shown in Appendix 1.

*Note: Information for laying matting is contained in the guideline Setting up AFA Matting on the **AFA** website.*

When a **ring** is on a natural surface, the **host club** must ensure that it is reasonably level and free from contaminants, holes, obstacles and other hazards.

#### 3.3 Ring layout

Each **ring** must be laid out within the parameters in Appendix 1.

The **start/finish line** must be clearly defined having regard to the safety of **handlers** and dogs.

Distances from the **start/finish line** to the back of the **inbound area** may be marked for both **racing lanes**:

- *by measuring tapes; or*
- *when matting is being used, by marks on the tape which secures the matting of each **racing lane**.*

When **measuring** tapes are used, they must be:

- *placed to the right, and four feet from the centre, of each **racing lane**;*
- *securely fastened so as not to be a trip hazard.*

#### 3.4 Barriers

The **host club** must provide barriers behind each **box** to prevent missed balls from rolling too far.

The **barriers** must comply with the requirements set out in Appendix 1.

Barriers must not:

- *prevent proper observation by the **judge**; or*
- *obscure the view of spectators.*

### 3.5 Jumps

All jumps used at any **flyball event** must comply with the design specification in Appendix 1.

The **host club** must provide two sets of identical jumps for each **ring** for the duration of each **race meeting**.

Broken or bent slats must be replaced immediately.

### 3.6 Boxes

Each **team** must provide its own **box** which must comply with the design specification in Appendix 1.

The **box** must be placed in the centre of the **racing lane** and so that no part of the **box** is in front of the **box line**.

The **box loader** may not change the position of a **box** during a **heat** except as needed to load a ball or to straighten the **box** if it has shifted during the **heat**.

### 3.7 Balls

Each **team** must supply its own balls.

Balls:

- *may be of any size, colour or design;*
- *must be unpunctured and bounce and roll similar to a tennis ball;*
- *must be capable of travelling at least 24 inches from the point of release when released from every hole in the **team's box**.*

## 4 Dog and Personal Welfare

### 4.1 AFA policies

The **AFA** is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of **AFA members**, dogs and others involved in the activities of the **AFA** and **clubs**.

**AFA members** are expected to be familiar with all relevant policies published by the **AFA committee**.

*Example: See Race Meeting Cancellation Policy, Disability Action Policy, Anti Bullying Policy, Social Media Policy, Health and Safety Management Policy and Risk Management Policy.*

### 4.2 Responsibility for welfare

**Owners** and **handlers** are:

- *responsible for their own personal welfare; and*
- *primarily responsible for the health and welfare of their dogs and for ensuring that their dogs are under control at all times and adequately trained for racing.*

**Clubs** and **teams** are also responsible for the welfare of dogs to the extent that it is within their control.

*Example: **Clubs** and **teams** share responsibility with **owners** and **handlers** for ensuring compliance with the limit on **heats**.*

### 4.3 Minimum age for dogs

Dogs less than 18 months old must not run in a **race meeting**.

Dogs less than one year old must not run over jumps or train on a **box** at any **flyball event**.

*Note: A violation of this **rule** constitutes **inhumane treatment** of a dog and relevant **AFA members** will be subject to discipline regardless of when the violation is discovered.*

When it is discovered during a **race meeting** that a dog less than 18 months old has run in a **heat**:

- *the dog and the dog's **owner** and **handler** must be excluded from the **race meeting**;*
- *the dog's **team** forfeits all **heats** in which the dog ran.*

### 4.4 Limit on heats

A dog must not run more than 40 **heats** in a day.

*Note: A violation of this **rule** constitutes **inhumane treatment** of a dog and relevant **AFA members** will be subject to discipline regardless of when the violation is discovered.*

When it is discovered during a **race meeting** that a dog has run more than 40 **heats** in a day:

- *the dog and the dog's **owner** and **handler** must be excluded from the **race meeting**; and*
- *the dog's **team** forfeits every **heat** in excess of 40 in which the dog ran on that day.*

#### 4.5 Dog health, ~~and~~ fitness and capability [Changes in red on-trial from 1 January 2024]

All dogs must be healthy, fit and well. Dogs must not race if:

- *in season;*
- *lame;*
- *recovering from surgery;*
- *obese; or*
- *otherwise not in a **physical** condition to race safely.*

A **judge** may exclude a dog from a **race meeting** if the **judge** believes that the dog is not physically able to race safely.

Dogs must be capable of completing the course safely. A **judge** or **AFA representative** may exclude a dog if the **judge** or **AFA representative** considers that the dog is unable to safely complete the course or is not in sufficient control to compete in a safe manner.

#### 4.6 Wrap

Protective wrap may be used on a dog's legs with a **judge's** approval before wrapping. No other taping on a dog's body is permitted.

#### 4.7 Collars and leads

Dogs may wear flat collars and harnesses only. Dogs must not wear:

- *any device capable of producing an electrical or any other discharge or any device imitating such a device; or*
- *pinch/prong collars.*

#### 4.8 Aggressive dogs

If a dog shows **aggression** towards another dog or any person at a **flyball event**, the **judge** (if the **aggression** occurs in the **ring**) or the **AFA representative** (if the **aggression** occurs outside the **ring**):

- *may exclude the dog from the **flyball event**;*
- *must complete an **incident report** and submit it to the **AFA committee** within 48 hours.*

*Note: An excluded dog may not participate in any **flyball event** until the **AFA committee** has decided any disciplinary action to be taken.*

It is solely for the relevant **official** to determine the degree of **aggression** that warrants exclusion.

Any **AFA member** who observes an incident of **aggression** by a dog should report it to the **AFA committee** within 48 hours by completing and forwarding a **witness statement** whether or not the dog has been excluded by an **official**.

*Note: The process for dealing with a reported incident of **aggression** is set out in Appendix 14.*

#### 4.9 Footwear

All persons in a **ring** during a **flyball event** must wear appropriate enclosed footwear.

## 5 Race Meeting Rules

### 5.1 Persons in ring

Only **AFA members** in **good standing** are allowed in the **ring** during a **race meeting** or **demonstration**.

**Junior members** are only allowed in the **ring** if:

- under supervision of an **AFA member** who has been nominated by the **junior member's** parent or legal guardian to be responsible for supervision of the **junior member** at **flyball events**; and
- the **judge** is satisfied that the **junior member** is in control and is not a safety risk.

**Volunteer associate members** may not be **handlers**.

A **team** forfeits any placement at a **race meeting** if:

- the **team** has a person in the **ring** who is not an **AFA member** in **good standing**; or
- a **volunteer associate member** is the **handler** of a dog in the **team**.

### 5.2 Dogs must have CRN

Each dog must have a valid **CRN** issued by the **AFA** before warming up, running or training during a break at a **race meeting**. A **CRN** is not transferable to another dog.

*Note: Application for a **CRN** is made through the **AFA** website. The current fees are shown in the **fee schedule**.*

If a dog without a **CRN** warms up or runs at a **race meeting**, the dog's **team** forfeits any placement at the **race meeting**.

#### 5.2A Registration of dogs and changing clubs

The **owner** of a dog must register the dog in the **AFA** database as belonging to:

- a single specified **club**; or
- no **club**.

The **owner** of a dog may change the registration of the dog by giving notice to the **AFA committee**.

### 5.3 Teams

A **team** consists of:

- a minimum of four and a maximum of six dogs as listed on the **official timesheet** for the **team**;
- a **handler** for each dog;
- a **box loader**;
- up to two assistants in the **ring** to pick up loose balls, reset knocked jumps and otherwise assist the **team**.

*Note: Additional assistants are permitted in the case of **handlers** with a disability (see Disability Action Policy) and **junior members** acting as **handlers**, **box loaders** or ball shaggers (see rule 5.1).*

Assistants must not:

- obstruct the **judge**;
- assist the dogs in any way;
- otherwise violate these **rules**.

Each **team** must have four dogs running in each **heat**. Other dogs on the **team** may be used at the **team's** discretion but substitutions may not be made during a **heat** or before the **restart** of a **heat**.

*Note: For circumstances when a **team** may run less than four dogs in a **heat** see rules 5.8 and 5.10.*

Every dog not running in a **heat** must be held by a **handler** and must not be tied up.

*Note: One **handler** may run more than one dog in a **heat** unless the **judge** considers that the **handler** is unable to do so safely. A **handler** may not hold two dogs or hold one dog and run another at the same time. There must always be a separate **handler** for each dog in the **ring**.*

### 5.4 Restriction on dogs racing with different clubs

If a dog has raced in **regular class** in a **team** from one **club** the dog may not race in **regular class** in a **team** from another **club** for a period of 90 days after the date on which it raced with the first **club**.

The **AFA committee** may exempt a dog from this prohibition if:

- the dog has relocated to another area; or
- the first **club** has dissolved or otherwise ceased to function; or
- the dog is joining a **new club**.

A dog may be included on an **entry form** for a **race meeting** before an exemption is granted but may only run if the exemption is granted before the **race meeting** starts.

If a dog breaches this **rule** at a **race meeting**, the dog's **team** is disqualified from the **race meeting**.

### 5.5 Timesheets

The **race meeting organiser** must prepare an **official timesheet** for each **team** using information on the **entry form** for the **team** in the **AFA's** database.

*Note: Examples of how to prepare **official timesheets** are contained in Appendix 10. The **AFA committee** recommends that **race meeting organisers** prepare duplicate copies of the **official timesheets** for use by teams. Duplicates should be on paper of a different colour to that of the **official timesheets**.*

A **team captain** may request an officiating **judge** or **AFA representative** to alter the **official timesheet** for the **team** to:

- add, delete or substitute dogs or **handlers**;
- correct a dog's **jump height**;
- correct a dog's **CRN**.

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**.

All alterations to an **official timesheet** must be initialled by an officiating **judge** or **AFA representative**.



At the end of a **race meeting** the **team captain** must:

- check the **official timesheet** for the **team** to ensure that it:
  - shows the correct details, including **CRN** for each dog on the **team**;
  - correctly records the dogs in the **team** that ran in each **heat**;
  - correctly records the result of each **heat**, each **clean run** and the allocation of **race meeting points**;
  - otherwise appears correct and complete;
  - raise with an officiating **judge** any suspect errors or omissions on the **official timesheet**; and
- sign the **official timesheet** after checking and, where relevant, the **judge** has ruled on any suspected errors or omission that have been raised with the **judge**.

The **team captain's** signature on the **official timesheet** confirms that the **team captain** has checked the **official timesheet** and is satisfied that it is correct and complete.

With the **judge's** permission, the **team captain** may approach the **timekeepers** before any **heat** to confirm the dogs running in that **heat**.

*Note: See rules 7.2, 7.3 and 7.5 for responsibilities of officials regarding completion and checking of official timesheets.*

### 5.6 Meaningless heats

A **host club** may only run at a **race meeting** those **races** listed in the **running order** approved for that **race meeting** by an **authorised approver**.

### 5.7 Reporting for racing

**Teams** are required to report on time for all **races**. If a **team** does not report for a **race** within three minutes after the start of the **warm up period**, the **judge** may:

- start the **race**; and
- declare that the **team** forfeits any **heat** started by the **judge** before the **team** reports for the **race**.

The **team** present and ready must run **heats** without opponent until the earlier of:

- the other **team** reports for the **race**; or
- the **team** has run the **required number of heats**.

All normal **rules of racing** apply.

### 5.8 Teams may forfeit for just cause

A **team** may voluntarily forfeit a **heat** if the **judge** is satisfied that the **team** has **just cause**. The opposing **team**, and any available members of the forfeiting **team**, must run in the forfeited **heat**.

However, if the **team** forfeits five consecutive **heats** under this **rule**, it will become non-competitive for the remainder of the **race meeting**.

### 5.9 Team forfeiting without just cause

A **team** that forfeits all **heats** in a **race** without **just cause** will be excluded from the **race meeting** and may be subject to disciplinary action by the **AFA committee**.

A **team** scheduled to run a **race** against an excluded **team** must run, without opponent, the **required number of heats**. To earn **race meeting points**, the **team** must finish at least one of those **heats**.

## 5.10 Non-competitive teams

Once a **team** becomes non-competitive:

- the **team** forfeits all subsequent **heats** at the **race meeting**;
- the **team** will not place in **round robin format** and will be placed in the lowest seed in **elimination format**.

All normal **rules of racing** continue to apply to a **non-competitive team** except that:

- the **non-competitive team** may run three or four dogs in a **heat** (unless the opposing **team** elects to race unopposed);
- **false starts** do not apply to the **non-competitive team**, and before each **heat**, the **EJS** must be set up with a **false start** for the **non-competitive team**;
- a dog that does not successfully complete a run must not run again;
- the jumps for each **heat** may be set at any height but not more than the **jump height** of the **height dog**.

The **judge** may exclude a **non-competitive team** from the **race meeting** for breaching these conditions.

A **team** scheduled to run against a **non-competitive team**:

- to earn **race meeting points** must run the **required number of heats** and finish at least one of those **heats**;
- may elect to race against the **non-competitive team** or without opponent;
- is otherwise subject to all normal **rules of racing**.

## 5.11 Record times

The **AFA** recognises an Australian record time for **regular class** racing. The requirements for validating a record time are:

- the **heat** must be run using the **EJS**;
- a continuous video of the **heat** must be made showing the start and finish of the **heat** and all passes and the console display and the **official timesheet** for the **team** at the end of the **heat**;
- the video must be stationary in line with the **start/finish line** and with a clear view of the sensor poles and the light tree;
- if the **heat** was run in **handicap format**, the **handicap time** entered must be recalled to the console display and included in the continuous video;
- the officiating **judge** must confirm that the **team** finished the **heat** in compliance with all **rules**;
- when the video is reviewed it must be timed with a stopwatch to confirm that the take is of the actual run in question;
- the officiating **judge** and the **AFA representative** must complete and sign an Australian record time report.

## 5.12 Protests

During a **race meeting**, a **team captain** may lodge a protest with the **judge** over any matter that impacts on a **heat** or its result. The protest must be lodged before the start of the next **heat**.

The **judge** may consult with other **officials** before ruling on the protest. The **judge's** ruling is final except that the **AFA representative** may overrule the **judge** for reasons of safety of dogs and **handlers**.

A protest not lodged before the start of the next **heat** must be lodged in writing with the **AFA secretary** and will be dealt with by the **AFA committee**. However, requests to review a **judge's** decision or alter **race meeting** results will not be approved unless extraordinary circumstances are proven.

### 5.13 Breaking ties in elimination format

If a **race** in **elimination format** results in a tie, extra **heats** must be run until a winner can be declared.

### 5.14 Determining results in round robin format

**Teams** racing in **round robin format** at a **race meeting** are awarded **race meeting points** as set out in Appendix 2.

At the end of the **race meeting**, placings in each **division** are determined, and any ties are broken, in accordance with Appendix 2.

Results will only be declared for a **race meeting** if at least four **teams** each actually ran in at least one **heat**.

### 5.15 Declaring results for cancelled race meetings

If a **race meeting** in **round robin format** is cancelled:

- *before every **division** has completed at least one round – results may not be declared for any **division**;*
- *after every **division** has completed at least one round – placings for each **division** will be declared based on standings at the end of the last completed round for that **division**.*

*Note: See Race Meeting Cancellation Policy for circumstances in which a **race meeting** may be cancelled.*

### 5.16 Voiding of sanction for race meeting

Sanction of a **race meeting** will be voided if:

- *one or more **teams** withdraw their entry before the **race meeting** starts leaving less than four **teams** entered; or*
- *the **race meeting** starts but fewer than four **teams** each actually run in at least one **heat**.*

In these circumstances the event may continue as a **demonstration** only.

*Note: This means that no results can be declared and dogs cannot earn **title points**.*

## 6 Rules of Racing

### 6.1 Warm up

The **host club** must designate a period for **teams** to warm up before the start of the first **heat** of each **race**.

*Note: The normal minimum time for a **warm up period** is 90 seconds. The **host club** may, in consultation with the **AFA representative**, reduce the **warm up period** to not less than 60 seconds when a delay on the day of a **race meeting** impacts the **racing schedule** and the reduction is required to complete a round in **round robin format** or to achieve a result. Examples of delays include malfunction of the **EJS**, adverse weather conditions and accidents. The **warm up period** must not be reduced in order to meet an unrealistic program of **races**.*

If a **team** advises the **judge** of a **clash**, the **judge** will delay the start of the **warm up period**. A **team** already present may set up its jumps and place its **box**.

Only dogs listed on the **official timesheet** for a **team** may warm up. If a dog not listed on the **official timesheet** for a **team** warms up the dog's **team** forfeits any placement at the **race meeting**.

*Note: During the **warm up period**, all normal **rules of racing** apply including penalties for **rule violations**.*

### 6.2 Training in the ring

**Training in the ring** is not permitted at a **race meeting** except during:

- a **warm up period**;
- any **break in the race meeting** designated for training.

This does not preclude working with a **box** or jumps outside the **ring** provided this does not **distract** any **team** racing in the **ring**.

If the **judge** determines that a **team** is **training in the ring** during a **heat**, the **team** will forfeit that **heat**.

A **judge** may permit a dog to practise in its **team's racing lane** for such period as the **judge** decides is reasonable when the **judge** considers that the dog's racing ability has been adversely affected by the actions of the opposing **team** by way of **interference, distraction, aggression** or abuse.

*Note: If a **judge** determines that a dog is being held back for no apparent reason the **judge** may issue a warning to the **team**. The **judge** may treat any subsequent holding back of the dog without good reason as **training in the ring**. The **judge** may use the delay in the **EJS** as a guide to deciding whether a dog is being held back.*

### 6.3 Running heights

Jumps for each **team** in each **heat** must be set at the lower of:

- 14 inches; and
- the **jump height of the team's height dog for the heat**.

*Note: A one quarter inch tolerance is allowed in the height at which jumps are set.*

It is the responsibility of the **team captain** to ensure that jumps are set at the correct **jump height**.

*Note: See Appendices 6 and 7 for exceptions applicable to **open class** and **veterans class** respectively.*

### 6.4 Challenging a team's running height

A **team's** running height in a **heat** may be challenged by:

- an officiating **judge**; or
- the **team captain** of the opposing **team**.

A challenge must be:

- made before the end of the **race** which includes the relevant **heat**;
- dealt with in accordance with the flowchart in Appendix 12.

If a **team** is found to be running at the incorrect height, the **team** will:

- forfeit all **heats** run at the incorrect height in **round robin format**;
- be excused from the race meeting in elimination format.

### 6.5 Starting and Restarting a Heat

Each **heat** starts when the **judge** begins the start sequence for the **EJS**.

*Note: For starting a **heat** when **manual timing** is used see rule 6.25.*

If a **judge** stops a **heat** and **restarts** the **heat**:

- a **team** may change the order of its dogs but may not substitute a dog;
- a **false start** by a **team** in the stopped **heat** carries over to the **restarted heat**.

### 6.6 False starts

A team **false starts** if any part of the first dog's body (whether in the air or on the ground) or any part of the **handler's** body (or any part of anything worn or held by the **handler**) breaks the beam before the start sequence has been completed.

*Note: For **false starts** when **manual timing** is used see rule 6.25.*

For the first **false start** by either **team**, the **judge** will stop the **heat** and **restart** the **heat**.

*Note: In **handicap format** and in **veterans class**, a **heat** will not be stopped for a false start.*

If the same **team false starts** for a second time, the **judge** will indicate a fault, the **heat** will continue, and the first dog must run again without a fault for the **team** to finish the **heat**.

*Note: See rule 6.20 for requirements for running again.*

If a **team's** second **false start** occurs concurrent with the opposing **team's** first false start, the opposing **team's** first **false start** supersedes the second **false start**. The **judge** will stop the **heat** and **restart** the **heat**.

### 6.7 Early pass

An **early pass** occurs when the second or a subsequent dog in a **team**, including any dog required to run again, crosses the **start/finish line** with any part of its body (on or above the ground) before the preceding dog has reached the **start/finish line** with any part of its body (on or above the ground).

A dog which makes an **early pass** must run again without a fault for the **team** to finish the **heat**.

*Note: See rule 6.20 for requirements of running again.*

### 6.8 The run

To successfully complete a run, a dog must:

- cross the **start/finish line** between the **EJS** sensor poles without a **false start** or **early pass**;
- hurdle all four jumps on the run to the **box**;
- trigger the **box**;
- retrieve the ball from the **box**;
- with the ball in its mouth, hurdle all four jumps on the return from the **box**; and
- carry the ball in its mouth across the **start/finish line** between the **EJS** sensor poles.

A dog that does not successfully complete its run must run again without a fault for the **team** to finish the **heat**.

*Note: See rule 6.20 for requirements of running again.*

*Note: On both the run to the **box** and the return from the **box** jumps may be hurdled in any order, in any direction and more than once. A dog has until it returns across the **start/finish line** between the **EJS** sensor poles to correct any errors it has made.*

### 6.9 The finish

A **team** finishes a **heat** when:

- all four dogs on the **team** have successfully completed a run; and
- the last of the four dogs to successfully complete a run crosses the **start/finish line** with any part of its body (on or above the ground).

*Note: If one or more dogs in a **team** do not run or do not successfully complete a run, the **team** will record a **DNF**.*

### 6.10 Determining the winner of a heat

The first **team** to finish a **heat** is the winner of the **heat** unless that **team** is required to forfeit the **heat** under these **rules**.

The first **team** to finish is determined by the times shown on the **EJS** unless the difference between the times is not more than .003 seconds in which case the **heat** will be declared a tie.

*Example: When the respective times shown on the **EJS** are 21.798 seconds and 21.801 seconds, the **heat** will be declared a tie.*

*Note: For determining the winner of a **heat** when **manual timing** is used see rule 6.25.*

### 6.11 Determining the winner of a race

The winner of a **race** is the **team** that wins the majority of the **heats** in the **race**. If both **teams** win an equal number of **heats**, the **race** will be declared a tie.

*Example: If both **teams** record a **DNF** in a **heat** and win an equal number of the remaining **heats**, the **race** is a tie.*

### 6.12 Safety hazards including knocked down jump

If the **judge** considers that a knocked down jump, a broken board or any other circumstance constitutes a safety hazard and that a dog or person is at risk of injury if the **heat** is allowed to continue the **judge** must:

- stop the **heat**;
- restart the **heat** after the hazard is removed.

If the **judge** decides not to stop a **heat** for a knocked down jump:

- the dog that knocked the jump is not penalised;
- the dog's **team** will not incur any faults if that dog and all following dogs hurdle the jump as if it were standing;
- a **team** member may return the jump to the upright position provided that does not cause a **distraction** to the opposing **team** or guide a dog in any way.

### 6.13 Box malfunction

If at any time after the **warm up period** starts a **box loader** believes that a **box** has malfunctioned the **box loader** must:

- stand in front of the **box** with arms crossed in the air;
- not handle the **box** until it has been examined by the **judge**.

The **judge** must:

- stop any **heat** that is in progress;
- examine the **box**.

If the **judge** decides that the **box** has malfunctioned:

- the **box** may be repaired or replaced;
- if a **heat** has been stopped, the **judge** must restart the **heat**;
- if the **box** cannot be repaired or replaced within a reasonable time as determined by the **judge**, the **team** will forfeit any **heat** which was stopped and all remaining **heats** in the race;
- if the repaired **box** or the replacement **box** malfunctions in the same **race**, the **team** will forfeit any **heat** in which the malfunction occurs and all remaining **heats** in the **race**.

If the **judge** decides that the **box** has not malfunctioned, the **team** will forfeit any **heat** which was stopped for the claimed malfunction.

### 6.14 Fouling

If a dog defecates or urinates in the **ring**:

- before any **heat**, including during the **warm up period**, the dog's **team** forfeits the next **heat**;
- during a **heat**, the dog's **team** forfeits that **heat**.

*Note: A **judge** will not stop a **heat** in progress unless the **judge** considers the dog's action in defecating or urinating to be **interference** or to cause a **distraction** to the opposing **team**.*



### 6.15 Box loader

The **box loader** must remain upright behind the **box** from the start of a **heat** until the **judge** declares the result of the **heat** except to:

- retrieve a loose ball;
- get a fresh supply of balls to load for the **heat**.

If the **box loader** assists a dog other than as permitted by this rule, the dog must run again without a fault for the **team** to finish the **heat**.

*Note: See rule 6.20 for requirements for running again.*

The **box loader** may offer verbal encouragement to a dog but not so as to cause a **distraction** to the opposing **team**.

*Note: If the **box loader** causes a **distraction** to the opposing **team**, rule 6.18 applies.*

### 6.16 Handlers

If any part of a **handler's** body (or any part of anything worn or held by the **handler**) crosses the **start/finish line** during a dog's run, the dog must run again without a fault for the **team** to finish the **heat** unless the **handler** has crossed the **start/finish line** to:

- reset a knocked down jump; or
- retrieve a loose ball.

*Note: See rule 6.20 for requirements for running again.*

### 6.17 Interference

When a **team** causes **interference** to the opposing **team**:

- before a **heat**, including during the **warm up period**, the **team** forfeits the next **heat**;
- during a **heat**, the **judge** must stop the **heat** and award the **heat** to the opposing **team**.

*Note: The **judge** will show the appropriate signal card – see rule 6.23.*

If the **judge** determines that **interference** during a **heat** is directly caused by a dog chasing its own ball, the **judge** must stop the **heat** and **restart** the **heat**.

### 6.18 Distraction

From the start of the **warm up period** until the last **heat** of a race is declared, each **team** must:

- pick up loose balls;
- not otherwise cause a **distraction** to the opposing **team**.

*Note: Ball containers should be placed behind the **box loader** so that balls are not visible to dogs of either **team**.*

The **judge** will issue a warning for the first breach of this rule by a **team** at a **race meeting**.

For any subsequent breaches by the **team** at the **race meeting**:

- if a **heat** is in progress, the **team** will forfeit that **heat**;
- if a **heat** is not in progress, the **team** will forfeit the next **heat**.

## 6.19 Out of bounds and out of play

If a ball travels out of the **ring** or becomes lodged or trapped anywhere inside the **ring**:

- *the dog will not incur a fault if it retrieves the ball and completes its run unaided;*
- *if the dog is aided in retrieving the ball by any person inside or outside the **ring**, the dog must run again without a fault for the **team** to finish the **heat**.*

*Note: See rule 6.20 for requirements for running again.*

## 6.20 Rerunning dogs for faults

When a **rule of racing** specifies that a dog must run again:

- *for the **team** to finish the **heat**, the dog must run again after all other dogs in the **team** have attempted their first run and in the order in which the faults were incurred and without incurring another fault. If a dog runs again out of order, it must run a further time in the correct order;*
- *a **team** may elect not to run the dog again and record a **DNF** for the **heat**.*

An attempted run starts when the outgoing dog crosses the **start/finish line** with any part of its body on or above the ground.

Only one fault is accumulated for each attempted run.

It is the **team's** responsibility to identify which dogs must run again.

## 6.21 Forfeits under rules of racing

When a **team** must forfeit a **heat** for breach of the rules of racing:

- *if the forfeit relates to a **heat** in progress and the **judge** does not stop the **heat**, both **teams** must continue to run the **heat** but the forfeiting **team** cannot win the **heat**;*
- *if the forfeit relates to a subsequent **heat**, both **teams** must run the subsequent **heat**; however, the **heat** will not be **restarted** for a **false start** by the forfeiting **team**, and dogs in the forfeiting **team** may not run again after a fault.*

## 6.22 Breakout

*Note: This rule does not apply to **teams** in Division One of **regular class** racing in **scratch format**.*

A **team** which has a **breakout** in a **heat** forfeits that **heat**.

If a **team** has:

- a **breakout** in two **heats**; or
- a **major breakout** in any **heat**,

the **breakout team** forfeits all subsequent **heats** and the right to place at the **race meeting**.

*Note: This means that a **breakout team** racing in **round robin format** cannot participate in run offs to decide placings.*

All normal **rules of racing** apply to a **breakout team** except that:

- ***false starts** do not apply to the **breakout team**, and before each **heat**, the **EJS** must be set up with a **false start** for the **breakout team**;*
- *a dog may not run again after a fault.*

A **team** scheduled to run in a **race** against a **breakout team**:

- to earn **race meeting points** for a win in the **race** must run the **required number of heats** and finish at least one of those **heats**;
- is otherwise subject to all normal **rules of racing**.

### 6.23 Signal cards

**Judges** will indicate particular offences by dogs or persons by:

- holding up a signal card of the appropriate colour;
- describing the specific offence to the **handler** (in case of a dog offence) or person and the **team captain**.

The **judge** must complete an **incident report** for each offence and submit the **incident report** to the **AFA** within 48 hours after the end of the **race meeting**.

*Note: The **supervisory judge** may report to the **AFA committee** any dog that receives repeated signal cards for **interference** leading to the assessment that the dog may be becoming a danger to other dogs. The **AFA committee** will deal with the report in accordance with Appendix 14.*

The offences indicated by each card and the consequences of each of those offences are set out in Table 6.1

.

*Note: A signal card will not be issued for **interference** caused solely by a ball or other object from one **team** entering the other **team's racing area**.*

Table 6.1 Signal Cards [Changes in red on-trial from 1 January 2024]

Card	Offences by persons	Offences by dogs	Consequences
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>being discourteous of unfriendly</li> <li>showing displeasure with a dog, an <b>official</b>, the <b>host club</b>, a sponsor, another <b>AFA member</b> or a spectator while in the <b>ring</b>, including showing dissent by words or actions</li> <li>demonstration of <b>unsporting behaviour</b></li> <li>entering the <b>ring</b> for a new <b>race</b> before the <b>judge</b> has declared the last <b>heat</b> of the preceding <b>race</b></li> <li>first offence of <b>interference</b></li> </ul>	<b>interference</b> when no contact is made with another dog <b>or when the judge considers any contact is incidental and minor</b>	Formal caution
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any behaviour or altercation which could leave a spectator or exhibitor with an unfavourable opinion of the sport of flyball and not otherwise specified in this Table</li> <li><b>mistreatment</b> of a dog</li> <li>abuse, including abusive or foul language, directed at another person</li> <li>demonstration of dissatisfaction with a <b>judge's</b> decision, including by approaching other <b>officials</b> to question them about the decision</li> <li>second incident of a yellow card offence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>second incident of a yellow card offence</li> <li><b>interference</b> when contact is made with another dog <b>and the judge considers any contact is incidental and minor</b></li> </ul>	Offender: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is excluded from participating in the <b>team's</b> next three <b>heats</b></li> <li>must immediately leave the <b>ring</b> and remain outside the <b>ring</b> for the <b>team's</b> next three <b>heats</b></li> </ul>
Black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wilful violation of the <b>rules</b> with intent to gain an unfair advantage, including when a start dog is deliberately released very early in <b>handicap format</b></li> <li><b>aggression</b></li> <li><b>inhumane treatment</b> of a dog</li> <li>third incident of yellow card offence</li> <li>second incident of red card offence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>further incident of interference after red card offence</b></li> <li><b>aggression</b> or suspected <b>aggression</b></li> <li><del>third incident of yellow card offence</del></li> <li><del>second incident of red card offence</del></li> </ul>	Offender: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is excluded from participating in the remainder of the <b>flyball event</b></li> <li>must immediately leave the <b>ring</b> and remain outside the <b>ring</b> for the remainder of the <b>flyball event</b></li> <li>may be subject to disciplinary action under the <b>constitution</b> or Appendix 14 as appropriate</li> <li>if a dog and the offence is <b>aggression</b> or suspected <b>aggression</b>, will be excluded from participating in any <b>flyball event</b> until the <b>AFA committee</b> has decided any disciplinary action to be taken (see rule 4.8)</li> </ul>

## 6.24 Sandbagging

If a **judge** suspects a **team** of **sandbagging**, the **judge** must:

- discuss the matter with the **team captain**;
- arrange for two other **officials** to observe the **team's** runs in all later **heats** at the **race meeting**.

If the **judge** and the other **officials** agree that the **team** is **sandbagging** in a later **heat**:

- the **team** will forfeit that **heat** and any subsequent **heat** in the same **race**;
- if the **team** has won any previous **heats** in the **race**, the **team** will also forfeit those **heats**.

If the **judge** and the other **officials** agree that the **team** is **sandbagging** in another later **heat**:

- the **judge** must excuse the **team** from the **race meeting**;
- the **team** may not place in the **race meeting**.

*Note: The results of completed **races** in which the excused **team** ran before being excused will stand.*

A **team** scheduled to run in a subsequent **race** against the excused **team**:

- to earn **race meeting points** for a win in the **race** must run, without opponent, the **required number of heats** and finish at least one of those **heats**;
- is otherwise subject to all normal **rules of racing**.

Excusal of a **team** for **sandbagging** does not prevent:

- a dog that is validly listed on the **official timesheet** of another **team** continuing to run with that other **team**;
- a **handler** handling a dog in another **team**.

*Note: All **officials** involved in a decision to excuse a **team** for **sandbagging** must submit an **incident report** to the **AFA committee**.*

## 6.25 Manual timing

When a **heat** is for any reason run without an **EJS** the following apply:

- the **judge** will blow a whistle to start the **heat** (including when the **heat** is in **handicap format**);
- a **team** will false start if any part of the first dog's body (whether on or above the ground) or any part of the **handler's** body (or any part of anything worn or held by the **handler**) is over the **start/finish line** before the **judge's** whistle is blown;
- false starts and early passes will be indicated by the line stewards;
- the **line stewards** will become the timers for the **heat** using stopwatches;
- timing of the **heat** will start on the **judge's** whistle;
- the **timekeepers** will act as back up to the **line stewards** in assisting the **judge** to determine the winner of the **heat**;
- if the **heat** is in **scratch format** the first **team** to finish the **heat** is the **team** agreed by the **line stewards**, based on their visual view of the **start/finish line**, not on their stopwatches but if the **line stewards** are unable to agree, the **judge** will decide the first **team** to finish or declare the **heat** a tie;
- if the **heat** is in **handicap format**:
  - at the end of the **heat** an adjusted **heat time** for the **team** with the faster **seed time** will be calculated by increasing that **team's heat time** as shown on the relevant stopwatch by the **handicap time**;

- *the winner of the **heat** will be determined by comparing that adjusted **heat** time with the **heat** time as shown on the relevant stopwatch for the **team** with the slower **seed time**.*

## **7      Race Meeting Officials**

### **7.1      Race officials**

For each *race*, the *officials* required are:

- one *judge*;
- one *timekeeper* for each *racing lane* in which a *team* is running; and
- two *stewards* for each *racing lane* in which a *team* is running.

*Timekeepers* and *stewards* must remain stationary during each *heat*.

*Officials* must not:

- assist *teams* during the *warm up period*;
- offer verbal encouragement to *teams* during a *heat*.

### **7.2      Judges**

An *AFA member* who wishes to become a *judge* must:

- be approved by the *AFA committee*; and
- successfully complete the training program for *judges*.

*Judges* at a *race meeting* have a responsibility to the *host club*, *teams*, spectators and sponsors, and they cannot be the *race meeting organiser* for the *race meeting*.

*Judges* must:

- be friendly and courteous, even sympathetic, but above all impartial and firm;
- have a thorough and clear understanding of these *rules* and *AFA policies*;
- act as arbiter and diplomat and leave competitors and spectators with the feeling that all *teams* have been given equal opportunity and no *team* was given an unfair advantage;
- exercise common sense, fairness and initiative in intelligently applying these *rules*, recognising that these *rules* and *AFA policies* are a basic guide and cannot be considered a manual containing explicit direction for every possible situation and that judgement calls will need to be made based on the experience, good character, fairness and consistency of the *judge*;
- ensure that above all else the safety and welfare of dogs and persons are foremost.

In a *sanction application* for a *race meeting*, the *host club* must nominate one or more *judges* to officiate at the *race meeting*. The *race meeting organiser* may replace a nominated *judge* with another *judge* after consultation with the *AFA representative*.

*Judges* must:

- report to the *race meeting organiser* at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the *race meeting*;
- during the period designated by the *host club* measure any dog requiring to be measured;
- before the first *race*, inspect each *ring*, including all equipment supplied by the *host club*, to confirm that the *ring* and the supplied equipment comply in all respects with the requirements of these *rules* and any relevant *AFA policies*.

A *judge* may:

- inspect any *team's box* at any time; and
- disallow use of a *box* which the *judge* considers does not conform to these *rules*.

The **judge** in each **race** must:

- to start each **heat**, adopt a position between the **racing lanes** in the area between the **start/finish line** and the starting dog for each **team**;
- during each **heat**, move to a position to observe for **rule** violations but not so as to interfere with or distract the **teams** running in the **heat**.

If it is necessary to stop a **heat**, the **judge** must use a whistle.

The **judge** should confer with the **timekeepers** and the **stewards** before declaring the winner of each **heat**.

At the end of a **race meeting** the **judge** must:

- rule on any suspected errors or omissions on the **official timesheet** for a **team** raised by the **team captain** and amend and initial the **official timesheet** if appropriate;
- check the **official timesheet** for each **team** to ensure that:
  - for any **races** in **handicap format** the calculations of the adjusted **heat** times for the **team** are correct;
  - allocation of **race meeting points** is correct;
  - dogs are recorded for each **heat**;
- calculate and insert on each **official timesheet** for each **team** the **team's total race meeting points**, **race meeting** placing and fastest **heat** time;
- check that the **official timesheet** otherwise appears correct and complete and has been signed by the **team captain**;
- sign the **official timesheet** after checking.

*Note: Further guidance for **judges** is contained in the Judges Manual.*

### 7.3 Timekeepers

During each **race**, the **timekeepers** are to be positioned at the timing table.

**Timekeepers** must record on each **team's timesheet**:

- the dogs running in each **heat** as advised by the **team's captain**;
- the result of each **heat** including the time run by each **team** (to three decimal places when the **EJS** is used and to two decimal places when **manual timing** is used);
- if **manual timing** has been used;
- as directed by the **judge**, any violation by a dog or **handler**.

**Timekeepers** must:

- operate the console for the **EJS** including entering **breakout times** and **handicap times** when required;
- inform the **judge** as soon as possible if they observe that a **team's** jumps for a **heat** are set at a height different from the **jump height** of the **team's height dog** for the **heat** as shown on the **team's timesheet**;
- check for **breakouts** and notify the **judge** if a **team** has a **breakout**;
- not offer comments to the **judge** unless asked by the **judge** for comment.

*Note: Further responsibilities of **timekeepers**, including full instructions for completion of **timesheets** and operation of the console for the **EJS**, are contained in the Timekeepers Manual.*

An **AFA member** who wishes to become a **registered timekeeper** must successfully complete the relevant written and practical requirements.



### 7.4 Stewards

**Stewards** comprise:

- **line stewards** who are positioned at the **start/finish line** on each side of the **ring** facing each other with a clear view across the **ring** of the **start/finish line**;
- **box stewards** who are positioned level with the last jump before the **box** with a good view of the **box** and the **box loader**.

A **steward's** principal responsibility is to assist the **judge** in ensuring safe racing by watching for, and signalling to the **judge** by raising a flag, **rule** violations in the **steward's** assigned **racing lane** from the start of the **warm up period** for a **race** until the **judge** declares the last **heat** of the **race**.

*Note: A **steward** should keep a flag raised until satisfied that the flag has been seen and acknowledged by the **judge**.*

**Line stewards** must also confer with the **judge** after each **heat** to determine the winning **team**.

*Note: Further responsibilities of **stewards** are contained in the Steward's Guidelines published on the AFA website.*

When practical, an **AFA member** should not act as a **steward** when a **team** from the same **club** as the **AFA member** is racing.

An **AFA member** who wishes to become a **registered steward** must successfully complete the relevant questionnaire.

### 7.5 AFA representative **[Changes in red on-trial from 1 March 2024]**

In the **sanction application** for a **flyball event**, the **host club** must nominate an **AFA member** to act as the **AFA representative** at the **flyball event**. The **AFA representative**:

- must be either:
  - a current **AFA committee** member; or
  - a **judge** who is not judging at the **flyball event**; or
  - a **registered AFA representative**;
- cannot be a member of the **host club**;
- cannot also be the **race meeting organiser** for **race meeting**.

~~*Note: The **AFA committee** recommends that the **AFA representative** be a current or former member of the **AFA committee** or a **judge** who is not judging at the **flyball event**.*~~

An **AFA member** who wishes to become a **registered AFA representative** must:

- be approved by the **AFA committee**; and
- successfully complete the relevant questionnaire.

An **AFA representative** typifies the sport of flyball and must:

- at all times promote cooperation and good sporting behaviour in the training and racing of dogs;
- be familiar with these **rules** and all **AFA policies** and guidelines;
- be impartial and firm, yet courteous and friendly when dealing with incidents;
- have the safety and welfare of dogs and **handlers** at the forefront of all decisions.

The **AFA representative** at a **flyball event**:

- is to act as mediator on disputes or queries arising at the **flyball event**;

- is responsible for investigating and ruling on incidents that occur outside a **ring**;
- may consult with the officiating **judge** before making a ruling;
- may not overrule a **judge's** decision in the **ring** except in matters relating to safety of dogs or persons;
- may excuse a dog or person from taking any further part in the **flyball event** when the **AFA representative** considers the behaviour of the dog or person warrants excusal;
- must report to the **AFA secretary** within 48 hours on any incident when the **AFA representative** was called on to mediate and which requires follow up action by the **AFA committee**;
- must supply, witness and receive **witness statements** from witnesses to any incidents and forward the **witness statements** to the **AFA secretary** within 48 hours.

*Note: The excusal of a dog or person by the **AFA representative** is equivalent to the issue of a black card to the dog or person by a **judge** under rule 6.23 and is to be dealt with in the same way.*

Any **AFA member** who witnesses an incident outside a **ring** which may constitute **aggression** by a dog or behaviour by an **AFA member** in breach of these **rules** or any **AFA policies** should inform the **AFA representative** for consideration and appropriate action.

If the **AFA representative** has a conflict of interest in any incident, the **AFA representative** must ask an independent person to mediate.

*Example: An **AFA representative** will have a conflict of interest when an incident concerns a dog or handler from the same **club** as the **AFA representative**.*

At the end of a **race meeting** the **AFA representative** must:

- check the calculation on each **official timesheet** for each **team** of the **race meeting points**, **race meeting** placing and fastest **heat** time and that the **official timesheet** otherwise appears complete and has been signed by the **team captain** and a **judge**;
- sign each **official timesheet** after checking;
- sign off the training sheet for any provisional **judge**.

## 7.6 Junior members as officials

A **junior member** who is a **registered timekeeper** may act as a **timekeeper** from the age of 16 under supervision of an adult **registered timekeeper**.

A **junior member** who is a **registered steward** may act as:

- a **box steward**, from the age of 12 under supervision of an adult **AFA member** and from the age of 16 without supervision;
- a **line steward**, from the age of 14 under supervision of an adult **AFA member** and from the age of 16 without supervision.

An adult **AFA member** supervising a **junior member** acting as a **steward**:

- should be a registered steward;
- must not be a member of a **team** racing in the **ring**;
- must be positioned in close proximity to the **junior member**;
- may be positioned inside or outside the **ring** but not so as to obstruct racing;
- must oversee, mentor and assist the **junior member**, particularly if an intense situation arises.

## 8 Measuring

### 8.1 Determining jump heights

A dog's **jump height** is determined by the length of the dog's ulna (see Table 8.1).

Table 8.1 Dog Jump Height Measurement Chart

Dog Jump Height Measurement Chart	
Ulna Length	Jump Height
Up to 5 inches	7 inches
Over 5 inches up to 5.5 inches	8 inches
Over 5.5 inches up to 6 inches	9 inches
Over 6 inches up to 6.5 inches	10 inches
Over 6.5 inches up to 7 inches	11 inches
Over 7 inches up to 7.5 inches	12 inches
Over 7.5 inches up to 8 inches	13 inches
Over 8 inches	14 inches

Each ulna is measured in accordance with Appendix 11.

### 8.2 Arrangements for measuring

The **host club** must designate a period before the start of a **race meeting** for dogs to be measured by an officiating **judge**.

Dogs may be presented for measurement during the designated period.

An officiating **judge** may require a dog not previously measured at the **race meeting** to be measured at any time during the **race meeting**.

If a dog has been measured during the designated period or otherwise during a **race meeting**, a **judge** is not obliged to remeasure the dog except where:

- an Australian record time is claimed under rule 5.11; or
- there is a challenge to a **team's** running height under rule 6.4 and a remeasure is required.

Requirements applying to the measurement process are contained in Appendix 11.

### 8.3 Height cards

**Height cards** are optional. A dog's owner may apply for a **height card** by submitting two completed **height card application forms**, together with the prescribed fee, to the **AFA committee**.

The process for obtaining a completed **height card application form** is set out in Appendix 11.

After the **height card application forms** are verified by the **AFA committee**, a **height card** will be issued.

Once a **height card** is issued:

- it can only be relied on at a **race meeting** if evidence of its issue is available at the **race meeting**;
- it remains good for the life of the dog, unless successfully challenged under rule 8.4;
- it can be replaced, if lost, upon payment of the appropriate fee;

- *unless it is a **pre-existing height card**, an application cannot be made for another **height card** for the same dog.*

The owner of a dog with a **pre-existing height card** may apply for a new **height card** for that dog and the dog's **jump height** for the new **height card** will be determined in accordance with rule 8.1. The **pre-existing height card** is cancelled automatically upon issue of the new **height card**.

### 8.4 Challenging a height card

A **height card**, other than a **pre-existing height card**, may be challenged.

A challenge to a **height card** must be:

- *made in writing;*
- *signed by a **club coordinator** on behalf of a **club** or by a **judge**;*
- *submitted to the **AFA secretary**.*

A **judge** may not challenge more than three **height cards** in any calendar year.

A **club** may not challenge more than two **height cards** in any calendar year.

A challenged **height card** remains valid until the challenge has been resolved. However, if the challenge has not been resolved within 90 days after receipt of the challenge by the **AFA secretary**, the **height card** will be suspended until the challenge is resolved.

The process for resolving a challenge is set out in Appendix 11.

## 9 Titles and Awards

### 9.1 Title Points

Dogs may earn **title points** in each completed **race** at a **race meeting** if **official timesheets** for the **race meeting** are signed by a **judge** and an **AFA representative** who:

- were present as **officials** at the **race meeting**; and
- certify that at least four **teams** each actually ran in at least one **heat** at the **race meeting**.
- 
- Note: **Title points** cannot be earned at a **race meeting** in **round robin format** that is cancelled before every **division** has completed at least one round.

**Title points** are earned in the following ways:

- when a **team**, including a **breakout team**, has a **clean run** in a **heat**, including when the **team** has a **breakout**, each dog in the **team** running in that **heat** earns one **title point**;
- when a **team** has a **clean run** in a **heat** and wins the **heat** (including when the opposing **team** forfeits or is required to forfeit the **heat**) or ties the **heat**, each dog in the **team** running in that **heat** earns a second **title point**;
- when a **judge** stops a **heat** for **interference**, each dog in the opposing **team** running in that **heat** earns one **title point** only;
- when a **judge** stops a **heat** for a claimed box malfunction and decides that the box has not malfunctioned, each dog in the opposing **team** running in the **heat** earns one **title point** only unless the opposing **team** has completed its run before the **heat** was stopped in which case the dogs in the opposing **team** will earn **title points** in accordance with the preceding provisions;
- when a **judge** stops a **heat** because a repaired or replaced box malfunction, each dog in the opposing **team** running in the **heat** earns one **title point** only unless the opposing **team** has completed its run before the **heat** was stopped in which case the dogs in the opposing **team** will earn **title points** in accordance with the preceding provisions.

Dogs in a **team** (other than a **breakout team**) that forfeits or is required to forfeit a **heat** cannot earn **title points** in that **heat**.

Note: Examples of allocation of **title points** from a completed **official timesheet** are contained in Appendix 13.

All **title points** earned by every dog that ran in a **heat** which is forfeited by the dog's **team** under rule 4.4 will be cancelled.

All **title points** earned by every dog in a **team** at a **race meeting** will be cancelled if any dog in the **team** is found to have:

- raced in breach of rules 4.3, 5.2 or 5.4;
- warmed up in breach of rules 5.2 or 6.1.

All **title points** earned by every dog in a **team** at a **race meeting** will be cancelled if the team breaches rule 5.1 by having:

- a person other than an **AFA member** in **good standing** in the **ring**; or
- a **volunteer associate member** as the **handler** of a dog in the **team**.

Dogs in a **team** that becomes a **non-competitive team**:

- retain **title points** earned before the **team** was declared to be non-competitive;
- cannot earn any further **title points** at the **race meeting** after the **team** was declared to be non-competitive.

*Note: After they have been posted on the **AFA** website, **title points** will only be amended if a mistake has been made by the **race meeting organiser** or the **AFA**. An **AFA member** wishing to query **title points** for a dog must first confirm with the **race meeting organiser** if the dog's **CRN** was evident on the **official timesheet** checked and signed by the **team captain**. The **AFA** will only consider a request to amend **title points** if the **race meeting organiser** confirms that the **CRN** is evident on the **official timesheet**.*

## 9.2 Titles

A dog that earns the relevant aggregate number of **title points** specified in Table 9.1 will be awarded the corresponding title.

Table 9.1 Title Points

Aggregate Title Points	Title
5	Flyball Dog (FD)
20	Flyball Dog Excellent (FDX)
50	Flyball Dog Champion (FDCh)
150	Australian Flyball Champion (AFCh)
400	Flyball Master (FM)
700	Flyball Master Excellent (FMX)
1000	Flyball Master Champion (FMCh)
1300	Flyball Master Champion – Onyx award, named after its first recipient
2000	Flyball Dog Grand Champion (FDGCh)
3000	Flyball Dog Grand Champion – Jeddah Award, named after its first recipient
4000	Flyball Dog Grand Champion – Ezri Award, named after its first recipient

## 9.3 Recognition of titles

A certificate of achievement, pin or plaque for each title will be issued upon application to the **AFA** and payment of the relevant fee.

*Note: The fees for certificates, pins and plaques are specified in the **fee schedule**.*

## 9.4 Annual awards

The **AFA** will confer the following awards for each year ending on 30 June:

- *Flyball Team of the Year;*
- *Flyball Club of the Year;*
- *Novice Flyball Club of the Year.*

The criteria for the awards are contained in Appendix 16.

## 10 Code of Conduct

### 10.1 Code of Ethics

One of the objectives of the **AFA** is to promote cooperation and good sporting behaviour in the training and exhibition of dogs. Cooperation and good sporting behaviour should not be recognised in passive observance but as a way of life in training and racing.

**AFA members** typify the sport of flyball and must:

- *always be courteous and friendly;*
- *always show a knowledge and understanding of, and follow, these **rules** and **AFA policies**;*
- *never conduct themselves in a manner that would bring discredit to the sport of flyball;*
- *never show displeasure with a dog, an **official**, another **AFA member**, a spectator or a sponsor whether inside or outside of a **ring**.*

Training and exhibiting of dogs must be carried out by methods that are in the best interests of the dogs and the sport of flyball.

### 10.2 Complaints

Any **club** or **AFA member** in **good standing** may lodge a complaint with the **AFA committee** alleging **misconduct** inside or outside a **ring** by another **club** or **AFA member**.

A complaint during a **flyball event** must be lodged in a manner that does not bring discredit to the sport of flyball.

When a **club** or **team** considers that an officiating **judge** is not complying with rule 10.1, the correct procedure is to report the concern to the **AFA representative** who will:

- *observe the **judge's** conduct: and*
- *if necessary, provide a report to the **AFA committee**.*

*Note: **Misconduct** of an **AFA member** may result in discipline under the **constitution**.*

### 10.3 Investigations

The **AFA committee** may:

- *conduct investigations into any incident involving **AFA members** or their dogs at **flyball events** and which is the subject of an **incident report** or a complaint of **misconduct**;*
- *call for reports from the parties involved in the incident and any witnesses to the incident.*

Parties to an investigation may seek legal advice but legal representatives of a party or witness will not be permitted to attend any hearing in relation to the incident.

The **AFA** is not responsible for any costs or expenses incurred or damage suffered by any person resulting from an investigation by the **AFA committee**.

*Note: The procedure for dealing with incidents at **flyball events** and complaints of **misconduct** is contained in Appendix 15.*

## Appendix 1. Standards For Equipment and Rings

**[Changes in red on-trial from 1 January 2024]**

Table A1.1 Standard for Jump Design

	Dimensions	Material
Uprights	Minimum height: 24 inches Maximum height: 36 inches Width between uprights: 24 inches	PVC foam board or Plywood up to nominal ½" thickness Colour: Any
Baseboard	Width: suitable for 6" height. Length: 800 mm This means that the lowest 7" height is made up of the 6" baseboard plus a 1" slat, which means 7" height dogs will have the protection of a 1" slat. <i>Note: this requires a jump set to have 2 off 1" slats in order to be able to make up the 8" height (6" + 1" + 1").</i>	PVC foam board or Plywood up to nominal ½" thickness Colour: Solid flat white <i>Note: Logos and lettering are permitted on the baseboard but this must not alter the predominately white background and the baseboard must have a white border of 2 inches minimum on both sides and 1 inch minimum at the top</i>
1" slats	Length: 730 mm This is to reduce the number of times the top slat jams in the uprights when hit by a dog and becomes a trip and entrapment hazard. <i>Note: see instructions below regarding use.</i>	PVC foam board up to nominal ½" thickness This is so that slats will flex easily when hit by a dog and minimise injury. No other material may be used unless approved in writing by the AFA committee Colour: Solid flat white
2", 3" and 4" slats	Length: 800 mm	PVC foam board up to nominal ½" thickness This is so that slats will flex easily when hit by a dog and minimise injury. No other material may be used unless approved in writing by the AFA committee Colour: Solid flat white

It is recommended that the slots in the uprights be a loose fit (1–1.5 mm free play) for the slats so that they do not bind up when flexed.

The edges of the slots should be slightly chamfered or rounded, also to reduce binding:

- *The top slat must always be 1", including for 7" dogs (i.e. 6" baseboard + 1" slat).*
- *The 1" slats must be installed so that one end is lined up with the end of the baseboard, which ensures the other end extends just past the opposite upright. This increases the chance that the slat will release from the upright if hit hard enough, rather than jamming.*

### Standard for Boxes

#### General

- *A **box** must have a mechanical (not electrical) pedal release mechanism.*
- *A **box** may be painted and decorated in any way.*



## Dimensions

A **box** must not be more than ~~30~~ **24** inches wide (including carry handles but excluding outdoor staking devices) or ~~20~~ **18** inches high (including cocking devices but excluding mat grabbing devices or materials). Mat grabbing devices or materials must not raise the height of the **box** by more than one half inch.

The body of a **box** must not be more than 30 inches deep (excluding any platform for the **box loader** to stand on).

The dimensional requirements for a **box** are illustrated in Figure A1.1

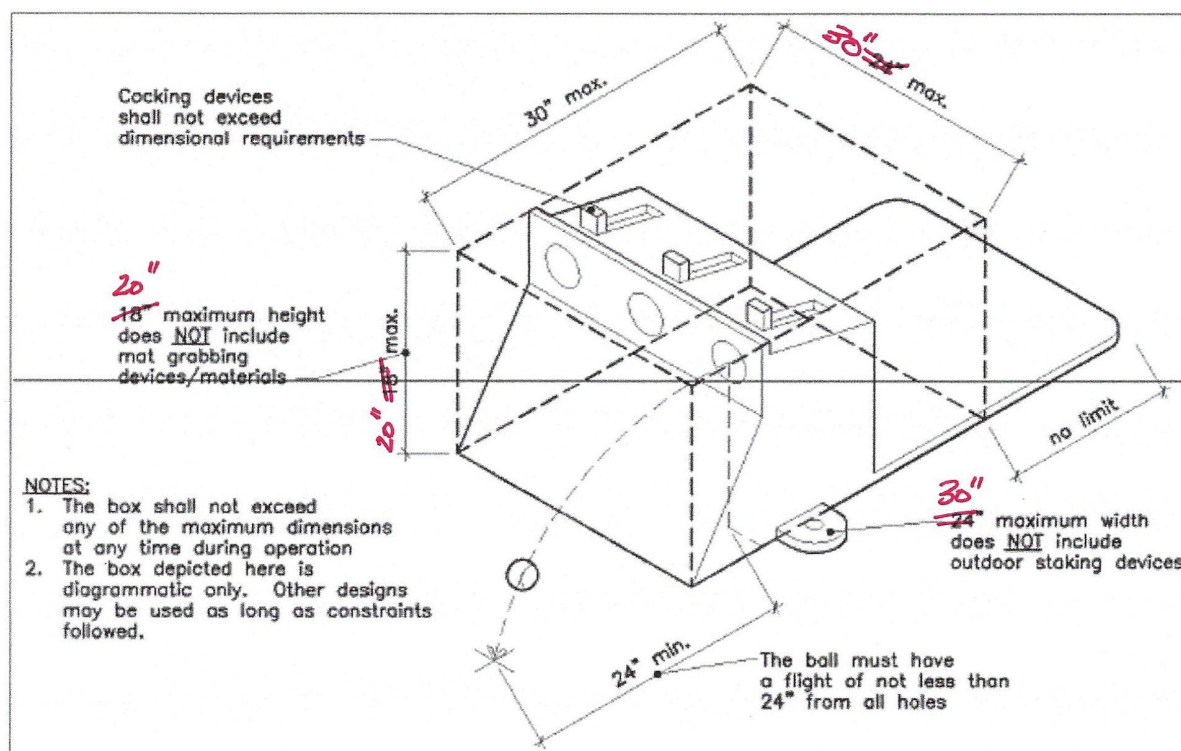


Figure A1.1 Box Dimensions

## Standard for Barriers

**Barriers** must:

- not comprise jumping equipment;
- be at least 24 inches high;
- extend between the **boxes** to not more than two feet in front of the **box line**;
- run reasonably parallel to the **box line** at a minimum of five feet behind the **box line** at the position of the **box loader**.

The preferred arrangement for a **barrier** is illustrated in Figure A1.2

## Standards for Rings

The **start/finish line**, the **box line** and the centre line of the **ring** must all be clearly defined, bearing in mind the safety of dogs and **handlers**. If tape is used it must be securely fastened so as not to be a trip hazard.

All measurements must be taken from the centre of each **racing lane** on the **start/finish line**.

Jumps must be placed at the following distances from the **start/finish line**:

- *first jump = six feet;*
- *second jump = 16 feet;*
- *third jump = 26 feet;*
- *fourth jump = 36 feet.*

The front of the **box line** must be 51 feet from the **start/finish line**.

The distance between the centres of the **racing lanes** must be at least 12 feet but not more than 22 feet.

*Note: When the minimum ring size is used, it is recommended that **racing lanes** not be set up at the maximum distance apart as this would result in the **racing lanes** being too close to the sides of the **ring**. In these circumstances the **racing lanes** should be initially set up with a maximum distance of 16 feet between the centres.*

The requirements for a **ring** are illustrated in Figure A1.2

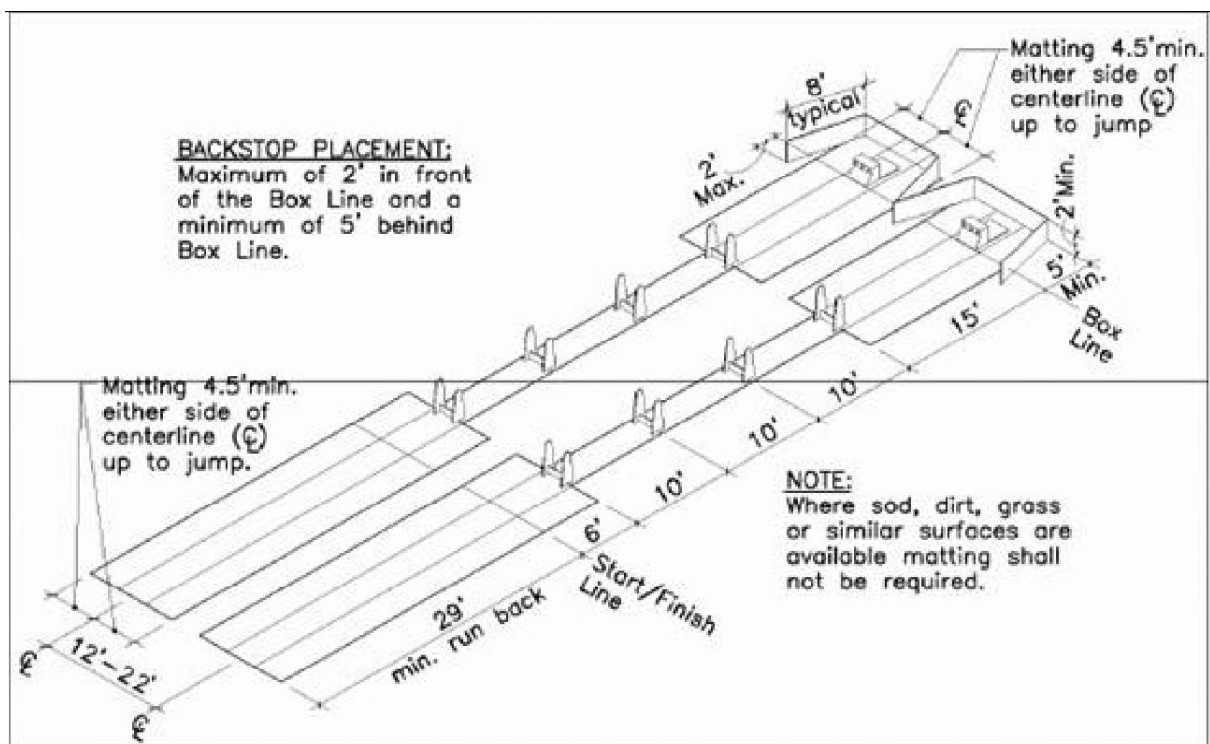


Figure A1.2 Ring and Barriers

## Appendix 2. Round Robin Format

### General

In **round robin format**, each **team** in a **division** races every other **team** in that **division** an equal number of times.

**Race meeting points** are awarded for each **race** in **round robin format** at a **race meeting** as follows:

- *two race meeting points to the winning **team**;*
- *one race meeting point each to tied **teams**.*

Places in each **division** are determined according to total **race meeting points** awarded for **races** in each completed round for the **division**. When two or more **teams** are tied with the same number of **race meeting points**, the tie will be broken by the method, either run off or count back, specified in the **racing schedule** for the **race meeting** and described below.

*Note: If a **race meeting** is cancelled before every **division** has completed at least one round, results will not be declared in any **division**. See rule 5.15.*

### Run off method

A **race** between the tied **teams** in best two out of three **heat** format. If more than two **teams** are tied, each **team** must race each of the other **teams** with **race meeting points** recorded for each **race**.

If two or more **teams** are still tied after the run off **races**, places will be decided by the fastest time run by a **team** in all run off **heats** when racing against all the other still tied **teams**.

### Count back method

Places are decided using the process described below. Only **heats** and **races** in completed rounds are taken into account.

#### **First:**

- *by the combined number of **race** wins by a **team** when racing against all the other tied **teams**.*

#### **Second:**

- *when **teams** are still tied, by the combined number of **heat** wins by a **team** when racing against all the other still tied **teams**.*

#### **Third:**

### For scratch format

- *when **teams** are still tied, by the fastest **heat** time run by a **team** in all **heats** (other than **heats** when the **team** has had a **breakout**) against all the other still tied **teams**.*

### For handicap format

- *when **teams** are still tied, by the fastest time calculated by taking the fastest adjusted **heat** time run by a **team** in all **heats** (other than **heats** when the **team** has had a **breakout**) against all the other still tied **teams** and then adding the difference (rounded down to one decimal place) between the **team's seed time** and the **seed time** of the still tied **team** with the slowest **seed time**.*

*Example:*

*Three teams are tied:*

- Team A has a **seed time** of 20.365 seconds and a fastest adjusted time of 20.2 seconds.
- Team B has a **seed time** of 25.173 seconds and a fastest adjusted time of 24.7 seconds.
- Team C has a **seed time** of 30.358 seconds and a fastest adjusted time of 29.9 seconds.

*On application of count back:*

*Team A 30.1 (20.2 + 9.9 (30.358 - 20.365)) = THIRD.*

*Team B 29.8 (24.7 + 5.1 (30.358 - 25.173)) = FIRST.*

*Team C 29.9 = SECOND.*

*Note: Where only two **teams** are still tied the fastest **heat** time as recorded by the **EJS** may be used.*

### Scheduling round robin format

3-team – allow 30 Minutes for races.

4-team – allow 1 Hour for races.

5-team – allow 1 Hour and 20 Minutes for races.

6-team – allow 2 Hours and 10 Minutes for races.

7 team – allow 3 Hours for races.

8-team – allow 4 Hours for races.

9-team – allow 5 Hours and 10 Minutes for races.

Current Version Approved at 2023 AGM including Trial Rules since 2023 AGM – Effective from 5 February 2024

### Appendix 3. Elimination Format

**Host clubs** wishing to use **elimination format** for a **race meeting** should consult the **AFA** website (under racing formats) to establish the correct sequence of running orders for both single **elimination format** and double **elimination format** racing.

**Host clubs** should allow time for running a **race meeting** in **elimination format** according to a single **elimination format** (Table A3.1) and a double **elimination format** (Table A3.2).

Table A3.1 For Single Elimination Format

Number of teams	Time to be allowed
Four	40 minutes
Five	50 minutes
Six	1 hour
Seven	1 hour
Eight	1 hour 10 minutes
Nine	1 hour 20 minutes
Ten	1 hour 30 minutes

Table A3.2 For Double Elimination Format

Number of teams	Time to be allowed
Four	40 minutes
Five	50 minutes
Six	1 hour 10 minutes
Seven	1 hour 30 minutes
Eight	2 hours
Nine	2 hours 20 minutes
Ten	2 hours 40 minutes
Eleven	3 hours
Twelve	3 hours 10 minutes
Thirteen	3 hours 30 minutes
Fourteen	3 hours 45 minutes
Fifteen	4 hours

## Appendix 4. Handicap Format

### Rules for handicap format

Rules for the conduct of **handicap format** are the same as for **scratch format** with the following variations:

- **false starts** do not apply. If a **team false starts**, the **judge** will not stop the **heat** and the first dog must run again without a fault for the **team** to finish the **heat**;
- the sound on the **EJS** is to be disconnected (or programmed to be silent) during the start sequence so that both **teams** receive light signals only. It must be reconnected after the first **team's** start to signal **early passes**;
- **handicap times** will be calculated for every **race**;
- all **teams**, including **teams** in **division** one, will have a **breakout time** which is 0.5 second less than the **team's seed time**.

### Programming the EJS console

The **EJS** console is programmed by entering:

- the **handicap time** as the handicap for the **team** with the slower **seed time** (the **slower team**) and zero as the handicap for the **team** with the faster **seed time** (the **faster team**);
- the **breakout time** of the **slower team** for both teams.

Example:

- Team A has a **seed time** of 20.712 seconds and Team B has a **seed time** of 26.978 seconds.
- The **handicap time** is 6.2 seconds (26.978 seconds minus 20.712 seconds rounded down to one decimal place).
- Team A's **breakout time** is 20.20 seconds (20.712 seconds minus 0.5 seconds rounded down to one decimal place) and Team B's **breakout time** is 26.4 seconds (26.978 seconds minus 0.5 seconds rounded down to one decimal place).

The **EJS** console is programmed by:

- entering zero as the handicap for Team A and 6.2 seconds as the handicap for Team B;
- entering 26.4 seconds as the breakout for both teams.

### Timesheets

**Timesheets** designed for **handicap format** must be used.

At the end of each **race**, each **timekeeper** must complete the **official timesheet** for their **team** by:

- writing the number entered for the opposing **team's handicap time** for that particular **race** next to "Adjustment" (if not pre-filled);
- finding the best **heat time** for the **team** for that **race** as displayed on the **EJS** console;
- subtracting the "Adjustment" from the best **heat time** and writing the result next to "Adj'd Best Heat Time".

Example: Team B's handicap is entered as 6.2. The best **heat time** of Team A displayed on the **EJS** console is 26.735 seconds. The adjusted best **heat time** for Team is 20.535 seconds (26.735 seconds minus 6.2).

Note: In the **EJS**, the handicap for the **slower team** is a number while the handicap for the **faster team** is always zero. When these figures are transferred across to the opposite **team**, the result is that the **slower team's** adjusted best **heat time** will be the same as its best **heat time** displayed on the **EJS**

console, while the **faster team's** adjusted best **heat** time will be its best **heat** time displayed on the **EJS** console reduced by the **handicap time**.

At the end of the **race meeting**, the **judge** must look for the lowest "Adj'd Best Heat Time" and write this in as the "Best Time" at the bottom of the **official timesheet**. This time will be used in determining the **team's web seed time** for future **race meetings**.

### Instructions for when handicap time exceeds 10 seconds

For a **race** when the **handicap time** exceeds 10 seconds:

- each **heat** is to be started as if it was being run in **scratch format**;
- at the end of the **heat** the adjusted **heat** time for the **faster team** will be calculated by increasing that **team's heat** time as displayed on the **EJS** console by the **handicap time**;
- the winner of the **heat** will be determined by comparing the adjusted **heat** time for the **faster team** with the **heat** time for the **slower team** as shown on the **EJS** console.



## Appendix 5. Champions Trophy

**Host clubs** wishing to include **champions trophy** at a **race meeting** must obtain approval as part of the **sanction application** for the **race meeting**.

**Champions trophy** will be run after the last normal **race** of the **race meeting**.

The winning **team** of each **regular class division** is automatically entered in **champions trophy**. If the winning **team** from a **division** is unwilling or unable to run in **champions trophy** substitution of another **team** from that **division** is not allowed and the **team** scheduled to run against that winning **team** in the first round will have a bye.

**Champions trophy** must be run as single **elimination format**, best two of three **heats** or best three of five **heats**.

If a **champions trophy race** is tied, the winner of the **race** will be the **team** with the best **heat** time in that **race** as indicated on the **EJS** console (i.e. including the handicap).

### How to run champions trophy

Rules for **champions trophy** are the same as for single **elimination format** racing in **handicap format** with the following variations:

- the **race meeting organiser** will request that **team captains** and the **AFA representative** check **official timesheets** for calculation of **race meeting points** in order to confirm the winning **team** in each **division**;
- **handicap times** will be calculated for every **race** based on the best **heat** times run by each **team** (including when the **team** had a **breakout**) during normal racing;
- all **teams** including the winner of **division** one will have a **breakout time**;
- the **breakout times** for each **team** in **champions trophy** will be 0.5 seconds less than its best **heat** time (including when the **team** had a **breakout**);
- a **team** that **breaks out** in any **heat** will be automatically eliminated [Note: The **team** still retains first place in its **division** of normal racing];
- signal cards issued during normal racing carry over to **champions trophy**;
- the schedule for three **team** single elimination will be:
  - Race 1: Winner **division** two v winner **division** three.
  - Race 2: Winner race 1 v winner **division** one.

## Appendix 6. Open Class

Except where otherwise specified in this Appendix, the rules for **open class** racing are the same as for **regular class** racing for the equivalent format (**round robin format** or **elimination format**).

### Special rules for open class racing

1. **Open class** racing may not be conducted at a **race meeting** if only one **team** nominates for **open class**. When only one entry is received for **open class**, the **host club** may combine **open class** and **veterans class**. The limits on the number of **racers** and **heats** for **veterans class** will apply to the combined **division** and **false starts** will not apply.
2. If only two entries are received for **open class** a single **division** of two **teams** is permitted.
3. Rule 5.4 does not apply to dogs in a **team** entered in an **open class**. This means that there is no restriction on a dog:
  - *that races in open class at a race meeting racing in regular class at subsequent race meetings;*
  - *racing in open class at a race meeting when the dog has raced in regular class at a previous race meeting.*
4. **Teams** racing in **open class** may not:
  - *claim Australian records;*
  - *participate in champions trophy racing.*
5. ~~The jump height of every dog in a team entered in an open class must be included on the team's entry form.~~ **[Changes in red on-trial from 1 March 2024]**
6. **Open class teams** may set jumps for a **heat** at any height from seven inches up to the **jump height** of the **team's height dog** for the **heat**.
7. All open class teams must provide a **declared seed time**.
8. **Open class teams** are subject to their own divisional draw.
9. **Host clubs** may spread **open class races** throughout the **running order** for the **race meeting**.
10. Only **team** names showing on the **AFA** website on the teams page under the club heading "Open" may be used when entering a **team** in **open class**. **Open class** team names may be used more than once and need not be re-registered for every use.

## Appendix 7. Veterans Class

Except where otherwise specified in this Appendix, the rules for **veterans class** racing are the same as for **open class** racing for the equivalent format (**round robin format** or **elimination format**).

### Special rules for veterans class racing

1. Jumps for every **team** must be set at seven inches regardless of the **jump heights** of the dogs in the **team**.
2. **False starts** do not apply. If a **team false starts**, the **judge** will not stop the **heat** and the first dog must run again without a fault for the **team** to finish the **heat**.
3. **Races** must be either three **heats** or best three of five **heats**.
4. The **racing schedule** must not include more than six **races** per day for each **team**.
5. A dog entered in a **team** in **veterans class** at a **race meeting** cannot also be entered in a **team** in another class at the **race meeting**.
6. When insufficient entries are received for **veterans class**, the **host club** may combine **veterans class** with **open class** in a single **division**. The limits on the number of **races** and **heats** for **veterans class** will apply to the combined **division** and **false starts** will not apply.

## Appendix 8. Calculating Divisional Splits

This principles in this Appendix are designed to assist consideration of divisional splits by both **race meeting organisers** and **authorised approvers**. The specific circumstances of each **race meeting** need to be considered to see if there are any unusual **seed time** situations that may have an impact. For example, an exceptionally wide gap in **seed times** between the second slowest and slowest **teams** may influence a decision to exclude the last **team's seed time** when applying the principles.

This divisional split calculation has been written using a worked example (see Table A8.1) that shows sample **team seed times**. Begin with the **seed times** in a column (Column A), sorted top to bottom in order fastest to slowest.

*Gap method:*

- first identify any obvious gaps between **seed times** for the splits;
- in Column B, calculate the gaps between **team seed times**;
- using obvious gaps (a good starting point is to look for gaps over one second) the worked example produces six **divisions**. Note that the slowest **team** has been placed in **division 6** even though it is separated by more than one second because single **team divisions** are not permitted.

*Calculation method:*

- subtract the fastest **seed time** from the slowest **seed time** (worked example:  $28.434 - 17.557 = 10.877$ ).
- divide the difference between the fastest **seed time** and the slowest **seed time** (worked example: 10.877) by the number of **divisions** originally estimated (in this case six). The result is the range (in seconds) of the **seed times** for each **division** (worked example:  $10.877 / 6 = 1.8128$ ).
- in a new Column C, list the **seed times** again, sorted top to bottom, from fastest to slowest.
- begin a new Column D, to record the **division** minimums and maximums as follows:
- start **Division 1** with the lowest **seed time**, (i.e. 17.557). Add 1.812 to 17.557 = 19.370. Every **seed time** under 19.370 falls into **Division 1**.
- start **Division 2** with the lowest **seed time** above 19.370, (i.e. 20.519). Add 1.812 to 20.519 = 22.332. Every **seed time** between 20.519 and 22.332 falls into **Division 2**.
- start **Division 3** with the lowest **seed time** above 22.332, (i.e. 23.600). Add 1.812 to 23.600 = 25.413. Every **seed time** between 23.600 and 25.413 falls into **Division 3**.
- start **Division 4** with the lowest **seed time** above 25.413, (i.e. 25.826). Add 1.812 to 25.826 = 27.639. Every **seed time** between 25.826 and 27.639 falls into **Division 4**.
- in the worked example, there is one **team** with a **seed time** slower than 27.639. Single **team divisions** are not permitted, so add this **team** to **Division 4**.

Using the calculation method, the result is four **divisions**, rather than the six using the gap method. Every **division** will be racing the same range of **seed times** and no **division** has any advantage over another. The only exception is the slowest **team**, which must be placed in the slowest division, as the single **team divisions** are not permitted.

Table A8.1 Divisional Split Calculations

Division Split by "Gap Method"			Division Split calculated using guideline			
Col A	Col B	Div	Col C	Div min & max	Div	Comments
17.557		Div 1	17.557	17.557	Div 1	Div 1 now covers all <b>teams</b> under 19.370, which joins Divs 1 & 2 from the gap method.  This may not seem "right" but (new) Div 1 is racing the same range of <b>seed times</b> as every other <b>division</b> , so no <b>division</b> is getting an unfair deal.
17.956	0.399		17.956			
19.121	1.165	Div 2	19.121			
19.238	0.117		19.238	19.370		
20.519	1.281	Div 3	20.519	20.519	Div 2	Every <b>team</b> under 22.332 would race in Div 2, which joins Divs 3 & 4 from the gap method.  Same reasoning as for new Div 1 above.
20.600	0.081		20.600			
21.780	1.180	Div 4	21.780			
22.000	0.220		22.000			
22.091	0.091		21.780	22.332		
23.600	1.509	Div 5	23.600	23.600	Div 3	This one happens to agree with the gap method split.
23.703	0.103		23.703			
24.000	0.297		24.000			
24.500	0.500		24.500			
24.762	0.262		24.762	25.413		
25.826	1.064	Div 6	25.826	25.826	Div 4	Both the gap method and the calculation method would put the slowest <b>team</b> into a <b>division</b> by itself, but since single <b>team divisions</b> are not permitted, it must go into the adjacent <b>division</b> .
26.000	0.174		26.000			
26.606	0.606		26.606			
27.000	0.394		27.000	27.639		
28.434	1.434		28.434			

2.1754 Calculated **division** gap = (slowest team–fastest team)/(number of **divisions**)

### Scratch format or handicap format

Rule 2.10 specifies when **divisions** must or may be run in **scratch format** or **handicap format**.

Applying rule 2.10 to the worked example gives the result as shown in Table A8.2.

Table A8.2 Scratch format or handicap format

Division Split by "Gap method"			
Seed times	Division	Division spread	Format
17.557	Div 1	0.399	Scratch
17.956			
19.121	Div 2	0.117	Scratch
19.238			
20.519	Div 3	0.081	Scratch
20.600			
21.780	Div 4	0.311	Scratch
22.000			
22.091			
23.600	Div 5	1.162	Could be either
23.703			
24.000			
24.500			
24.762			
25.826	Div 6	2.608	Handicap
26.000			
26.606			
27.000			
28.434			

Division Split calculated using guideline			
Seed times	Division	Division spread	Format
17.557	Div 1	1.681	Could be either
17.956			
19.121			
19.238			
20.519	Div 2	1.261	Could be either
20.600			
21.780			
22.000			
21.780	Div 3	1.162	Could be either
23.600			
23.703			
24.000			
24.500			
24.762	Div 4	2.608	Handicap
25.826			
26.000			
26.606			
27.000			
28.434			

## Appendix 9. Approving A Running Order

The purpose of this Appendix is to assist **authorised approvers** when asked to approve a **running order**. The questions are intended to act as prompts when reviewing a proposed **running order** and to assist new **authorised approvers** in undertaking this responsibility. This checklist is used after the division splits and proposed format have been approved. It is recognised that depending on matters such as small number of **teams** entered and other local factors that the guideline for gaps and breaks in running may not be achievable in all cases. All guidelines must be applied with benefit of local knowledge and common sense.

1. Has each **team** been allocated the appropriate number of **races** for the approved format?
2. Does each **team** have an equal (or balanced) number or **races** in both the left and the right **racing lanes**? *Note: When a team has an uneven number of races, there will not be an equal balance of races.*
3. What are the minimum and maximum number of **races** between each **team's races**? Example below:

Division	Team	Lane	Race Number				Biggest gap	smallest gap
1	C	Left	17	26	31	35	14	4
		Right	5	9	13	39		
	D	Left	3	7	12	39	10	4
		Right	17	22	27	33		
	E	Left	1	5	15	33	7	3
		Right	12	21	26	37		
2	F	Left	24	40			10	8
		Right	6	16	32			
3	G	Left	2	19	7		11	5
		Right	14	40				
	H	Left	11	32			14	6
		Right	2	25	38			
	I	Left	8	14	38		10	4
		Right	24	28				

4. Do all **teams** within the one **division** have roughly the same minimum and maximum gaps between **races**?
5. Does any **team** have a gap of three **heats** or less? If yes, is a break in the **running order** required?
6. Ensure that **clubs** do not have back-to-back **races**, this will speed up the number of **races** completed per hour. When it is unavoidable to avoid **club** clashes, try to keep the **club** with the clash in the same **racing lane**. This will also speed up racing and **clubs** will be appreciative of fewer **box** movements. An effective way to do this is to colour code **clubs** on a spreadsheet.
7. If there is a chance of rain, it is a good idea to identify when each **division** completes a round in **round robin format** so that racing can be rearranged if necessary to achieve a result in the **race meeting**.

## Appendix 10. Preparing Timesheets

### Scratch Format

All sections at the top of the **timesheets** are to be completed with the relevant information.

### Seed Times

- Unless a **team** uses a **declared seed time**, the **team** will use its **web seed time** and will be subject to the **breakout time** for the **division** in which the **team** is placed (except in **division** one where the breakout rule does not apply).
- The **team's web seed time** is entered in the "Seed Time" field.
- When a team uses a declared seed time, the declared seed time becomes subject to its own breakout time, not the breakout time for the division.
- The **team's declared seed time** is entered in the "Declared Time" field.

Example: Using a **web seed time**

Competition:	Mock Competition	Judge:	Mock Judge
Date:	Friday, 1 July 2016	Division:	2
Team:	Mock Team 1	Seed Time:	20.699
Captain:	Mock Captain	Break Out	19
Declared Time:			
Comp ID:	CAF999		

Example: Using a declared seed time

Competition:	Mock Competition	Judge:	Mock Judge
Date:	Friday, 1 July 2016	Division:	2
Team:	Mock Team 1	Seed Time:	
Captain:	Mock Captain	Break Out	19
Declared Time:			20
Comp ID:	CAF999		

### Dog and Handler Details:

Dog and **handler** details are taken from the **entry forms** making sure all details are correct (especially the **CRN** and **jump heights**).

Example:

	Dog's Name	CRN	Jump Height	Handler Name	Breed	W	Y D/H	R D/H	B D/H	Total Points
1	Dog 1	111A	14"	Handler 1	Border Collie					
2	Dog 2	222A	12"	Handler 2	Koolie X					
3	Dog 3	333A	8"	Handler 3	Poodle					
4	Dog 4	444A	14"	Handler 4	Border Collie					
5	Dog 5	555A	10"	Handler 5	Staffy					
6										



## Race Details:

- Race # (enter race number from **running order**).
- Lane: (enter left or right for the **racing lane** the **team** is running in).
- Versus: (enter the opposing **team** for each **race** [e.g. 'Mock Team 1']).

Heat	Dog (circle 4 dogs)						Time	M	4	Result (circle one)	Reason (Circle if applicable)				Any Use	Title Points	Comp Points
Race #:	4						Lane:	Left			Versus:	Mock Team 1					
1 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			
2 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			
3 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			
4 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			
5 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			
Race #:	10						Lane:	Right			Versus:	Mock Team 2					
1 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			
2 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			
3 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			
4 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			
5 of 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		M	4	W L T	DNF	FORF	INT	B/O			

## Handicap Format

All sections at the top of the **timesheets** are to be completed with the relevant information.

*Note: At the top of the **timesheet**, the “Break Out” field should be left blank as the **breakout time** for each **race** will change depending on the **seed time** of the opposing **team**.*

## Completing the “Handicap” field

“Handicap” will be ‘0’ for the faster **team**, and the **handicap times** for the slower **team**.

*Example:*

*If Team A has a **seed time** of 20.712 seconds and Team B has a **seed time** of 26.97 seconds:*

- the handicap time is 6.2 seconds (26.978 seconds minus 20.712 seconds rounded down to one decimal place)
- Team A (the faster **team**) will have a “Handicap” of ‘0’
- Team B (the slower **team**) will have a “Handicap” of ‘6.2’

(If Teams A and B have the same **seed time**, the “Handicap” for both **teams** is ‘0’)

## Completing the “Break Out” field

The “Break Out” for both **teams** will be the **breakout time** of the slower **team**.

*Example: If the respective **seed times** of the **teams** are 20.712 seconds and 26.978 seconds, then the “Break Out” for both **teams** is 26.4 seconds (26.978 seconds minus 0.5 seconds rounded down to one decimal place).*

## Completing the “Adjustment” field

“Adjustment” will be ‘0’ for the slower team and the **handicap time** for the faster **team**.

*Example:*

*If Team A has a **seed time** of 20.712 seconds and Team B has a **seed time** of 26.978 seconds:*

- the handicap time is 6.2 seconds (26.978 seconds minus 20.712 seconds rounded down to one decimal place)
- Team A (the faster **team**) will have an “Adjustment” of ‘6.2’.
- Team B (the slower **team**) will have an “Adjustment” of ‘0’.

- (If Teams A and B have the same **seed time**, the “Adjustment” for both **teams** is ‘0’)

### Example

#### Four Teams

1. Canberra X-traordinary (Seed Time 20.712)
2. Star Paws Galaxy (Seed Time 20.712)
3. Thunderdog Tsunami (Seed Time 22.641)
4. MV Flyball Fury (Seed Time 26.978)

Example 1 (Team: Canberra X-Traordinary – Seed Time 20.712 sec)

**Same** seed time as opposing team

<b>Race#</b>	32	<b>Lane:</b>	Left	<b>Versus:</b>	Star Paws Galaxy		
<b>Handicap:</b>	0.0	<b>Break Out:</b>	20.2	<b>Adjustment:</b>	0.0	<b>Adj Best Heat Time:</b>	

1.929 second **faster** seed time than opposing team

<b>Race#</b>	2	<b>Lane:</b>	Right	<b>Versus:</b>	Thunderdog Tsunami		
<b>Handicap:</b>	0.0	<b>Break Out:</b>	22.1	<b>Adjustment:</b>	1.9	<b>Adj Best Heat Time:</b>	

6.266 second **faster** seed time than opposing team

<b>Race#</b>	17	<b>Lane:</b>	Left	<b>Versus:</b>	MV Flyball Fury		
<b>Handicap:</b>	0.0	<b>Break Out:</b>	26.4	<b>Adjustment:</b>	6.2	<b>Adj Best Heat Time:</b>	

Example 2 (Team: Thunderdog Tsunami – Seed Time 22.641)

1.929 seconds **slower** seed time than opposing team

<b>Race#</b>	2	<b>Lane:</b>	Left	<b>Versus:</b>	Canberra X-traordinary		
<b>Handicap:</b>	2.1	<b>Break Out:</b>	22.1	<b>Adjustment:</b>	0.0	<b>Adj Best Heat Time:</b>	

<b>Race#</b>	10	<b>Lane:</b>	Left	<b>Versus:</b>	Star Paws Galaxy		
<b>Handicap:</b>	1.9	<b>Break Out:</b>	22.1	<b>Adjustment:</b>	0.0	<b>Adj Best Heat Time:</b>	

4.337 second **faster** seed time than opposing team

<b>Race#</b>	31	<b>Lane:</b>	Right	<b>Versus:</b>	MV Flyball Fury		
<b>Handicap:</b>	0.0	<b>Break Out:</b>	26.4	<b>Adjustment:</b>	4.3	<b>Adj Best Heat Time:</b>	

## Appendix 11. Measuring

### Part 1 – Determining Jump Heights

The following is the process for measuring a dog's ulnas to determine the dog's *jump height*.

Each ulna is measured by a ***judge*** setting the front legs (see Figure A11.1) and measuring from the point of the elbow to the carpal bone (see Figure A11.2) with an ***approved measuring device*** (see Figure A11.3).

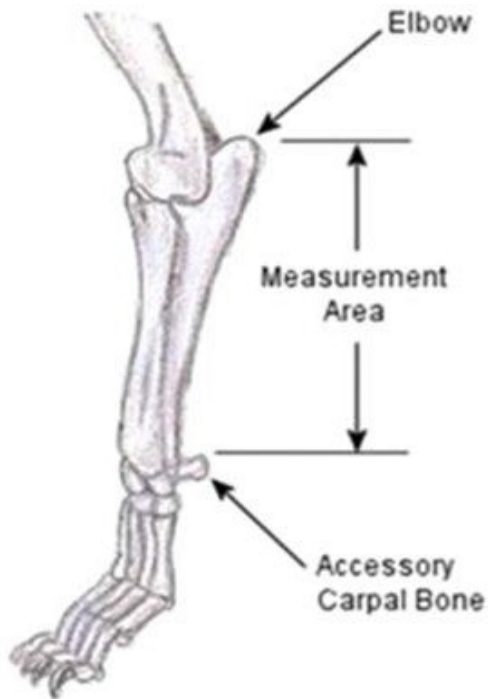


Figure A11.1 Dog's front leg including ulna



Figure A11.2 Measuring the elbow to the carpal bone



Figure A11.3 Approved measuring devices

The measuring **judge** must:

- support the ulna to the surface of the **approved measuring device** and slide the mechanism toward the elbow;
- secure the mechanism in place and remove it from the dog;
- determine the dog's **jump height** by reading from the scale on the **approved measuring device**.

If the readings for the dog's ulnas are different, the dog's **jump height** will be the lower of the readings.

The following apply to the measuring process:

- the measuring area will be determined by the measuring **judge**;
- only the measuring **judge**, a qualified witness (when the measure is for the completion of a **height card application form**) and one **handler** are permitted in the measuring area with each dog;
- measuring must be open to public observation;
- interference with the measuring process, including by distracting the dog, is not permitted;
- photographing or videoing of the measurement process is not permitted except with the prior consent of the measuring **judge**;
- **aggression** during measurement will be dealt with in accordance with rule 4.8;
- the **judge's** determination of the dog's **jump height** must be recorded and initialled by the measuring **judge** on the **official timesheet** for the dog's **team**;
- the recorded **jump height** is the dog's **jump height** for the **race meeting** unless changed as a result of a challenge to a **team's** running height under rule 6.4.

## Part 2 – Height Cards

The following is the process for obtaining a completed **height card application form**:

- a dog may only be measured at a **race meeting** in which the dog is entered;
- the **height card application form** must be presented to the measuring **judge** before the dog is measured;
- a height card application form is complete when:
- the dog has been measured in accordance with rule 8.1 by an officiating **judge**;
- the measure has been witnessed by the **AFA representative**, another **judge** (whether or not officiating at the **race meeting**) or a member of the **AFA committee**;
- the **height card application form** has been signed by the measuring **judge**, the witness and the dog's owner.

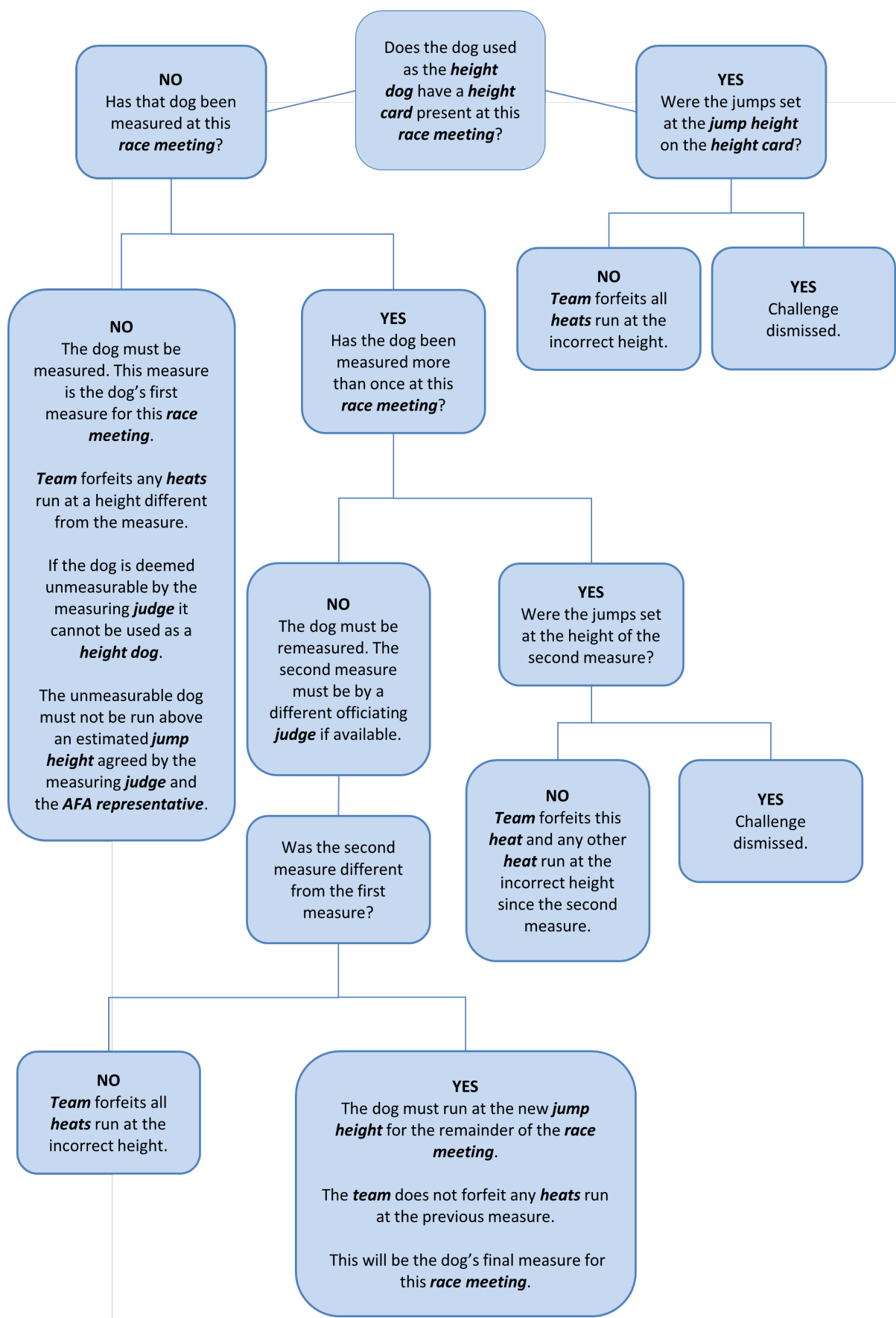
*Note: At least one of the measuring **judge** or the witness must not be a member of the same **club** as the **owner** of the dog being measured.*

### Part 3 – Challenging a Height Card

The following is the process for resolving a challenge to a **height card**:

- the **AFA secretary** must include the challenge on the agenda for the first **AFA committee** meeting after the challenge is received;
- the **AFA committee** must:
  - appoint a **case officer** to manage the process;
  - take into account any conflicts of interest when making the appointment;
  - the **case officer**:
    - must reside within a reasonable distance of the **owner** and the dog so that they can meet as required;
    - should, but need not, be a member of the **AFA committee**;
- the **case officer** must arrange with the dog's **owner** for the dog to be measured at the earliest opportunity when all conditions for a reliable and accurate measure can be met. This may, but need not, be at a **race meeting**;
- the dog must be measured in the presence of the **case officer** and the **owner** by two **level one judges** using an **approved measuring device** and in accordance with rule 8.1;
- close up photographs must be taken of the **approved measuring device** in place on the dog's front leg and of the measurements shown;
- the result of the measure must be recorded on a **height card application form** which must be signed by those of the **judges**, **case officer** and **owner** who agree with the result;
- if any of the **judges**, the **case officer** or the **owner** do not agree with the result, they must agree to meet on a second occasion to repeat the measure;
- if agreement cannot be reached to meet to repeat the measure or if there is not unanimous agreement with the result of a second measure, the **case officer** must report the matter to the **AFA committee** for its further consideration and action as it thinks fit;
- if the **judges**, the **case officer** and the **owner** agree with the result, the **case officer** must provide a written report, including the photographs taken, to the **AFA committee** with a recommendation based on the measure;
- if the measure is the same as on the challenged **height card**, the **case officer** must recommend that the challenge be dismissed;
- if the measure is different from the challenged **height card**, the **case officer** must recommend that the challenged **height card** be cancelled and a new **height card** issued based on the measure;
- the **AFA committee** may require the **case officer** to speak to the written report;
- the **AFA committee** must meet and consider the **case officer's** report at the earliest opportunity and decide whether to accept, reject or amend the **case officer's** recommendation;
- if the **AFA committee** accepts the **case officer's** recommendation:
  - when the measure was the same as the challenged **height card**, the challenged **height card** will be confirmed and may not be challenged again within three years from the date the challenge was made;
  - when the measure was different from the challenged **height card**, the new **height card** may not be challenged within three years from the date it is issued.

## Appendix 12. Flowchart For Challenging Running Height



## Appendix 13. Calculating Title Points

**Teams** running in a **race meeting** can earn **title points** in accordance with rule 9.1. This Appendix provides examples of how **title points** are calculated using completed **official timesheets**.

Dogs running in a **heat** where “4” is not circled are not entitled to any **title points** for that **heat** unless the **team** was subject to interference by the opposing **team** in which case each dog running in the **team** in that **heat** earns one **title point** only.

Dogs may earn **title points** when the opposing **team** has a claimed or actual **box** malfunction – see rule 9.1 for specific provisions.

*Example:*

Race #:	4	Lane:	Left	Versus:	Mock Team 1	
1 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6	19.328	M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O		2
2 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6	18.982	M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O		1
3 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6	-	M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O		0
4 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6	19.138	M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O		1
5 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6		M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O		
Race #:	10	Lane:	Right	Versus:	Mock Team 2	
1 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6	26.333	M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O		0
2 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6	25.112	M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O		0
3 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6	-	M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O	111A	0
4 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6	-	M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O	( 999B )	1
5 of 5	1 2 3 4 5 6	20.238	M 4 W L T	DNF FORF INT B/O		0

### 2 points

- ‘4’ and ‘W’ are circled (see Race 4, Heat 1 of 5)
- “4” and “T” are circled

### 1 point:

- ‘4’ and ‘L’ and ‘B/O’ are circled (see race 4, Heat 2 of 5)
- ‘4’ and ‘L’ are circled (see race 4, Heat 4 of 5)
- ‘W’ and CRN in **brackets** is written in ‘Any Use’ column (i.e. other team caused interference).  
Note: Teams do not get 2 points for ‘4’ and ‘W’ (see race 5, Heat 4 of 5)

### 0 points:

- ‘L’ and ‘DNF’ are circled (see race 4, Heat 3 of 5)
- ‘L’ circled only (see race 10, Heat 1 of 5)
- ‘W’ circled only (see race 10, Heat 2 of 5)
- ‘L’ and ‘INT’ are circled and CRN is written in ‘Any Use’ column (see race 10, Heat 3 of 5)
- No dogs are circled (see race 10, Heat 5 of 5)



## Appendix 14. Dealing With Dog Behaviour

The process in this Appendix is to be followed when the **AFA committee** receives:

- *an allegation by a judge, AFA representative or other AFA member under rule 4.8 of aggression or suspected aggression by a dog at a flyball event; or*
- *a report from the supervisory judge under rule 6.23 that a dog that has received signal cards for interference on multiple occasions leading to an assessment that the dog may be becoming a danger to other dogs.*

### Referral to dog incident sub-committee

In each of the above circumstances the **AFA committee** will refer the matter to the **dog incident sub-committee** to investigate and report to the **AFA committee**.

The **dog incident sub-committee**:

- *may ask other AFA members to provide witness statements if it considers that is necessary or appropriate to ensure a full and fair analysis of the dog's behaviour;*
- *must invite the dog's owner to provide any statement or comment the dog's owner wishes to make in connection with the investigation;*
- *must make available to the dog's owner the relevant incident report or supervisory judge's report and all witness statements subject to the dog's owner undertaking to keep the reports and statements confidential and not release them to any other person;*
- *must consider all available evidence and take into account the length of time the dog has been racing and any prior incidents relating to the dog;*
- *must use best endeavours to report to the AFA committee with its decision and recommendation within 21 days after receiving the referral from the AFA committee.*

If the **dog incident sub-committee** finds an allegation of **aggression** to be made out, the **dog incident sub-committee** will have regard to the **AFA Black Card Penalty Protocol** in Table A14.1 in deciding on the appropriate penalty to recommend. To avoid doubt, the **dog incident sub-committee** may recommend a penalty which is not consistent with the **AFA Black Card Penalty Protocol** where it considers that to be warranted in the circumstances.



Table A14.1 AFA Black Card Penalty Protocol

Table 14.1: Assessment of offence

Severity of consequences to dog or person		Dog's history		
		First black card	Second or subsequent black card	Currently on probation or has been previously suspended
	No evidence of contact	No further action	Warning	Probation
	Evidence of contact	Warning	Probation	Suspension
	Minor injury	Probation	Suspension	Suspension, minimum 6 months
	Major injury	Suspension	Suspension, minimum 6 months	Exclusion
	Death	Exclusion	Exclusion	Exclusion

Table 2: Definitions of penalties

No further action	Sufficient evidence for judge to issue a card (eg snarling, intimidation) but no evidence of contact. Penalty mitigated due to low grade severity and first offence. However, will be on record as a black card for subsequent reports.
Warning	Warning letter with a recommendation that the dog be retrained. Club and owner may allow dog to race during the retraining period. However a greater penalty may be incurred if the dog receives a further black card.
Probation	Probation for a period between minimum 3 months and maximum 12 months. Mandatory requirement for retraining during period of probation with training records to be submitted to the AFA monthly during the probation period. Club and owner may allow dog to race during the probation period. However a greater penalty may be incurred if the dog receives a black card during the probation period.
Suspension	Suspension from racing for a period between minimum 3 months (except where stated otherwise) and maximum 12 months. Mandatory requirement for retraining during period of suspension. Training records to be submitted to the AFA monthly during the suspension period. Application for re-instatement to racing to be made in accordance with the rules.
Exclusion	The dog may not take part in any future AFA sanctioned event.

In response to a report from the **supervisory judge**, the **dog incident sub-committee** may make any of the following recommendations:

- *that no further action be taken;*
- *that a warning be issued indicating that any further incidents involving the dog may result in a period of suspension and a requirement for retraining (this recommendation will also normally include the requirement for the dog's **owner** to seek advice from the instructors at the dog's **club** on focus retraining);*
- *that the dog be placed on probation for a period of between three and 12 months with any incident of **interference** or **aggression** within this period to result in immediate suspension from participation in all **flyball events** for the balance of the specified period (this recommendation will also normally include the requirement for the dog's **owner** to seek advice from the instructors at the dog's **club** on focus retraining);*
- *that the dog be suspended from participating in **flyball events** for a period of between three and 12 months and the dog's owner seek advice on appropriate behaviour retraining;*
- *that the dog be permanently excluded from all **flyball events** (this recommendation will normally only be made when there are repeated incidents of **aggression**).*

### AFA committee decision

The **AFA committee** must:

- *consider the **dog incident sub-committee's** recommendation at the next **AFA committee** meeting after receiving the recommendation;*
- *decide whether to accept, vary or reject the **dog incident sub-committee's** recommendation;*
- *promptly advise the dog's **owner** of its decision.*

### Owner may appeal

Within 14 days after being advised of the **AFA committee's** decision, the dog's **owner** may give notice of appeal to the **AFA secretary**. The notice must include the grounds of appeal which are limited to new facts or other evidence not available to, or taken into account by, the **AFA committee** when making its original decision.

At its next meeting after receipt of a notice of appeal the **AFA committee** must establish a panel to hear the appeal. The panel must comprise at least three but not more than five **AFA members**, one of whom should preferably be a member of the **AFA committee**. The panel members should not have had any involvement in the relevant incident or incidents, the investigation by the **dog incident sub-committee** or the original decision of the **AFA committee**. The **AFA committee** must appoint one of the panel members to chair the panel.

The panel and the dog's **owner** will each be given a casebook comprising:

- *a copy of this Appendix;*
- *copies of the **incident report**, other reports, **witness statements** and any other material provided to the **dog incident sub-committee**;*
- *copy of the dog incident sub-committee's report to the AFA committee;*
- *extract from the minutes of the **AFA committee** meeting at which the **dog incident sub-committee's** recommendation was considered and a decision made;*
- *copies of the advice to the dog's **owner** of the **AFA committee's** decision and any response from the dog's owner;*
- *copy of the notice of appeal and any material relied on by the dog's **owner** in connection with the appeal.*

The panel will agree with the dog's **owner** a date and time for the appeal to be heard. The hearing will be conducted by way of an online meeting. The dog's **owner** will be invited to make further

submissions in support of the appeal. Any further submissions must be given to the **AFA secretary** not less than seven days before the appeal hearing.

A representative from the **AFA committee** (normally the **AFA secretary**) will be present at the appeal hearing to provide technical advice if required by the panel. The representative will not be entitled to make submissions to the panel or participate in the panel's discussion or deliberations.

The panel may:

- *dismiss the appeal and uphold the decision of the **AFA committee**;*
- *uphold the appeal and overturn the decision of the **AFA committee**;*
- *determine that the penalty imposed by the **AFA committee** be varied, by imposing a greater or lesser penalty.*

### Subsequent incidents of aggression

If a dog found guilty of **aggression** has been found guilty of **aggression** on a previous occasion the dog will be automatically suspended from participating in **flyball events** for a period determined by the **AFA committee** but not less than six months. The dog must undergo retraining by a practitioner with qualifications in animal behaviour before applying for reinstatement.

### Submission of training records

When the **AFA committee** decides that a suspended dog must undergo retraining, the dog's **owner** must submit training records to the **AFA committee** monthly during the suspension period.

### Reinstatement of a suspended dog

Following a period of suspension, a dog may not participate in any **flyball event** unless the dog's **owner** satisfies the **AFA committee** that the dog has undergone satisfactory retraining.

An application for reinstatement must include:

- *copies of the weekly training log signed by the **club coordinator** and showing;*
- *the amount of time dedicated to retraining;*
- *the specific behaviours identified and addressed;*
- *the behavioural achievements;*
- *the names, qualifications and experience of those assisting with retraining;*
- *the names of witnesses to the retraining;*
- *a statement from the **club coordinator** detailing the assessed outcomes of the retraining program and giving an opinion as to the dog's suitability for reinstatement;*
- ***witness statements** from persons who have witnessed the retraining.*

*Note: The weekly training log is available on the **AFA** website.*

The **AFA committee** will consider the reinstatement application at its next scheduled meeting.

If the **AFA committee** is satisfied that the application indicates successful retraining it will notify the dog's **owner** and the suspension will be lifted from the date of notification.

If the **AFA committee** is not fully satisfied it may appoint a panel of three suitably experienced **AFA members** who are not members of the dog's **club** to independently assess the dog's suitability for reinstatement.

If the **AFA committee** is still not fully satisfied after receiving the panel's report, the **AFA committee** may extend the period of suspension for a period of not more than six months and require the dog to

undergo training by a practitioner with qualifications in animal behaviour before again applying for reinstatement.

## Appendix 15. Dealing With Member Discipline

Rules 14 and 15 of the **constitution** provide for the disciplining of **AFA** members.

This Appendix has been developed as a guide to the process to be followed by the **AFA committee** in dealing with any incident concerning behaviour of an **AFA member**. It will act as guidance to both those conducting an investigation and to **AFA members** who may be part of the investigation process.

The **AFA committee** may commence an investigation of any **AFA member** behaviour incident when the **AFA committee** receives:

- *an allegation by an official or any club or AFA member in good standing of misconduct by an AFA member at a flyball event;*
- *an allegation by any club or AFA member in good standing that an AFA member has breached the constitution.*

### Process

Upon receipt of an allegation against an **AFA member**, the **AFA committee** will consider if the available evidence indicates that the allegation against the **AFA member** may be able to be substantiated. If so the **AFA committee** will appoint a sub-committee comprising at least three **AFA committee** members to investigate and report on the allegation.

The sub-committee:

- *may ask other AFA members to provide witness statements if it considers that is necessary or appropriate to ensure a full and fair analysis of the AFA member's behaviour;*
- *must invite the AFA member to provide any statement or comment the AFA member wishes to make in connection with the investigation;*
- *must make available to the AFA member copies of any incident report and all witness statements subject to the AFA member undertaking to keep the reports and statements confidential and not release them to any other person;*
- *must consider all available evidence and must use best endeavours to report to the AFA committee with its decision and recommendation within 21 days after receiving the referral from the AFA committee.*

The sub-committee may recommend that the allegation be dismissed without any action or may recommend that action be taken against the **AFA member**.

The **AFA committee** will consider the sub-committee's report and consider the sub-committee's recommendations. The **AFA committee** may:

- *take no further action against the AFA member;*
- *issue a reprimand to the AFA member;*
- *place the AFA member on probation for a period (normally between three and 12 months) with any substantiated allegation against the AFA member within the probation period to resulting in the immediate suspension of the AFA member's membership of the AFA for the balance of the specified period;*
- *suspend the AFA member's membership of the AFA for a period (normally between three and 12 months);*
- *expel the AFA member from the AFA.*

Promptly after the **AFA committee** reaches a resolution on an allegation, the **AFA secretary** will notify the **AFA member** of the resolution and of the **AFA member's** right to make representations relating to the resolution and attend and speak at a meeting of the **AFA committee** to be held on a

date nominated in the notification being not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after the **AFA member** is notified of the resolution. The **AFA member** is not obliged to respond.

The **AFA committee** will meet on the nominated date and will:

- *give the **AFA member**, if present at the meeting, to make oral representations relating to the resolution;*
- *consider any written representations from the **AFA member** submitted at or before the meeting;*
- *either confirm or revoke its original resolution.*

Within seven days after the **AFA committee** meeting, the **AFA secretary** will notify the **AFA member** of the **AFA committee's** decision and advise the **AFA member** of the right of appeal under rule 15 of the **constitution**.

### Appeal

If the **AFA member** wishes to appeal the decision of the **AFA committee**, the **AFA member** must give a notice of appeal to the **AFA secretary** within seven days after receiving notice of the **AFA committee's** decision.

If no appeal is lodged, the **AFA committee's** decision takes effect from the expiry of the seven day period.

If the **AFA member** lodges an appeal, the **AFA committee** will convene a general meeting of the **AFA** within 21 days after receipt of the notice of appeal, or as soon as possible after that date, to hear the appeal and either confirm or revoke the decision of the **AFA committee**.

The **AFA committee** and the **AFA member** each have the right to make written and oral submissions to the general meeting. **AFA members** present at the general meeting will vote by secret ballot to confirm or revoke the decision of the **AFA committee**.

For the **AFA committee's** decision to be confirmed, at least 75% of **AFA members** present and voting at the general meeting must vote in favour of the confirmation.

If the general meeting confirms the decision of the **AFA committee** the decision takes effect from the date of the general meeting.

## Appendix 16. Criteria For Annual Awards

### Flyball Team of the Year [Changes in red on-trail from 1 March 2024]

Awarded to the **regular class team** with the highest aggregate of **title points** earned by four dogs in the **team** racing in **regular class** during the year.

If a dog has raced with more than one **regular class team**, the **title points** earned by the dog will only count towards the aggregate for the **team** in which the dog earned the highest number of **title points**.

*Example: Dog has raced in both Buccaneers and Extrabuccs during the year and earned:*

- 501 **title points** when racing in Buccaneers;
- 182 **title points** when racing in Extrabuccs.

*The 501 **title points** will be taken into account when calculating the aggregate for Buccaneers and the 182 **title points** will be ignored.*

### Flyball Club of the Year

Awarded to the **club** with the highest number of points for the year calculated as follows:

- for each **race meeting** hosted by the **club** during the year – 25 points for each full day of racing;
- for each **race meeting** held during the year in which the **club** has entered a **team** in **regular class** – 10 points for the first **team** entered in **regular class** and 2 points for each additional **team** entered in **regular class**;
- for each **demonstration** hosted by the **club** during the year – 25 points;
- for each member of the **club** who is a member of the **AFA committee** – 10 points;
- for each member of the **club** who is a **judge** – 10 points;
- for each member of the **club** who is a **registered timekeeper** – 5 points;
- for each member of the **club** who is a **registered AFA representative** – 5 points;
- for each member of the **club** who is a **registered steward** – 2 points.

### Novice Flyball Club of the Year

Awarded to the eligible **club** with the highest number of points for the year using the same calculation as for Flyball Club of the Year.

A **club** is only eligible for this award if:

- the **club** has been affiliated with the **AFA** for less than 15 months on the last day of the year; and
- more than half the members of the **club** were not **AFA members** before the **club** became affiliated.

## Appendix 17. Pairs Class [Changes in red on-trial from 1 January 2024]

Except where otherwise specified in this Appendix, the rules for *pairs class* racing are the same as for *open class* racing for the equivalent format (*round robin format* or *elimination format*).

### Special rules for pairs class racing

1. A *team* in *pairs class* racing consists of:
  - two dogs as listed on the *official timesheet* for the *team*;
  - a *handler* for each dog;
  - a *box loader*;
  - up to two assistants in the *ring* to pick up loose balls, reset knocked jumps and otherwise assist the *team*.
2. *Pairs class* racing may not be conducted at a *race meeting* if less than four *teams* are nominated for *pairs class*.
3. The *breakout time* for a *team* in *pairs class* is the time 0.3 seconds (rounded down to one decimal place) faster than the *team's declared seed time*.
4. A *team* in *pairs class* finishes a *heat* when:
  - both dogs in the *team* have successfully completed a run;
  - the last of the two dogs to successfully complete a run crosses the *start/finish line* with any part of its body (on or above the ground).
5. Only *team* names showing on the *AFA* website on the teams page under the club heading "Pairs" may be used when entering a *team* in *pairs class*. *Pairs class* team names may be used more than once and need not be re-registered for every use.
6. Dogs in *pairs class* may earn *title points* on the same basis as dogs in other classes but at one half only of the value of *title points* earned by dogs in other classes.
  -