



AUSTRALIAN
FLYBALL
ASSOCIATION

Race Meeting Cancellation Policy

1 January 2022

RACE MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY

Scope of this Policy is “cancellation of a sanctioned *race meeting*”.

Race meetings involve a lot of planning, preparation and work by **race meeting organisers, officials**, and participants, and should proceed if possible. Cancellation shall not be for frivolous reasons.

The decision to cancel a **race meeting** shall generally be taken on the grounds of safety, to both dogs and people, but this is not intended to exclude other grounds. Examples of legitimate reasons to cancel include but are not restricted to:

- Wet weather
- High temperature
- Unsuitable running surface
- High wind
- Outbreak of disease
- Major external event (e.g. bushfires, floods)
- Loss of grounds
- Electrical storm
- Compassionate issues – such as death or serious illness/injury at **race meeting**

Cancellation of *race meeting* before *teams* arrive:

The **race meeting organiser** must have, before the commencement of the **race meeting**, a **team** contact text group list that contains mobile numbers that has been compiled from the **race meeting entry forms**.

If the **race meeting** is to be cancelled prior to the arrival of travelling **teams** or individual **AFA members**, then the **race meeting organiser is responsible** for sending a text to all **team** contacts that the **race meeting** has been cancelled.

Team contacts are responsible for passing on any information they receive to their **team** members.

This process is a best endeavours approach where the **race meeting organiser's** responsibility ends once the text is sent; the **race meeting organiser** will not be held accountable for failures in the text delivery system.

Cancellation of *race meeting* when all *teams* and participants are present or after start of *race meeting*:

Options include total cancellation of a **race meeting** or shortening the **running order** in order to obtain a valid result in less **races**, such as:

- Cancel the **race meeting** before start.
- Delay the start of the **race meeting** if conditions are unsafe but look like they could improve
- Take a break during the **race meeting** to avoid racing during temporary unsafe conditions
- Abandon the **race meeting** after racing has started

Cancellation should be considered at any time that racing conditions appear to be unsafe for dogs and people. In summer months the most likely reason to consider cancellation is extreme hot weather conditions. As an aid to decision making the **AFA** has supplied all States with “Heat stress measure meters”. These meters have the capability to measure temperature, humidity and wind chill factor and provide a combined reading taking all these factors into account. This combined reading is called the WGBT (Wet Globe Bulb Temperature). These meters can be set for either

indoor or outdoor use. When used outdoors they should best be located inside the **ring** near the lights.

The conversion factor to be used to translate meter reading to stress risk level is as follows:

Reading 25 – 26.9 – Very Low risk

Reading 27 – 28.9 – Low risk

Reading 29 – 30.9 – Moderate risk

Reading 31-32 – High risk

Reading above 32 – Extreme risk.

The **AFA** policy is to RECOMMEND that racing be suspended or cancelled when the WGBR meter reading reaches or exceeds 32. **Race meeting officials** may however decide to suspend racing at any time they consider conditions are unsafe.

Decision to cancel should be taken by the following **race meeting officials**:

- The **race meeting organiser**
- The **AFA representatives**
- The **judges**

It is strongly recommended that the **race meeting officials** consult amongst themselves and come to a majority decision, however, if consensus cannot be reached, the following should be noted:

- The **race meeting organiser** may cancel the **race meeting** if, in their opinion, proceeding is unsafe or would place their **club** at risk;
- The **AFA representatives** may withdraw sanctioning for the **race meeting** if, in their opinion, proceeding is unsafe or the **AFA's** insurance would be compromised;
- The **judges** may withdraw from officiating at the **race meeting** if, in their opinion, proceeding is unsafe.

Refund of entry fees and payment of levies such as the **AFA** lights levy will depend on when the cancellation occurs, as follows:

	Entry fees	AFA Lights Levy
Cancellation before racing starts	Full refund	Not payable
Abandonment after racing has begun but before enough races have been run to achieve a result in all divisions (could include abandonment due to poor light caused by late running after cumulative short breaks).	Full refund	Not payable
Abandonment after enough races have been run to achieve a result in all divisions , but before scheduled end of racing	No refund	Payable

Note: **Team captains** should not be asked to take part in any consideration as to cancellation decisions or be asked to approve the decision.