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AUSTRALIAN  
FLYBALL  
ASSOCIATION

# Training in the Ring Policy

1 June 2024

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## TRAINING IN THE RING POLICY

The **AFA** has determined to allow **training in the ring** during scheduled breaks in **race meetings** as an exception to the general rule prohibiting **training in the ring** during **race meetings**.

This policy sets out the circumstances in which **training in the ring** is permitted during scheduled breaks in a **race meeting** and the conditions applicable.

**Training in the ring** during breaks is a privilege, not a right, and always remains at the discretion of the host club and race meeting organiser. It must not be allowed to interfere with the timely and successful running of a **race meeting**.

**Officials** at a **race meeting** may limit or cancel **training in the ring** for any reasonable cause, including, for example, the need to continue or resume racing to make up for time lost, or anticipated to be lost, due to delays in racing or weather interruption.

A **host club** wishing to offer **training in the ring** at a proposed **race meeting** must:

- Obtain approval for **training in the ring** as part of the **race meeting** sanction;
- Advertise in the details of the **race meeting** notified on the **AFA** website that **training in the ring** will be offered and the basis on which it will be offered including booking method;
- Arrange and manage a system for fair and equitable access to the **ring** having regard to the number and duration of breaks in the **race meeting**. This includes allocating time in the **ring** to **clubs** or **AFA members** taking account of the number of **clubs** or **AFA members** wishing to **train in the ring**. In allocating times, beginner dogs must be given precedence over experienced dogs;
- Verify that every dog nominated for **training in the ring** has a valid **CRN**.

**Training in the ring** may be offered:

- On a pre-booked basis in which case a **club** wishing to **train in the ring** must lodge a completed booking form with the **race meeting organiser** by the closing date for entries for the **race meeting**; or
- On a “first come first served” basis on the day of the **race meeting** in which case **AFA members** wishing to **train in the ring** must enter all relevant details in the booking form made available by the **race meeting organiser** at the **race meeting**.

A dog **training in the ring**:

- maybe of any age, but is only permitted to do flat recalls if under 12 months of age;
- Must be registered with the **AFA**;
- Must not be entered in the **race meeting**;
- Must not jump at a height more than the appropriate maximum for the dog. If the dog has not yet been measured by a **judge**, the maximum height must err on the low side.

All **handlers** of dogs **training in the ring** must be **AFA members in good standing**.

A **club** or **AFA member** given access to the **ring** for an allocated period:

- Must supply their own box and balls;
- Must have an experienced **AFA member** present for the duration of their allotted time which **AFA member** is to be responsible for supervision of training, management of the **ring** and safety of dogs, **handlers** and others in the **ring** including by ensuring there is a safe number of dogs in the **ring** at all times. Safety of people and dogs is paramount;
- Must ensure that all dogs and **handlers** in the **ring** during the allocated period satisfy the requirements in this policy;
- Must ensure that dogs entered in the **race meeting** do not enter the **ring** during the allocated period except for the purpose of acting as a stationary distraction to training dogs;
- May, at their sole discretion, agree to share the **ring** with other **clubs** or **AFA members** in which case those **clubs** and **AFA members** sharing the **ring** will be jointly responsible for supervision of training, management of the **ring** and safety in the **ring** during the allocated period.