**As at close of business Friday 28th July the AFA had received 7 Motions for submission to the 2017 AGM for show of hands voting on the night. The Motions are shown below in order to allow members to have maximum time to consider the proposals.**

**Motions Submitted to 2017 AFA AGM**.

**MOTION 1. Les Scott Award –** (Submitted by AFA Committee)

**Background**

In recognition of the unceasing support Les Scott gave to the sport of Flyball, it is proposed that the “Les Scott Award “ is introduced into the AFAs title points table.

Les Scott was well known within the Flyball community for his dedication to the sport. Taking on the unofficial role of AFA equipment manager within NSW and jump manufacturer, Les was one of the first people to arrive at a venue on race day and generally one of the last to leave. Quite often he would travel to the venue before an event to help with the marking out and set up of the ring. During the race day Les could be found boxloading, ball shagging, stewarding or helping any team out by running someone's dog in the ring. He would willingly share his knowledge of the sport using his friendly, sometimes cheeky approach to people, advising members new and old on ways that might improve their dogs and team performance.

Les started his Flyball career training his Border Collie, Bundy, with the Parramatta International Canine Sports Inc (PICSI) club about a year after Flyball first took off in Australia although Bundy never actually competed in flyball as she much preferring to roll over for a pat on her tummy. It was all about the fun rather than winning for Les who was in his element taking Bundy into the ring at the annual Kioloa competition for the beginner games.

As the sport of flyball grew and developed in Australia Les became one of the founding members of the Southern Cross Flyball Club where he held the office of Vice President on and off over the years. With both PICSI and with Southern Cross Les’s main role within the team was that of a boxloader and equipment officer. With his trusty Ute loaded with crates, cabanas, light sets, all sorts of useful gear for setting up rings as well as several flyball boxes he travelled the east coast of Australia helping his teammates and fellow flyballers enjoy the sport they all loved. Later he took on the role as Chief Flyball Instructor at Southern Cross and was renowned for helping new handlers and new dogs from every other club in NSW and the ACT. Les was one of the driving forces behind the Sydney Flyball Associates which was established to coordinate Flyball at the Sydney Royal Easter Show competitions, where 2 National Championships were held. He was made a Life Member of the AFA in 2011.

Les passed away unexpectedly in July 2016.

**Motion for ballot: that the AFA acknowledges Les’s tireless dedication to Flyball by introducing the new title of the “Les Scott Award” into the points system. The award would be gained at 712 points in recognition of Les’s CRN (712).**

**Motion 2. Proposed Amendments to Flyball Title Points table -** (Submitted by AFA Committee)

**Background**

The following changes to the points system are proposed:

* Australian Flyball Champion award points to be awarded at 100 points.
* Flyball Master award points to be awarded at 200 points.
* Flyball Master Excellent award points to be awarded at 400 points

Resulting in the following amended table:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Flyball Title** | **Flyball Title Name** | **Total of Points needed** | **Pts between titles** |
| FD | Flyball Dog | 5 Points | 5 |
| FDX | Flyball Dog Excellent | 20 Points | 15 |
| FDCh | Flyball Dog Champion | 50 Points | 30 |
| AFCh | Australian Flyball Champion | 100 Points (rather than 150 points) | 50 |
| FM | Flyball Master | 200 points (rather than 400 points) | 100 |
| FMX | Flyball Master Excellent | 400 Points (rather than 700 points) | 200 |
| LSA | Les Scott Award | 712 Points | 312 |
| FMCh | Flyball Master Champion | 1000 Points | 288 |
| ONYX | ONYX | 1300 Points | 300 |
| FDGCh | Flyball Dog Grand Champion | 2000 Points | 700 |
| Jeddah Award | Jeddah Award | 3000 Points | 1000 |
| Erzi Award | Ezri Award | 4000 Points | 1000 |

Rational behind changes.

1. Steps in the points system become more evenly spaced.
2. Having a lesser number of points between titles lower in the system should add encouragement for newer flyballers. (One of Les’ passions in Flyball)
3. The “712” award level is unique and outstanding – which could also be said of Les!
4. If dogs have already achieved 150 points, they still retain the Australian Flyball Champion title and have less to go to the next title.
5. If dogs have not achieved 150 points but are over 100 points they achieve the Australian Flyball Champion award with the next award not so far away as it was.
6. Any dog that is exactly on 700 points will still retain the “Flyball Master Excellent” title and only need a few more points to achieve the LSA.

(There has been some feedback that the proposed changes would detract from the effort of dogs that have already achieved the three awards. This may be valid but could be considered outweighed by the benefits of encouragement for newer dogs and the recognition of the new Les Scott Award at 712 points.)

**Motion for ballet – that the amended Points table be adopted.**

**Motion 3. Proposed amendment to the naming of the “Awards” in the Title system –** (Submitted by AFA Committee)

**Background:**

A number of named “ Awards” are included in the AFA Title points table. These Awards are in recognition and honour of the dog who first gained the indicated number of points, or in the case of the Les Scott Award the named person. Whilst that honour is recognised it can be argued that from a **Title** viewpoint the name has limited meaning and may not be understood to effectively recognise any subsequent dogs real achievement.

It is proposed that where a dog reaches the “Award” points it should retain the name of the prior Title with the Award wording added. These Titles would then become :

712 points – Flyball Masters Excellent – Les Scott Award

1300 points – Flyball Master Champion – Onyx Award

3000 Points – Flyball Dog Grand Champion – Jeddah Award

4000 Points – Flyball Dog Grand Champion – Ezri Award.

**Motion for ballot – That the “Awards” in the points table** include the prior Title name as well as the Award name.

**Motion 4.** **(Submitted by Jason McFarlane, AFA Member 2503).**

**Background:**

The sport of Flyball has evolved since the original Chapter 5 Part (a) rules were placed into effect. It is now considered best practice in NAFA to allow additional people in the ring to assist with handlers and dogs.

Occasions where additional people may be required in the ring:

* New team handler getting assistance/advice in all aspects of ring craft
* Catching dogs in the back area
* Gap calling
* Motivating and revving up dogs
* Team Captain may not be running a dog but may wish to be in the ring to give direct instruction/advice

**Proposal to Modify Chapter 5 - TEAMS AND TIME SHEETS Part (a)**

**FROM:**

Each team is to consist of a minimum of four (4) dogs and four (4) handlers, with a maximum of six (6) dogs and six (6) handlers, plus a box loader and, at the discretion of the team, up to two runners to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps and to otherwise assist the team, providing doing so does not interfere with the Judge, nor the opposing team, nor in any way assist the dogs or violate the rules.

**TO:**

(a) Each team is to consist of a minimum of four (4) dogs and four (4) handlers, with a maximumof six (6) dogs and six (6) handlers, plus a box loader and, at the discretion of the team, a runner or two, to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps and to otherwise assist the team, providing doing so does not interfere with the Judge, nor the opposing team, nor in any way assist the dogs or violate the rules.

Other people may assist the dogs and handlers, but may not assist the dog in actually navigating the course. A person or persons helping catch the dog in the back area, or revving the dog up before they run would not violate the rules. But, a person funnelling a dog into the jumps or running alongside the dog as they run over the jumps (even outside the ring) would not be permitted. It is up to the discretion of the judge to allow additional helpers as long as they are not causing rule violations or safety issues.

The wording above brings us in line with the North American Flyball Association rules.

**MOTION for ballot:**

**Allow additional people in the ring to assist dogs and handlers.**

**Motion 5. (Submitted by Tim Slade, AFA member number 834).**

**Remove rule (g), Chapter 5 from the AFA Rule Book:**

The rule reads;

All competitors will wear a tag displaying the CRN or Membership Number of the dog that the competitor is handling whilst racing in the ring at a Sanctioned Competition. The CRN or Membership number must be of a suitable size to be easily read by the Judge, Stewards and Timekeepers.

Supporting Argument;

Recently the AFA adopted an on trial rule that requires a member to display their own membership number when competing in an AFA sanctioned competition, as a symbol of proof of their current financial membership. The requirement to display any number provides no benefit and serves no real purpose, as it does not provide any proof someone is a current financial member of the AFA or that the number they display is in fact their own member number. The numbers displayed serve no purpose for judges, stewards or timekeepers, with all handler names and dog CRN details listed on official timesheets.

Many teams have individual member numbers personalised on shirts in an effort to avoid any penalty under this rule. Those who don’t, attempt to comply by wearing armbands, or even writing a number on their arm or hand. By removing the need to display the number, no penalty is applied and therefore numbers are not required on team shirts. This may provide the benefit of reducing expenses for individuals and clubs.

**MOTION for ballot: Remove rule (g), Chapter 5 from the AFA Rule Book**

**MOTION 6. (Submitted by Tim Slade, AFA member number 834):**

**Motion:** Add new rule (j), Chapter 4, Section 4.3 Ring Layout from the AFA Rule Book

The rule would read;

The ring shall have a minimum runback area of 60 feet. This is measured from the start/finish line to any fence/barrier at the rear of the ring.

Supporting Argument;

The sport has developed and evolved greatly since its early days. However, the runback requirements in the rule book have not kept up with the development of the dogs and training now seen in flyball. With the advancement of sports oriented dogs and better training techniques, many of the dogs in flyball now require much greater starting and runback distances to safely stop without injury. The AFA has a recommendation of a minimum of 60 feet in their guidelines for hosting a competition. I would like to see this recommendation adopted as a minimum requirement in the AFA rules to create a safe environment for all dogs competing.

**Motion for Ballot: That the ring have a minimum runback of 60 feet.**

**Motion 7 (Submitted by Tim Slade AFA member number 834):**

**Motion:** Amend (d), Chapter 3, Section 3.1 – Flyball Boxes from the AFA Rule Book

**The rule would read;**

The flyball box shall be capable of holding an approved ball such that when a pedal or trigger mechanism on the front face is pressed the ball is released.

**Supporting Argument;**

This amendment removes the minimum flight requirement of the ball. The setting of 24” of flight is a somewhat arbitrary number. Currently boxes must be set to ensure larger, heavier balls fly 24”. However if a team uses smaller sized or lighter balls these often end up flying much further because smaller sized balls are not ‘wedged’ into the box and weigh less. This disadvantages smaller breeds, which traditionally lack the agility and ball catching skills of the larger working breeds.

By removing the requirement of minimum flight distance, the following benefits are gained;

* Boxes can be set for all dogs on a team to be successful. This will make training and competing in flyball easier, especially for smaller dogs of non-working breeds since it will reduce the high degree of difficulty for dogs to catch the ball.
* It will not detract from the essence of the sport, as a dog must still run down, trigger the box to release a ball and run back with the ball
* Could simplify flyball boxes, reducing costs for participants. Complicated shooting mechanisms in flyball boxes contribute at least half if not more of the cost of a box. Adding more shooters to accommodate the smaller balls only increases costs further
* Teams will be able to determine their own ‘shooting’ distance for best performance of their teams and dogs

By adopting this change, I believe we can increase the accessibility and success of all dogs in the sport while creating an even better spectacle without detracting from the fundamentals of the racing format.

**Motion for ballot: Remove the requirement for flyball boxes to have a minimum ball flight of 24 inches.**