



AUSTRALIAN
FLYBALL
ASSOCIATION

Nationals Planning & Presentation Policy

1 January 2022

Contents

NATIONALS PLANNING & PRESENTATION POLICY	2
--	---

NATIONALS PLANNING & PRESENTATION POLICY

From a competition viewpoint the annual Australian Nationals Flyball Championships are the most important event on the flyball calendar. The Nationals are held over a two or three day period. Whilst the National Championships are hosted by a Club or group of Clubs they remain the AFA's National Championship and as such must be overseen by the AFA. This Policy has been developed to ensure a consistent and high quality approach is maintained to the planning and delivery of the Championships.

Submitting Bids for hosting of Championships

The AFA will notify all affiliated Clubs by email and by reference on the AFA web site of the closing date for bids to host any forthcoming National Championships. Bids will normally close at the end of March for the Championships in a year's time. The early close is to ensure that the AFA have an approved venue, date and host identified well in advance of each Championship. Bids may be submitted by a single Club or by a consortium of Clubs. Bids must show the proposed venue and any associated major event (e.g. Sydney Royal Show) or if not a major event how exposure of flyball will be ensured; the proposed dates of the Championship; and indicate that any main event managers are committed to the Nationals. A set of Guidelines for hosting the Nationals are available on the AFA Web site under the "Hosting a Race Meeting" category and these should be read before developing a Nationals bid.

Approval of Bids

All bids received will be considered by the AFA Committee and the approved host club/s will be notified in writing.

Planning the Championships

The AFA will nominate at least one member of the AFA Committee to work with the host club/s in the planning of the Nationals. This appointee will be the main communication channel between the AFA Committee and the hosts for matters relative to the planning of the Championships. The host club/s should form an event planning committee, which must include both an Organiser and a Meeting Secretary. The host club/s are free to allocate all other responsibilities (such as accommodation planning; raffle; merchandise; physical logistics; ticket allocation) to members of the planning committee.

Event Budget and Financial Arrangements.

Following AFA approval of the host club/s the host should commence to develop an event budget covering anticipated income and expenditure associated with the Championship. As a guide income will include forecast Team entry fees, and merchandise income sales. Expenditure will include Competition Sanction fees; Judges and Officials travel reimbursement; ribbons and prizes (other than supplied by any sponsors); merchandise purchases; officials' lunches; costs of catalogues and other paperwork; minor items such as batteries and marking paint and the AFA lights levy.

This budget **MUST** be submitted to the AFA for approval IF the host Club/s wish to seek a level of event underwriting from the AFA. Underwriting is the underwriting of costs incurred pre event that would be unrecoverable in case of total event cancellation.

Where underwriting of costs is sought the budget should include a projection of the upfront costs likely to be incurred pre-event and not recoverable if the total event has to be cancelled. It is only these pre-event costs that require to be underwritten in circumstances where cancellation is required. The submission to the AFA should identify what level of underwriting is being sought

from the AFA – up to a maximum of 50 per cent. Where the AFA agrees to a percentage of underwriting it will also be entitled to receive an identical percentage of any event profit. (Event profit excludes raffle income and expenses.)

Where the host club/s do NOT wish to seek AFA underwriting of upfront costs there is no requirement to submit the budget to AFA for approval nor will the AFA receive any share of the event profit.

Appointment and Role of Officials (Nationals Supervising Judge; Judges; and AFA Representatives).

The Organisers shall invite all AFA accredited Judges to express interest in officiating at the Nationals either as Judges or AFA Representatives. Selection preference will normally be given to Level 1 and higher accredited Judges. In calling for expressions Judges should be asked to indicate if they plan to run a dog/s or undertake other team roles at Nationals. Once expressions are received the Organisers should consider availability and submit recommendations regarding all Judges and AFA Representatives to the AFA for consideration and approval.

Selection of Timekeepers and the Ring caller/s are matters for the hosts to determine but only accredited or well experienced people should be appointed.

The Organiser shall recommend to the AFA a Nationals Supervising Judge. The Nationals Supervising Judge will normally be an AFA Supervisory or Senior Judge. The Supervising Judge will be available to assist ring judges deal with any technical problems and will be responsible for co-ordination between the Judges and the AFA Representatives at the race meeting in event of protest/disputes in the ring. The Supervising judge will have final decision as to Rule interpretations and protest decisions. The Supervising Judge will not normally be involved in Judging in the rings other than in an emergency/ relief capacity. The Supervising Judge will allocate Judges to oversee any run offs.

Where the Budget allows organisers may care to consider the appointment of one overseas Judge, who would have no involvement with any Clubs racing at the Championship. Where appointed this Judge would normally be used for any run offs required at the end of the Championships.

Organisers should aim to have at least one Judge in each ring not involved in racing a dog. As a guide only one other judge would be required to cover a ring with a fully dedicated judge. A maximum of 3 judges would be required to cover the second ring. (This is in addition to the Supervising Judge).

A minimum of 2 Timekeepers will be required for each ring plus at least one relief timekeeper. A ring caller and assistant are recommended to schedule races and deliver paperwork to the rings.

Entry Forms and closing dates

Nationals entry forms are to be placed on the AFA website well in advance of the closing date for the championships. Closing dates will need to be set taking into account the requirements of the main event (Royal Show or Expo) for ticket allocation; and the need to co-ordinate and obtain approval for division splits and produce the draw. It is suggested that a minimum of 6 weeks be allowed from close of entries to date of event.

Approval of Division splits

The organisers shall submit a proposed set of division splits to the AFA for consideration as soon as possible after entries close. This schedule is NOT to show team names but only the Seed times and whether they are Web or Declared. The AFA will seek input from a senior independent NAFA Competition organiser before approving the divisions.

It is the responsibility of the Organisers to check Web Seed times and to review declared seed times taking into account stated reasons for declaring the seed time. No changes to Team seed times will be allowed once Entries have closed.

Approval for Event Format, including means of deciding placings in event of tied results

Once the division splits are approved the Organiser shall submit to the AFA a proposed event format and a recommendation regarding basis of determining tied placing results. As a Guideline a preferred format would have each team involved in 6 best of 5 heat races per day (on average say 24 heats) in each Division. Where this is not achievable the format recommended should aim to have all divisions running approximately the same number of heats over the two days.

Organisers are free to consider recommending any of the AFA approved race format, including using a Champion Trophy format of racing between Division winners. Organisers may also propose separate events such as Veterans racing format. In making these recommendations organisers are asked to take into account likely time availability and also ring availability.

Any changes to the approved format (including any changes on day of race meeting) must be submitted by the Organiser to the Supervising Judge and AFA Representative/s for approval.

Availability of Draw and Seed times in each Division

The Organiser should plan on having the draw and division seed times available for posting to the AFA web site by no later than the end of the weekend before the Nationals.

Trophies and Prizes

Organisers can seek sponsors to support raffles or prizes for teams.

Catalogue

A catalogue should be produced for every competitor and Official, with a reasonable number of spare copies available. As a minimum the catalogue should include details of the teams entered, division splits; team seed times; contact details for the nearest Vet Surgery and their opening hours.

Cancellation

Cancellation or reduction in racing in the Nationals must be in line with the AFA Policy on cancellation. Safety of grounds from both dog and human viewpoint must be the first consideration. Any consideration of cancellation or amendment to approved racing format or schedule shall involve consultation between the Organiser, the Supervising Judge and the appointed AFA Representatives.

