



AUSTRALIAN
FLYBALL
ASSOCIATION

Race Meeting Cancellation Policy

1 January 2022

Contents

RACE MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY 2

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 Organisers, Officials and Participants, and should proceed if at all possible. Cancellation shall not be for frivolous reasons.

The decision to cancel a 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 (eg bushfires, floods)
- Loss of grounds
- Electrical storm
- Compassionate issues – such as death or serious illness/injury at competition

Cancellation of event before teams arrive:

The Competition Organiser must have, before the commencement of the event, a Team Contact text group list that contains mobile numbers that has been compiled from the event entry forms.

If the event is to be cancelled prior to the arrival of travelling teams or individual members then the **Competition Organiser is responsible** for sending a text to all Team Contacts that the event 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 Competition Organiser’s responsibility ends once the text is sent; he/she will not be held accountable for failures in the text delivery system.

Cancellation of event when all teams/competitors are present or after start of competition:

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

- Cancel the meeting before start.
- Delay the start of the meeting if conditions are unsafe but look like they could improve
- Take a break during the meeting to avoid racing during temporary unsafe conditions
- Abandon the 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 are supplying 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/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 Organiser
- The AFA Representative(s)
- The Judge(s)

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 Organiser may cancel the race meeting if, in their opinion, proceeding is unsafe or would place their club at risk;
- The AFA Representative(s) may withdraw sanctioning for the race meeting if, in their opinion, proceeding is unsafe or the AFA's insurance would be compromised;
- The Judge(s) 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.

