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AUSTRALIAN
FLYBALL
ASSOCIATION

Training in the Ring Policy

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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 (see Chapter 8).

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 remains at the discretion of the host Club and competition organiser at all times. It must not be allowed to interfere with the timely and successful running of a race meeting.

Race meeting officials 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 members taking account of the number of Clubs or members wishing to train in the ring. In allocating times, beginner dogs must be given precedence over experienced dogs;
- Verify that all dogs nominated for training in the ring are registered with the AFA.

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 competition 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 members wishing to train in the ring must enter all relevant details in the booking form made available by the competition organiser at the race meeting.

A dog training in the ring:

- May be of any age, but must not run over jumps or train on the box 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 financial AFA members or Associate Members.

A Club or member given access to the ring for an allocated period:

- Must supply their own box and balls;
- Must have an experienced member present for the duration of their allotted time which 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 members in which case those Clubs and 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.

