

Draft Minutes - Subject to approval at June Committee Meeting

AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4th May 2008 BY TELEPHONE HOOKUP.

Present: Glenn Pritchard, Leoney Pritchard, Jenny Millar, Terry Hunter, Dot Baverstock, Brian Lindsay, Eric van Zuyden, Rosie Milton, Richard Mellon, Amy Holmes, Pat Byrne, Kylie White, and Clare Ellis.

Apologies: Catherine Saberton, Lyn Clyde and Justin Allen

Meeting Opened at 7.40 pm.

ITEM - "Starred" Items.

The following Items were 'starred' for adoption without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 7th April 2008**
- 2) Correspondence; (Schedule of all correspondence in and out)**
- 3) Accounts for Payment as per Treasurers Report**
- 4) Membership renewals**

Moved and Seconded that the above Agenda Items be adopted. CARRIED

ITEM - Treasurers Report

Treasurer presented end April Financial Report. Income for month \$2020, Expenditure (3 Accounts) \$429.10 and end Month Account Balance \$14,762.29. Paid Accounts - Stationery (Toner cartridge, Printer Ink, hard files and copy paper) 272.85; Internet use reimbursement Treasurer \$44.00 and ACT Trailer Rego \$140.

ITEM - Sanctioned Events

Following Events Approved:

Competition - Norwest - Sunday 8th June 08 - Chills in the Hills - Castle Hill Showground Dog Complex.

Competition - PICS I - Sunday 6th July 08 - Bare Bones Flyball Fun day - Dan Mahoney Oval Nth Parramatta

Competition - Albury/Wodonga - Sat 19th July - Border Challenge Cup - Wodonga Exhibition centre (Limited entries)

Competition - Belconnen - Sat 25th October - Sunset Claws Flyball - Belconnen Grounds Mitchell

**Competition – Belconnen – Saturday 22nd November - --- Canberra Cup –
ACTEW AGL Children’s Xmas Party**

**Competition – Norwest – Sunday 22 March 09 – Hounds in the Hills- Castle Hill
Showground Dog Complex**

**Competition – Norwest – Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th October 09 – National
Championships – Castle Hill Showground Dog Complex**

ITEM _ New Members

Following new members admitted:

**Paul Davis, Margo Skaaker, Chelsea Dymock, Carolyn Angus, Jaci van
Campenhout, Luke Mundy , Stephanie Shiu, Melanie Newman**

ITEM - Administrative Matters.

- **Meeting agreed to defer dispatch of membership renewal and Club renewal reminders to early June;**
- **Stewards and Timekeepers Exams. Rosie reported that she had not yet had time to mark the Exams that had arrived in April. Will report on results next month.**
- **Membership cards – Treasurer reported she was ready to order once the Logo situation had been approved.**

ITEM - Matters arising from AGM discussions.

- **Dog measuring Sub Committee Report update - Report had been on Web for two months and no member comments had been received. Noted NAFA are still to consider the matter of amending their Jump heights but a decision was expected quite shortly. Discussion as to what, if anything, the Committee should put forward at 2008 AGM re this matter. View expressed that we should await outcome of US decision before considering any recommendation. Matter deferred to June Meeting.**
- **Engraving of equipment – Victorian light set to be engraved before next Comp.**

ITEM - General Business

a) Report from Dog incidents Sub Committee.

Rosie advised that there had been no aggression incidents requiring investigation in the period since the last meeting. Noted.

b) AFA Logo update. Proposed design as submitted by Graphic Artist had just been circulated to Committee. General support for the design as being modern and professional. The design included versions for Logo, Letterhead and general use. Moved and Seconded that the Logo design be approved for use on new membership cards. **CARRIED.** Matter of general approval for letterhead and other use deferred till next Meeting.

c) Report of Rules Sub Committee.

The Rules Sub Committee reported on its meetings of 11th April and 2nd May 08 .

Consideration had been given to Rules seeming to need clarification, interpretation or simply editorial changes in the Red Book.

The Sub Committee noted that Section 12.1 of Red Rules and Policies Book states, “ Motions to change the AFA Rules and Policies book may be presented in writing to and from the AFA Committee. Final decision will be by Ballot of members by simple majority of respondents.” Taken literally this wording **REQUIRES** that ANY amendment to ANY wording contained in Red Book requires a Members ballot. The Sub Committee agreed that changes to “Rules” (Chapters 1 to 13) should indeed require a member ballot but that minor editorial changes, wording clarifications of existing Rules and changes to Guidelines (Appendix A onwards) should be capable of determination by decision of Committee” The Sub Committee therefore submitted the following **MOTION** :

1.

That the wording of Chapter 12.1 be altered to read, “Motions to change the AFA Rules (as contained in Chapters 1 to 13 of Rules Book) may be presented in writing to and from the AFA Committee. Final decision on any proposed Rule change must be by ballot of members, by simple majority of respondents. Rule clarifications and minor editorial changes or changes to Guidelines contained in the Rule Book require majority decision of Committee.

Committee voting CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

The Sub Committee also submitted 3 other **MOTIONS** for Rules changes that will also need to be subject to Ballot by members. The Motions are shown below with brief explanation given as introduction:

2.

The wording of the current Rules (Chapter 4.3 second (b) Ring Layout) states “The tapes are not to be placed down the centre line between the two racing lanes. This Centre Line is to be marked with spray paint only”.

It has been argued that this wording does not REQUIRE that there must be a marked Centre line – only that if there is one it should only be marked by spray paint.

The Sub Committee was of the view that the Rules should clearly state that a marked centre line was required and that both spray paint or tape (if indoor) should be acceptable.

MOTION – Delete the second sentence in 4.3 second (b) and add the following wording as 4.3 (d) “The Ring Centre Line shall be marked in solid or broken line by spray paint or, if indoors, by tape”

Committee voting CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

3.

The current Rules do not contain a requirement that a common process be used to determine a Competition winner in event of a tied points result in a Round Robin format. The “Guidelines for a Round Robin Competition - Section B-4 do contain a suggested process but as it is a Guideline only and it is not a requirement that it be used by Competition organisers. It has also been found that the wording is unclear where it refers to the “weighted average time shall be best two out of three races etc” The Sub Committee were of the view that the Rules SHOULD clearly state how tied results shall be decided and that ALL Competitions using the Round Robin format should be required to adopt the stated AFA common Rule.

MOTION – That the following wording be added to Section 9.2 after sub Para (p) “ q) Determining the winner of a Round Robin Competition. In the event that two or more teams have the same number of competition points, one of the following tie breakers are to be used 1) a head to head run off between the teams with best two out of three heat format (where more than two teams are involved each must race the other with Competition points recorded for each result) OR 2) count back based first on head to head RACE wins during competition; if still even - then best average time using all completed head to head heats for each team (i.e. add time of all completed heats ran by each team head to head and divide by number of completed heats by each team to determine average completed heat time. Best average time wins.) If average time is even - then fastest heat time head to head decides the winner. Competition organisers must state which option is to apply in Competition Schedule and announce this at start of Competition.”

Current wording in Section B4 of Guidelines to also be amended to above wording with reference added – see Rule 9.2 q.

Committee voting CARRIED 9 for, 2 against and 2 abstaining.

4.

The current Rules do not state that a dog must cross the start line between the start gates when entering and exiting the run. The Rules simply refer to crossing the start finish line. The Sub Committee discussed whether a dog failing to cross between the timing gates constitutes a foul or whether this was acceptable. The view of the Sub Committee was that not crossing between the start gates had been commonly treated as a foul and that this should continue to be the case. In order however to make the Rule clear the Sub Committee submits the following MOTION for inclusion in 9.2 (b) as the replacement first sentence.

MOTION – “ The Run. Dogs may start from a stationary or running start. Each dogs is to cross the start line between the start gates, hurdle all four (4) jumps in succession, trigger the box and return over all 4 jumps with ball in its mouth and cross the finish line between the start gates.”

Committee voting CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

(NOTE - Failure to enter/exit via start gates will need to be added to Rules as a foul when the Foul Rules are finalised).

The 4 above Rule changes will, in due course, be circulated to members for ballot as to adoption

In addition to the above Rule change motions the Sub Committee AGREED to recommend that the Committee consider adopting the following Rule clarifications. If adopted they should be issued to Judges, sent out to Club co-ordinators and posted on the Web.

Clarification 1 – Combined Divisions. Where a Competition involves combined Divisions all heats within the combined Division shall earn AFA title points. COMPETITION points however shall only be awarded when teams are racing within their own Division. This ensures that only races involving teams within the same Division count for determining results of that Division.

Committee voting – CARRIED 7 for, 5 against and 2 abstaining.

Clarification 2 – Approval of Competition Seeding, Format and Division splits. AFA Rules state this process is to be approved by AFA. In practise the AFA has delegated this approval power. Current process is for Regional Representatives (or in some cases the Supervision judge) to be asked to approve draws, seeding and formats on behalf of AFA. Sub Committee proposed that in future a single person from the Committee be the Delegated

AFA official to approve draws for all competitions, with an appointed alternate should the nominated member not be available.

After discussion and prior to voting President asked if any member of Committee would be willing to undertake this role. Concern expressed that this would involve a heavy workload for one person recognising that there were now over 40 Competitions per annum and many involved multiple draws for various reasons. No member of the Committee indicated they would be willing to accept role.

In these circumstances the proposed clarification was withdrawn and not put to vote. Delegated approval remains with Regional Representatives.

Clarification 3 – Interpretation of Rule where all 4 dogs do not run in any heat or do not complete a race. AFA Rules do not REQUIRE all 4 dogs in a team to be run in heat or for all 4 dogs to complete the race. Where either situation arises the correct interpretation is that the team has failed to complete the heat and shall be awarded a DNF.

Committee voting CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Clarification 4 – Where a Judges decision is questioned (or formally appealed) at a Competition the AFA representative is likely to be involved. The AFA Representative should ensure that the correct process has been followed; that the process is recorded for reporting to the AFA and that the facts are clear. The Judge is however the final determinant of the Rules and the AFA Representative does not have the power to overturn a Judges decision except where it involves an issue of safety. Competitors should understand that the Judges decision is final. The AFA accepts that members have a right to submit written requests for Rule clarifications or to formally submit a protest after the competition. The Committee will deal these with as promptly as possible. Requests to reverse a Judges decision and/or to change Competition results will however not be approved. The Judges decision at the competition must be treated as final.

Committee voting – CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Clarification 5- That in future all Judges should adopted the following common start signals where a manual start to racing is required. Voice signals 1,2,3 followed by a whistle – all with one second spacing.

Committee voting – CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

Minor editorial changes to Rules Book

The Sub Committee reported that a Judge had submitted approx 50 minor amendments required in the Red Book. These include spelling errors, grammar corrections, incorrect sub Para numbering, etc. The Sub Committee was of the

view that these should simply be corrected in the next reprint and should not require any formal approval process.

Committee voting - CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

The Sub Committee noted two areas of discussion where they were not able to reach agreement or conclude recommendations.

The first related to Division size and spits.

Current Rules (Section 1.1(c)) “recommend,” “if it is necessary to run any Division of less than 4 teams it be combined with an adjacent Division”. The wording is a recommendation – accordingly it does not seem to be a requirement that establishes a minimum Division size. The Sub Committee discussed minimums Division size and also whether Division spits should be largely determined by seed times. The Sub Committee agreed that in future single team Divisions should be avoided irrespective of seedtime differentials. All members of the Sub Committee agreed that it was PREFERRED to have a minimum of at least 3 teams in any Division. Some felt this should be stated as a Rule (i.e. there must be 3 teams in any Division irrespective of seed time differential). Others were of view that a two team Division was acceptable if this was necessary to prevent a large (say 3 second plus) seedtime differential between teams in a Division.

Discussion on combining of Divisions also resulted in different views where it produced a large seedtime gap within the combined Division.

Only consensus within the Sub Committee was no one team Divisions.

In circumstance the Sub Committee agreed to put division size and combining of divisions forward for Committee input.

Committee discussion also reflected different views. Whilst there was general support for a minimum of 3 teams in a Division there was also a view that this should not be made a mandatory requirement but rather a preferred option – thus leaving some flexibility with organisers where there were large seed time differences or other unusual circumstances. Same situation re combined Divisions discussion. Matter was referred back to Sub Committee for more discussion.

The second Rules area where no conclusion was reached related to the issue of FORFEIT Rules. This was seen as a very complicated area of current Rules with different requirements re reruns stated in some cases and not others and some Rules seeming to conflict with other Rules. Chapter 7 Rules re forfeit when Reporting for Races (the Chapter heading) were seen as especially complicated and subject to miss interpretation. The Sub Committee agreed to further address Forfeit Rules.

d) Champion Trophy Format

The Meeting noted that the wording changes to the Champion Trophy format had been approved and that the original Policy on Trial now needed to be updated on Web. Richard raised issue of the need to further amend the Console Instructions to deal with decision to not have restarts. Meeting AGREED that Webmaster should update the Web now and that any further console instructions could be added later.

e) Communication of Rules Changes or any clarifications re Rules.

Committee noted correspondence-expressing concern that recent Rule changes (like Champion Trophy Formats) had not been adequately communicated to all Clubs and that dates of implementation of changes were not clearly indicated. Following discussion AGREED that AFA would set up Club Contact email Group and that formal notice regarding any Rule changes or interpretations would be sent to Judges and Club Contacts at same time and that the implementation date would be shown. Supervising Judge to continue to use Judges email list for discussion of Rules and related matters but once a Rule change was agreed then it was to be formally notified to both judges and Club officials and also put in next Flying Times.

f) Possible acquisition of further set of Signature lights

The Committee discussed the possible acquisition of a 4th Set of Signature lights in the near future to be based in ACT (NSW and ACT currently share a set of lights which "travels" between the two locations.) Noted that a further lights set would involve an outlay of approx \$15,000 which was marginally in excess of current bank balance. AGREED to defer consideration till next Meeting.

g) Further Correspondence from St.George Club regarding 2008 Nationals Results.

Committee noted a letter dated 26th April from St.George Club raising further issues regarding the process used to decide the result of tied Divisions results at the Nationals and in particular the winner of First Division. The letter, whilst acknowledging the replies received from AFA and the Competition organiser in response to the Clubs original submission, raised further issues and questions regarding the count back process used to decide Division results. Given that the Norwest Club was the other team involved in this matter, and in order to ensure complete absence of any suggestion of bias, the Committee AGREED that consideration of the new letter should be by the Committee excluding the 4 Norwest Committee Members. Given the desirability of dealing with this matter as promptly as possible the Vice President agreed to Chair a Meeting of available Committee Members on Tuesday 5th May and report outcome to full Committee for approval. Moved and Seconded that the matter be dealt with as outlined CARRIED.

h) Request to appoint official to oversee Sprockette CRN 752A at Million Paws Comp

The Committee noted the request to appoint an observer to watch and report on Sprockette's behavior at Million Paws Walk Competition. Kylie White nominated and appointed. Subject to a satisfactory report Sprockette would then be permanently cleared to return to racing.

ITEM - Other Business

a) ANKC Sub Committee report

Sub Committee had meet and report had been circulated to Committee. Committee agreed with the recommendations to amend the AFA Paperwork (Timesheets and Entry Forms) to capture ANKC entries data. Issue discussed as to members requests to supply them with verification of Points so they can obtain ANKC Titles. Proposed that where such a request was received there should be an AFA Certificate issued and the \$5 fee for the issue applied CARRIED. Sub Committee recommended that ANKC Competitions once sanctioned be listed on the AFA Calendar of events CARRIED. President indicated that there was a need for a further Sub Committee Meeting to finalise matters such as changes to paperwork. President agreed to call Meeting.

b) Early Preparations for 2008 AGM.

Committee noted timeline Paper submitted by Secretary identifying actions needed for 2008 AGM. At this time only decision required was to set date for Meeting. After discussion date of Saturday 30th August was approved. Committee briefly discussed Venues, which had to be limited for logistical reasons of phone hook up. General consensus that 2007 Venues were appropriate with the possible addition of a second Sydney venue to cover South Coast/Sutherland region. Regional Representatives to start process of Venue identification and report to next meeting. Matters for member Ballot to be discussed at June meeting.

c) Flying Times

President enquired about the likely date for the next issue of Flying Times. Response was that it was in final stages of development and should be issued within next two weeks. President also asked about the original Feb Issue that included Nationals that had not been issued. Clare to look at circulating in PDF version.

d) Tasmania Competition dates

Dot asked for feedback regarding options for date of Tasmania's first Competition. After discussion date on June Long weekend 09 emerged as most likely date. Dot to finalise and submit Competition Sanction form for approval.

e) Input re recent Queensland Competition Draw.

The Supervising Judge reported on a letter she had received regarding the recent Awesome April Antics Competition in Queensland. Originally the Competition draw had involved two 3 team Divisions in 24 race round robin format. On the day one team had to withdraw as a result of kennel cough and the draw had to be redone. The resultant redraw still using the two Division round robin format but it now included only 18 races of 3 heats. The letter pointed out that this was very limited racing and that as there were 3 Provisional Judges attempting to advance their practical exam requirements a better alternative would have been to combine the two Divisions and have more races/heats. The letter also suggested that the original draw was not in line with the AFA Rules as the Divisions contained less than 4 teams and should have been combined. (Note - This matter has been discussed under the Rules discussion earlier in meeting). The Committee noted the input and that this was an unusual situation and the result were probably frustrating to all involved with the Competition but that there were extenuating circumstances involved.

Next Meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 2nd June 2008

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 pm

Signed as a true record.

President.