

## **Draft Minutes – Subject to final approval at March 2011 Meeting**

### **Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011.**

Present: Jenny Millar, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Richard Mellon, Josh Ellen, Maureen Williamson, Julie Pamplin, Leoney Pritchard, Sue Norton, Ian Gauntlett, Wayne Stroop, Catherine Saberton, Lyn Clyde, Kylie White, and Jo Parkes.

Apologies – Pat Byrne and Penny Lloyd

Meeting Opened at 7. 55 pm

#### **ITEM - Starred Items .**

The following Items were adopted without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> January meeting.
- 2) Renewals of Membership
- 3) Treasurers Report/Accounts for Payment. End Jan Bank Balance \$13871.60.
- 4) Correspondence
- 5) Stewards Passes – Rosemary Lane
- 6) Timekeepers passes – Michelle Lewer
- 7) Judge Written Exam Passes – Josh Ellen, Tim Slade and Lyn Clyde.

Moved and Seconded that starred Items be adopted CARRIED.

#### **ITEM – Check of Action Sheet for Outstanding Matters .**

Following Items outstanding:

- Identification of W.A. Dog Clubs (Jo Parkes).

#### **ITEM – New Members .**

Following new members approved:

Cameron Leigh; Catherine Griffin; Simon Rowe; Lee Hurst and Alex Mineeff.

#### **ITEM – Sanctioned Events .**

- Comp – PDODC – Come what May – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May – Jenkins Reserve Salisbury S.A.
- Comp – CDC – Act Million Paws Walk – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Rond Terrace Canberra.

- Training Day – Norwest Canine -12<sup>th</sup> Feb – Castle Hill (fundraiser for Qld Clubs) – Approved by correspondence.

- Demos:

- Tassie Flying paws – Wrest Point Casino grounds- 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.

- K9 Crusaders:

6<sup>th</sup> March – Goulburn Trotting Club (if available contact Verdelle on 0412701753)

20<sup>th</sup> March Calvary Hospital Fun Run at Calvary Hospital (if interested contact Verdelle on 0412701753)

Every second Sunday of Month starting February till December Tuggeranong Markets – Johnston Drive Tuggeranong starting 8 am till 2 pm.

### **ITEM – Correspondence In**

Paperwork for Euroa Competition.

Thank you card from Andrew Dockings partner.

### **ITEM – Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.**

No items to Report. Committee noted that two members were due to submit retraining reports as at end March – for Cassie CRN 2134A and Indy CRN 880B.

### **ITEM – Report from Rules Sub Committee.**

Sub Committee submitted its report and recommendations on a number of matters.

#### **1. Clarification of Rule 6.1(j) regarding dogs unable to be measured.**

Concern has been expressed that the current Rules require a dog that is deemed to be NOT MEASUREABLE under Rule 6.1 j) to be treated as a 14” dog, by a combination of 6.1 j) and new Rule on Trial 6.3 d) iv) (see Rule Notification 19).

Subcommittee members recommended the issue of the following clarification of these Rules:

- A dog presented for measuring at a competition and deemed to be NOT MEASUREABLE by the measuring Judge shall not be used as a Height Dog in that competition.
- That the provision in Rule 6.1 j) to excuse from competition a dog deemed to be NOT MEASUREABLE is discretionary, by use of the term ‘may’ rather than ‘shall’.
- If a NOT MEASUREABLE dog is not excused from the competition, it may be run in a team but NOT as a Height Dog and NOT if, in the opinion of the Judge in the ring, to do so would constitute abuse of the dog under Code of Ethics Rule 2.1 c) – in other words, if the dog appears to be jumping higher than its likely jump height.

The Committee noted that under the AFA Rules there was no REQUIREMENT for members to present dogs for measuring (unless challenged to do so by another team captain or Judge). Members had the discretion to have dogs measured, and had to submit for measure if they were seeking to obtain a height card. Under the On Trial Measuring Rule members with height cards do NOT need to present the card at measuring but must have the card available at the Competition if challenged. The Jump height of all dogs below 14 inches MUST however be indicated on the Teams entry form for each competition and this information will be transferred to the teams Time Sheet.

The Committee agreed to approve the Sub Committee clarification and to add the clarification regarding measuring not being compulsory and presentation of height cards . CARRIED.

## 2. Consideration of standardisation of Jump Design

Background: Several members have written to the AFA Committee expressing concerns that some jump designs currently in use at competitions are hazardous to dogs and are capable of causing injury. Suggestion was made that current leading edge jump designs were safer for dogs and should be introduced as a mandatory standard.

The Sub Committee reported it supported the idea of developing a manufacturing standard for Jumps and that the following principles should be adopted in respect to jump design:

- Whilst a standard jump design is desirable it is not practical to require all clubs to introduce it overnight.
- The key features that would be required in a Standard jump design are:
  - Top board always to be 1", including for 7" dogs (i.e. 6" baseboard mandatory + 1" board). This will require 2 off 1" boards in order to be able to make up an 8" height (6" + 1" + 1").
  - Material for 1" and 2" boards must be flexible, made from material not more than nominal ½" thick, Sintra preferred but plywood acceptable. No other material permitted unless approved by Committee.
  - The topmost (i.e. 1") board to be shorter than the present 800 mm (due to current experience in which a 1" board bent by impact from a dog has jammed in the uprights and stayed in the bowed position, thus becoming a trip or entrapment hazard to following dogs). Proposed length for 1 " boards to be between 675 and 680 mm long.
  - Jump wings to be of similar material to boards – nominal ½ inch thick ply.
  - Slots in wings for boards to be wider than board thickness by between 0.5 mm and 1 mm.

- Clubs should be encouraged to phase in the 6" baseboard and the 1" & 2" flexible boards as specified above as quickly as practical, but in any case, not later than the AGM 2012.

Whilst not part of the standard specification members will need to be educated on the need for the top board to always be the short 1" board for the safety of their dogs.

The use of jump pads, whilst allowable under the Rules, is seen to be a potential risk as the aluminum frame of many pads is by its shape a rigid strut that does not flex on impact, so a dog hitting it would hit the equivalent of a solid plank of wood overlaid with a layer of padding. To make it worse, foam padding deteriorates with age. It is understood that some dogs will only run with pads, so use of pads will continue to be allowable under Rules at the discretion of each team. It will however be mandatory for the pad and the padding to be in good order. Judges may prevent unsuitable pads being use at a competition if concerned regarding design or dog safety.

The Committee noted that the introduction of the above design specifications would not require any amendment to the existing Rules reference in Section 3.3.

The Committee agreed that the proposed Specification as outlined above should now be the subject of a final check by the Sub Committee (in consultation with a jump maker) and if agreed should be resubmitted to March Meeting for adoption and issue to Clubs, placed on web and for inclusion as a Specification in the Rules and Policies booklet at next reprint.  
CARRIED.

3. Clarification of allocation of points (Competition and Title) when a team breaks out of a competition.

The Sub Committee had considered the existing Rules wording regarding treatment of both the break out team and teams that were in same Division as the break out team. The Sub Committee submitted three proposed Rule changes, basically resulting in the breakout team being treated as being eliminated from the entire competition both before and after the third breakout. The Committee considered the recommendations and agreed to adopt the first amendment – that the existing Rule clauses in Section 7 (g) be relocated to Section 1.4 at next reprint. (Noted - This being a simple renumbering does not require member voting at AGM.)

The Committee did NOT approve of the other two proposed Rule changes and by majority decision agreed to retain the existing Rules wording and treatment of breakouts. The existing Rules remain in effect viz:

- Teams that break out 3 times in a competition cannot be placed in that competition, irrespective of competition points held prior to breakout;

- After the 3rd Breakout the breakout team cannot win any further races or gain competition points however dogs racing in the team can continue to gain one AFA Title point for each clean heat run;

-Teams opposing the break out team retain competition and title points won against the breakout team up until the 3rd breakout has occurred. After the third break out the breakout team cannot win any further races and hence the opposing team will receive competition points for a win and also title points for any clear run wins.

#### 4. Use of stop watches by line Stewards.

The Sub Committee reported that in their opinion the AFA should consider abolishing the requirement for Line Stewards to time heats by stop watch given the reliability of the timing systems in use and the fact that even when a failure occurs in heat decision is normally based on visual assessment and not the stop watch times. Stopwatches should only be needed to be used when the Timing system has actually failed and cannot be operated. The Committee agreed to trail the above proposal at the 3 competitions to occur if February and then review results at March Meeting. Involved competition organizers and Judges to be informed of trial. CARRIED.

#### **ITEM - Farmtek Timing System Update.**

Still awaiting reply from NAFA contact as to how they successfully operate multiple light sets without interference. Leoney to follow up.

#### **ITEM – Update re status of old EJS Systems and their location/storage.**

Catherine has in storage the old S.A. lights set with the non-working Tassie console. Console has been sent for repairs. Committee agreed once the console is repaired the set will be relocated to ACT for use by Verdelle in Demos. Other spare set to continue to be stored at Kylies.

#### **ITEM - Purina Sponsored Competitions .**

The Committee noted Purina had now approved the proposed November 2 day Dandenong comp as a sponsored event. Richard reported that they were however still considering the proposed Redfest Queensland comp scheduled for September, as it was not an animal related event. Richard to follow up Purina.

For 2012 there are currently only two “ approved events” - the National Championships to be held at the Canberra Royal Show in Feb 2012 and Sydney Royal Show.

It was agreed that for the other 2012 sponsored events the AFA would, in March, invite all States to submit bids for proposed Purina with a close date of end June- with a view to AFA finalising the 2012 program of sponsored events by no later than end July 2011.

### **ITEM – Development of Flyball in W.A.**

Item deferred till next Meeting.

### **ITEM – Report regarding issue of standardisation of measuring Wickets .**

Ian Kendt reported that he had costed the material needed to construct 6 wicket bases. Total cost (for 2 sheets of 18 mm marine ply and paint would be around \$320. He indicated he was still checking out what would be the best material to cover bases – possibly paving paint. Ian proposed that he seek views of others and report back to March Meeting.

### **ITEM – Running Order Process**

Kylie asked if it was required that Competition organizers follow the running order schedules shown in the Rule Book when doing draws – response – there is no requirement in Rules to do so and the Schedules are basically a guide that can be adjusted where clashes occur. Kylie advised that she has been in contact with several people in US who have open format Draw systems used to create running orders and hoped to obtain copies that could be used by AFA. Will report progress after Canberra Royal.

### **ITEM – Minor clarifications re Rules .**

Lyn raised three minor matters for clarification, being issues where she had found people had different views:

First – is there a requirement for alternate dogs (the two reserve dogs in a team) to wait at rear of ring rather than be at side of ring near other dogs? Clarification – no requirement exists as to where reserve dogs should be held- Rule 5 (b) simply states that they must be “close at hand”. Under the Rules the dogs do not have to be in the ring let alone any specific place in the ring – however Judges can ask for the reserve dogs to be moved if they are concerned about crowding and safety in the ring.

Second – carrying the ball across the line – is the measure point for the ball carry across the line the dogs mouth/snout with the ball or does the whole of the dogs body have to be across the line. Clarification – Rule 9.2 (b) indicates that its “ any part of dogs body”– commonly the dogs snout.

Third – to achieve a .000 perfect start does the dog have to successfully complete its run? Answer no - perfect start pins rewards the handler for a .000 and is not related to dog having a clean run.

### **ITEM – Suggestion that AFA consider cloth badges for Titles as well as Pins .**

Noted that a member had put a suggestion forward that the AFA should consider selling cloth badges with AFA Logo and various Title details. Committee noted that currently some

Clubs do have their own cloth Badges for Titles. Committee also noted that we already have both Title Pins and Certificates available. Committee concluded that sew on patches should be left as a Club level decision but any such Club patches should NOT use the AFA Logo.

**ITEM – AFA Support for Queensland Clubs impacted by floods.**

Committee noted that several Clubs were coordinating fund raising activities and that the AFA had decided to waive the Lights levy at the Berwick competition that was a fundraising event. Joanne reported that the two Queensland clubs that had been impacted by the flood were still assessing lost and damaged equipment and she should be better placed to report on extent of losses at March Meeting. She also indicated that the Clubs might be best served if the AFA actually procured replacement equipment rather than sending cash. Committee agreed to consider further AFA support at March Meeting when details of Club fundraising and extent of equipment losses should be known.

**ITEM – Confirmation of Supervisory Judges Appointment.**

Committee noted that Supervisory Judge (Trent Shepherd) had been appointed for a two-year term with a probation period that was now over and that the Committee needed to formally confirm appointment. The Committee agreed to confirm appointment for remainder of Term – through till end September 2012.

**ITEM – General Business raised at meeting.**

1. Catherine enquired about how to obtain a stand for the Lights console. Leoney indicated she had a spare and would send to S.A.
2. Ian Gauntlett asked if AFA needed to have a policy regarding Competition organizers having spare batteries available in view of a recent battery failure. After discussion agreed that AFA should suggest that at least 6 spare batteries be available and that only good quality, known brands of alkaline batteries be used to minimize risk of battery failure. Notice to be sent to all Clubs and included in Nationals policy.
3. Josh raised several issues related to seed times and Division splits. One matter related to Competition organizers making changes to team seeding Division splits or raced format after obtaining Regional reps approval and without referring matter back to Regional Rep. Committee agreed that ALL changes needed to be referred back to Regional Reps for approval. This to be communicated to Clubs. Second issue was need to issue clarification regarding web seed times being as per the web listing at date of close of entries for each competition. Third issue related to Clubs that seemed to be swapping dogs between teams to gain advantage in seeding when using web time (rather than submit a declared time with lower break out) and then significantly bettered the nominated web seed time. Committee noted this was an issue and appointed a small Sub Committee (Josh, Leoney and Jenny) to monitor and report on issues linked to suspected abuse of seed times.

**Next meeting set for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm.**

There being no further business Meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Signed as a true record.

President.