

AFA Rule Clarification Notification No. 26 – issued Feb 2011.

The AFA Committee at its February Committee meeting dealt with a number of issues involving clarification of Rules and also matters of import to Competition organisers. The relevant matters are contained in this clarification statement.

1. Clarification of Rules re measuring of dogs (Section 6 of Rule Book and On Trial Rule issued June 2010 as part of Clarification Statement no. 19) .

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

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

The Committee has approved that the existing Rule clauses in Section 7 (g) dealing with Break- out be relocated to Section 1.4 at next Rules book reprint. This is a simple a renumbering of existing Rules clauses and as such does not require member voting at AGM.

The existing Rules covering Break-out remain unchanged and in brief summary are as follows:

- Teams that break out 3 or more 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 heats 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 heats and hence the opposing team will receive competition points for a win and also title points for any clear run wins.

3. Approval of Teams Seed times, Division splits and race formats.

The Committee noted that some Competition organizers have been making changes to team seed times, Division splits or racing format after obtaining Regional Representatives approval and without referring matter back to Regional Representative. The Committee requires that ALL changes to approved competition formats be referred back to Regional Reps for approval. The Committee also reminds Clubs that web seed times must be the web listing seed time as at date of close of entries for each competition.

3. Timing System Batteries (for Competition Organisers attention).

The AFA suggests that Competition Organisers ensure that they have on hand at Competitions at least 6 spare batteries and that only good quality, known brands of alkaline batteries be used in the timing system in order to minimize risk of battery failure. Two recent cases of faulty new batteries have caused unacceptable delays to racing.