

AFA Rule Clarification Statement – Number 15 – issued December 2009.

The AFA Committee at its December Meeting considered two Rules clarification matters and as a result decided to issue this Rule Clarification statement to Judges, Club Coordinators and AFA Members.

1. Interference caused by one teams ball being propelled into other teams racing lane and causing distraction to a dog in other team.

Question – What action should a Judge take when interference is caused by a ball being propelled into the other teams racing lane and causing an obstruction/distraction to a dog in the opposition team.

Clarification – Whilst the existing Rules are quite clear that such a situation results in Interference, and as a result the Judge should award the heat to the non-offending team, it is silent regarding the matter of issue of penalty cards. The Rule Sub Committee recommended and the Committee agreed that where it is simply the propelled ball that distracts the other dog (no dogs from the offending team has crossed the centre line) then no card should be issued.

2. Definition of Interference.

Question –Where a dog interferes with another dog in its own team – example by breaking free and running down the lane at the same time as another dog is racing – is this Interference and should the Judge therefore stop the race and card the offending dog.

Clarification - The Rule Book definition of Interference (9.2 (i)) clearly indicates Interference must involve interfering with the opposing team. Whilst aggression/suspected aggression can be between dogs within a team Interference cannot occur within a team as no disadvantage flows to other team.