

AFA Notification Number 27 – issued May 2011.

Notice to all Judges, Club Coordinators and Members

1. Revised Incident Report Forms (shortly to be made available on AFA Web Site)

The AFA Committee at its May Committee Meeting adopted new Formats for Judges to use when preparing Incident Reports at and after competitions. These forms were tested at a recent Queensland competition and were seen as assisting in making reporting simpler. The Forms will be uploaded to the AFA Web shortly and can be used once available. Until available reports on the earlier Forms will still be accepted by the AFA.

There are now two Incident Formats – a revised and simplified C- 11 format that offers tick options for the types of incidents. Comment in the narrative section is only required for the more serious incidents.

Changes to the C11 include:

- Removal of witness area to allow more reporting space.
- Redesign of reporting items
- Inclusion of Incident “Other”

The second Form – to be known as C-11 A was created to assist judges reporting of minor incidents and to lessen the time delay at a competition for noting incidents. It's use is optional. There is a saving for judges using the C11A for minor incidents as they don't need to complete the header details for each incident. It should be particularly useful for minor incidents such as crossing and simple interference incidents where the basic information needed is Handlers name, Dog's name and CRN, race/heat details and nature of incident. It is hoped that Judges may be able to simply take the completed forms with them at end of competition and either directly upload data to the AFA data base using the Form or send the Form with any completed C 11 Forms involving more serious incidents to the AFA Secretary as is the current process. The revised Forms are shown.

2. Standard Specification for flyball Jumps.

The AFA Committee has been reviewing the need to issue a mandatory design specification regarding the material to be used in flyball Jumps to be used at all sanctioned AFA events (Competitions, Demonstrations and Training days). There have been number of recent injuries to dog as a result of the dog making contact with the flyball jumps and in several cases it would appear that the dog has suffered an injury due to the nature of the jump material and design. This safety concern lead to the Committee considering the need to specify the design features likely to minimise injury risk.

The AFA are now in the process of finalising a standard specification for materials and design. Under the new standard there will be a requirement for all baseboards to be 6 inches in height (rather than 7 inches) and that a one inch spacer board be used as the top board for all jump heights. Whilst the wording of the design specification is still to be finalised the Committee has AGREED that all spacer boards (the 4 inch, 3 inch, 2 inch and the 1 inch boards) must in future be made from PVC foam board material. This material is

much more flexible than standard ply and according has more give when a dog makes contact. Jump wings and base boards should be made of ply of a thickness no greater than 12 mm (nominal ½ inch). The length of the top 1 inch spacer board is still under consideration but this should be finalised by the June Committee Meeting. The Committee intends to make the new specification mandatory effective for any AFA sanctioned event to take place from start of 2012. Whilst the mandatory implementation date is not till start of 2012 Clubs are encouraged to move to adopt the new Specification at the earliest possible date given the changes are designed to improve dog safety.

Whilst Clubs and Teams are free to continue to use jumps that do not meet the new specification at training or in non A.F.A. activities it is hoped that over time all jumps will meet the new standard.

This advice is provided at this early stage in order to allow clubs and teams time to modify existing jumps to meet the new standard.

AFA Secretary
Brian Lindsay