

**Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

**(Minutes subject to final approval at 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 Meeting)**

**Present:** Richard Mellon, Brian Lindsay, Josh Ellen, Michael Ashton, Sam Brown, Ben Royes, Sally Elsom (Part Meeting) , Belinda O’Shea, Jennifer Crane, Drew Harrison, David Strong, Konrad Moskal, Steve Pitt, Jenny Millar and Frank Lux.

**Apologies:** Pat Byrne and Carmel Nottle

Meeting Opened at 7.35 pm via Go to Meetings Conference

**ITEM 1. Starred Items.**

The following Items were adopted without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of the June Meeting.
- 2) New Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End June Bank Balance  
\$ 20037.80 plus invested funds of \$74143.71.

**ITEM 2. Matters Arising**

Action Sheet reviewed. Richard asked that issue of adding Club details to new members be listed for next meeting.

**ITEM 3. Correspondence.**

- a). Correspondence Out\*  
Email to all applicants re Judge Mentor detailed statement.
  
- b). Correspondence In
  - Indoor arenas and Matting suggestions from AFA Rep at ACT Title comp (See Rules Sub Committee).
  - Expression of interest in becoming a Judge – Ula Lane.
  - More details re Judge Mentor applicants – from Josh, Robyn, Tim, Jo and Steve. See Item 7v.
  - Email re non refund of Lights Levy.

**ITEM 4 Sanctioned Events Approved**

Comp – Keilor – 17/07/21 – 2021 4 legs Winter Spectacular – AJ Davis Reserve Fullarton Rd Airport West – Open and Training in ring.  
Comp – Bass Coast – 8/01/22 – Bass Coast Ag Show – Korumburra Rd Wonthaggi. (Open and Training).  
Demo – Game on Flyball Racing – 25/07/21 – Bark in the Park Demo – Barry Alexander Drive Springfield Central Qld.

**ITEM 5 – Admin Matter**

- i) **New Members** – Sally Morton, Eva Zubcic, Tracy Luther, Dorata Drescik and Jane Tong.
  
- ii) **Exam Passes** – nil to report
  
- iii) **Review of Trophies.**  
Matter deferred till August Meeting.
  
- iv) **Dual Venue Comp.**  
Given the situation in Victoria with weather and covid restrictions no progress made re organizing a trial comp. Matter again carried over.

**v) Donations Motion for AGM – update.**

Brian reported that the Sub Committee of himself, Frank and Jenni had reviewed the draft paper to go to AGM and had made several minor amendments to clarify envisaged process for deciding on any Club submissions. It was agreed that the paper as amended should be submitted to AGM for member ballot. If approved by AGM then the Committee would need to develop a set of detailed criteria for assessment of submissions.

**vi) Judge Mentor Expressions of interest.**

The Secretary reminded the Committee that as at end of May – the close date for expressions of interest, the AFA had received 6 expressions from Level 1 Judges (1 in Victoria, 2 in NSW and 3 in Queensland). The Supervisory Judge had indicated that all applicants were assessed as experienced Level 1 Judges. After the June Committee Meeting all 6 applicants were invited to submit a more detailed application, addressing the criteria set down for Judge Mentor positions. One applicant indicated that her original expression already addressed the criteria and 4 of the other applicants submitted the additional information. A reminder had been sent to the remaining original applicant. The Committee noted the view that the Judge Mentor positions should be viewed as an additional category of experienced Judges and that all applicants who meet the criteria and were assessed to be suitable mentors should be appointed on basis of a two-year appointment term. The Secretary was asked to circulate the detailed statements received and that the Committee would review and progress the decision re appointments by email. Secretary to also send a further reminder to the remaining judge still to address criteria.

**vii) Clarification – Nationals Seed time cut-off.**

The Secretary requested that the Committee clarify the cut of date for updating the web seed times for the Nationals, given that there were two competitions scheduled to be held on the close of entry date of 1<sup>st</sup> August and results for these competitions may or may not be available on 1<sup>st</sup> August. It was pointed out that after the recent cancelled competition the August competition in Victoria was seen as essential to Victorian teams getting web seed times. After discussion it was agreed to request Belconnen to amend the close of entries date for Nationals to 2<sup>nd</sup> August (date change confirmed with Organiser during meeting). Clubs conducting competitions on 1<sup>st</sup> August to be requested to promptly submit results to Jenni for update of web seed times.

**Item 6 General Business**

**i) Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.**

Nil to report

**ii) Report of Rules Sub Committee.**

a) A further report had been circulated by the Rules Sub Committee showing the updates of the Rules process. The Committee noted the project was still on- line to allow the updated Rules document in totality to go to this year's AGM. It was suggested that a special meeting of the Committee be scheduled to allow the presentation of the completed Sections and Appendices of the Rules. Date of Meeting agreed as Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm.

b) The Rules Sub Committee also reported on a number of other matters discussed as shown below:

- Minimum Teams in a Division - the Sub Committee discussed the matter of two Team Divisions and reached the view that these should be avoided wherever possible. The preferred position was to use the handicap option to ensure at least 3 team Divisions, provided that the Divisional handicap did not exceed 4 seconds. This would clarify when a two team Division was appropriate. To ensure this approach was adopted it would be necessary to issue an "On Trial" Rule amendment and a Guidance Document to competition organisers. Issue of On Trial Rule wording to be considered at August Committee Meeting.
- The Premiership points system was also discussed with respect to points for two team Divisions and it was recommended that in a two team Division the points awarded be 2 points for winning team and 1 point for second. (Date of implementation yet to be agreed).
- Conduct of Novelty events - The Rules Sub Committee recommended that sanctioned novelty events have the same status as training in the ring and that the novelty events be declared at the time of seeking sanction and that those participating in the novelty events must be AFA members. The issue of Novelty events at the 2021 Nationals was discussed by the Sub Committee – the Sub Committee recommended that the Nationals 3-day event is split into two sanctioned events – the Nationals 2 days (Sat & Sun) and the Pairs/Singles/Open/Novelty 1 day (Mon). This will allow dogs competing in Regular teams at the Nationals to participate in the Novelty events on the Monday without breaking rules such as maximum number of races, training in ring etc.  
The Committee noted that the Nationals Monday novelty program had been sanctioned as a separate demonstration event. It was agreed that this allowed dogs entered in Regular teams to also take part in the novelty events. Dogs entered in Open teams on the Monday however could not also take part in Novelty events. This clarification to be made available to Nationals Competition organizer and the general membership.
- Matting – The Sub Committee considered the correspondence submitted by the AFA Rep. dealing with dogs slipping on floor surface at the recent ACT indoor competition. The issue of requiring matting to be laid in the centre of the indoor ring from the 1st jump to the start/finish line was discussed. It was pointed out that the set-up of recent indoor rings was in accordance with the rules or exceeded the requirements of the rules. The suggestion of putting a gutter down the centre of the ring was also discussed and not recommended due to safety issues. Other options were discussed, such as material to stop a ball rolling across the lane. The Committee elected to make no recommendations for change at this stage.

iii) **Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.**

Nil to report.

**ITEM 7 New Business.**

**i) Matters from Correspondence In:**

- The Committee noted the application from Ula Lane to commence Judge assessment process and endorsed her application.

- The Committee noted the email from Game On Flyball Racing raising concern that the Light Levy charge waived by the AFA for the recent Qld competition had not as yet been refunded to his Club. The Committee agreed to write to Competition Organisers and request that the refunds be process as soon as possible.

**ii) New Items –**

- **Declared Seed times and Break - out rules.**  
The Committee noted that there seemed to be a growing incidence of teams using declared seed times that were marginally more than 1 second above web times and then breaking out at the competition. The checks and balances process in these circumstances was the rules re sandbagging and break-out. To ensure that these rules were enforced it was essential that Judges took appropriate action where any suggestion of sandbagging was evident. The Committee noted that members should be reminded that sand bagging was cheating. It was also suggested that members be advised that clubs should be submitting as declared seed times the assessed minimum time that team can run. Where a team breaks-out for first time it is not appropriate to use techniques such as increasing pass gaps, delayed release of start dog, changing start dog to a dog that does not normally start and thereby increasing start gaps, these are all examples of sandbagging. Members to be informed that the Committee has requested that Judges carefully observe all teams and especially those that have broken out, to ensure no suggestion of sandbagging arises.
- **Member Injury at Purely for Times competition.**  
Sam advised the meeting that a member had been injured by a flying cabana last Saturday at the Purely for Times race meeting and was taken to hospital with rib injuries. Secretary requested urgent notification of the incident so he could inform insurers in case there was a personal accident insurance claim.
- **Query re Chapter 10 Rules re Timekeepers –** question raised as to wording of Chapter 10 that Timekeepers had to be 18 years of age – yet there was a reference to Junior Timekeepers at 16 years of age. To be reviewed by Rules Sub Committee.

Date of Next Meeting- **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021.** There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m.  
Signed as a true record.

President.