



# AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION

## Rules Ballot - 2023 AFA Annual General Meeting. Ballot Paper –Update of the Rules of the AFA.

In accordance with Section 12.1 of the AFA Rules the following two Motions to adopt changes to the Rules are submitted for member ballot. **Ballot Forms must be submitted to:**

The Australian Flyball Association  
PO Box 6023  
Conder ACT 2906

addressed to Returning Officer, or via email to [secretary@flyball.org.au](mailto:secretary@flyball.org.au) by no later than midnight Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023. EMAILED BALLOTS SHOULD BE A SCANNED OR CLEAR PHOTOGRAPHED COPY OF A COMPLETED BALLOT FORM. ALL BALLOT FORMS MUST BE SIGNED TO BE ACCEPTED

### Motion 1 – Breakouts

THAT the rules relating to breakouts and seed times be amended as shown below (amendments to current rules shown by tracking).

Amend definitions of *breakout time* and *breakout team*:

*breakout time* means the time ~~one~~0.5 seconds (or if *manual timing* is used, ~~two~~1.5 seconds) faster than:

- for racing in *scratch format*:
  - a *team's declared seed time*; or
  - if the *team* does not have a *declared seed time*, the fastest *seed time* of all *teams* in the relevant *division*;
- for racing in *handicap format* a *team's seed time*.

*breakout team* means a *team* which at a race meeting has;

- ~~three or more~~ breakouts in two heats ~~at a race meeting~~; or
- a major breakout in any heat.

Insert a new definition:

major breakout means that a *team* has finished a *heat* in a time 0.5 seconds or more faster than its *breakout time*.

Amend rule 2.9:

#### 2.9 Seed times

Each *team* entered in a *race meeting* is seeded based on its *web seed time* unless the *team*:

- does not have a *web seed time*, in which case the *team* must provide a *declared seed time*; or
- elects to use a declared seed time.

*Note: If a team elects to use a declared seed time slower than its web seed time it must include on its entry form a proper justification for doing so. If the authorised approver is not satisfied with the justification the authorised approver may require the team to use its web seed time.*



Amend rule 6.22:

## 6.22 Breakout

*Note: This rule does not apply to teams in Division One of regular class racing in scratch format.*

A **team** which has a **breakout** in a **heat** forfeits that **heat**.

If a **team** has:

- a **breakout** in ~~three~~**two heats**; or
- a **major breakout** in any **heat**,

the **breakout team** forfeits all subsequent **heats** and the right to place at the **race meeting**.

*Note: This means that a breakout team racing in round robin format cannot participate in run offs to decide placings.*

All normal **rules of racing** apply to a **breakout team** except that:

- **false starts** do not apply to the **breakout team**, and before each **heat**, the **EJS** must be set up with a **false start** for the **breakout team**;
- a dog may not run again after a fault.

A **team** scheduled to run in a **race** against a **breakout team**:

- to earn **race meeting points** for a win in the **race** must run the **required number** of **heats** and finish at least one of those **heats**;
- is otherwise subject to all normal **rules of racing**.

Amend last bullet point under **Rules for handicap format** in Appendix 4:

- all **teams**, including **teams** in **division** one, will have a **breakout time** which is ~~0.5 seconds~~ **faster** than the **team's seed time**.

Amend example under **Programming the EJS console** in Appendix 4:

*Example:*

- Team **1A** has a **seed time** of 20.~~712890~~ seconds and Team **2B** has a **seed time** of 26.97~~83~~ seconds;
- The **handicap time** is 6.~~2083~~ seconds (26.97~~83~~ seconds minus 20.~~712890~~ seconds rounded down to one decimal place);
- Team **1A's breakout time** is ~~20.219-890~~ seconds (20.712 seconds minus 0.5 seconds rounded down to one decimal place) and Team **2B's breakout time** is ~~26.425-973~~ seconds (26.978 seconds minus 0.5 seconds rounded down to one decimal place).

The **EJS** console is programmed by:

- entering zero as the handicap for Team **1A** and 6.~~2083~~ seconds for Team **2B**;
- entering ~~26.425-973~~ seconds (20.890 seconds plus 6.083 seconds) as the breakout for Team 1 and ~~25.973 seconds~~ as the breakout for both Teams.



**Background and rationale:** At its meeting on 2 May 2002 the AFA committee considered issues related to declared times and breakouts and decided that the link between declared times and breakout rules should be stronger and fairer to all teams. At its meeting on 6 June 2022 the committee resolved to give effect to its earlier decision by placing amendments to the rules on trial effective from 1 August 2022. The amendments set out in this motion are identical to the on trial amendments except that the example in Appendix 4 has been changed to reflect that handicap times and breakout times are now shown to one decimal place only. No adverse feedback on the amendments has been received by the committee and the committee recommends that the amendments be formally approved by members.

The effects of the rule changes are:

- the breakout time for a team racing in scratch format and using a web seed time will be 0.5 seconds (reduced from one second) faster than the fastest seed time in the division;
- the breakout time for a team racing in scratch format using a declared seed time or racing in handicap format will be 0.5 seconds (reduced from one second) faster than the team's declared seed time;
- a team will forfeit all subsequent heats and the right to place at the race meeting after breaking out twice (reduced from three times) or if its first breakout is by 0.5 seconds or more;
- where manual timing is used, the breakout time is 1.5 seconds (reduced from two seconds) faster than the relevant seed time;
- an authorised approver may disallow a team's use of a declared seed time slower than a web seed time if the authorised approver is not satisfied with the justification given by the team for the slower time.

Example 1: Team A is using a web seed time and is in a division where the seed time of the fastest team is 19.123 seconds. Team A's breakout time is 18.6~~23~~ seconds. Team A runs a heat in 18.456 seconds and runs a later heat in 18.321 seconds. As Team A has had two breakouts it forfeits all subsequent heats.

Example 2: Team B is using a declared seed time of 20.789 seconds. Team B's breakout time is 20.2~~89~~ seconds. Team B runs a heat in 19.~~6~~78 seconds. As the time is 0.5 seconds or more than the breakout time Team B forfeits all subsequent heats.

Please circle Yes or No for your vote. If you wish to abstain from the Motion do not circle either yes or no with respect to that Motion.

YES

NO

## Motion 2 – Person in ring

THAT the rules relating to person(s) in the ring be amended as shown below (amendments to current rules shown by tracking).

The amended rules are:

### Rule 5.1 Persons in ring

New paragraph inserted:

A **team** forfeits any placement at a **race meeting** if:



- the **team** has a person in the **ring** who is not an **AFA member in good standing**; or
- a **volunteer associate member** is the **handler** of a dog in the **team**.

#### Rule 9.1 Title Points

New paragraph inserted:

A **title points** earned by every dog in a **team** at a **race meeting** will be cancelled if the team breaches rule 5.1 by having:

- a person other than an **AFA member in good standing** in the **ring**; or
- a **volunteer associate member** as the **handler** of a dog in the **team**.

**Background and rationale:** At its meeting on 10 October 2022 the AFA committee considered issues related to having a non-AFA member in the ring particularly in relation to insurance coverage, potential injury and harm to the non-AFA member, and other persons because of actions of the non-AFA member. At its meeting on 10 October 2022 the committee resolved to give effect to its earlier decision by placing amendments to the rules on trial effective from 10 October 2022.

The AFA committee considered that a breach of rule 5.1 is similar to a breach of rule **5.2 Dogs must have CRN** and the consequences should therefore be the same, namely that the team should forfeit any placement at the relevant race meeting and all title points earned by every dog in the team at the race meeting should be cancelled.

No adverse feedback on the amendments has been received by the committee and the committee recommends that the amendments be formally approved by members.

The effects of the rule changes are:

- to explain the penalty for a team's placement in a race meeting if a non-AFA member is in the ring during a race meeting (Rule 5.1);
- to explain the impact on title points for dogs in a team if a non-AFA member is in the ring during a race meeting (Rule 9.1).

Please circle Yes or No for your vote. If you wish to abstain from the Motion do not circle either yes or no with respect to that Motion.

YES

NO

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Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CRN: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Results of Ballots will be announced at AGM Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023**