

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION
INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

SATURDAY 17th October 2020 (Subject to approval at 2021 AGM)

The Meeting opened at 7.30 pm with 13 Go to Meetings connections and 20 Victorian Zoom connections to the following venues:

ACT

- BDOC Clubhouse
Co-ordinator Michael Ashton 0422746752
ACT@flyball.org.au

NSW

- Central Hub –Londonderry
Co-ordinator Brian Lindsay 0431341884
Philipandrew20@bigpond.com

Deer Bush Club House
Fairfield Showground
Co-ordinator Shell Gurney 0404129425
shell@pawformance.com.au

Avondale
Co-ordinator Frank Lux 0419146321
the_wag@y7mail.com

Branxton
Co-ordinator Louise Stephen 0432463201.
Teampulie07@gmail.com

Queensland –

- Jimboomba Qld.
Co-ordinator Peter Samuels 0434260270
gameonflyball@internode.on.net
- North Lakes
Co-ordinator Tim Slade 0410912091
Tim.slade@iinet.net.au
- Moggill 4070
Co-ordinator Sally Elsom – 0402028450
sallyelsom@hotmail.com

- Ormiston
Co-ordinator Craig Pearce 0438875810
Email blueasha@bigpond.net.au
- Greenbank
Co-ordinator Jennifer Crane 0427151797
Kevandjen Crane@bigpond.com
- Westlake
Co-ordinator Candice Leighton 0439763267
Candice.leighton@me.com
Expected attendance 10 Max Capacity 12.

South Australia

- Dover Gardens Dog Club
Co-ordinator Martin Watt 0428101564
Mw109@adam.com.au
Expected attendance 5 – Venue Max.10 .

Tasmania

- Dulcote
Co-ordinator David Strong 0407873485
davstr@bigpond.net.au
Expected attendance 5.

Victoria

- Zoom Meeting at member homes pre booked by 20 members.

The Chairman noted that this was an unusual approach to conducting the AFA AGM recognizing the Coronavirus restrictions, particularly those currently applying in Victoria. He thanked those present for their interest.

Attendance of Members – 109 voting members present as per the venue attendance sheets.

Apologies –from Catherine Stroop, Jenni Redman, Mark Lord, Catherine Saberton, Irene Falzon, Roycelyn Clyde, Christine Moore, Janice Turriff, Anne Coleman, Jenny Millar, Ian Gauntlet, Katrina Coulson, Sonny James Day, Annette Lawson Konrad and Kate Moscal.

Item 1. Minutes of 2018/19 AGM

Moved and Seconded that the 2018/19 AGM Minutes be accepted. CARRIED

Item 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil matters arising.

Item 3. Presidents Report.

Richard Mellon read the highlights from his 2019/20 Presidents Report, which is available for members to read on the AFA Web. Richard provided an overview of achievements in the year and activity statistics for the year. He thanked the outgoing Committee for its work throughout the year.

Item 4 Financial Statements and Auditors Report.

The Treasurer moved that the 2019/20 AFA Financial Statements and the accompanying Auditors Report be accepted, Seconded, and invited any comments or questions. No questions or comments.

Moved Pat Byrne that the Financial Reports be adopted. CARRIED.

Item 5. Announcement of results of postal Rules ballots

The President read the results of the postal ballot for the 3 Rule change motions. He advised the meeting that three Motions were submitted to members for ballot as part of the AGM process. Voting closed on Friday 2nd October. As at that date all 3 Motions had received a total of 21 yes Votes, 0 No votes and 1 informal vote – accordingly all 3 On Trial Rules have been adopted.

After close of voting a further 5 Votes were received – these votes were not included in the above analysis but would not have changed the result in any case.

The 3 Motions adopted are:

1. Amendments to Section 1.3 dealing with Rules for determination of Division splits – single team Divisions no longer permitted; Combined divisions no longer permitted: rules introduced regarding spreads of seed times within Divisions and the introduction of handicap racing where the Division spread is seen as significant. On Trial effective from 1st January 2020.

Adopted

2. Amendment to Appendix A Part 2 dealing with Round Robin Handicap Racing Format. Handicap racing format option introduced for either entire race Meeting or only for some Divisions where there is an excess spread of seed times. On Trial effective from 1st March 2019.

Adopted

3. Amendments to Appendix E – Open Class Format dealing with introduction of mixed handicap and non -handicap option in Divisions in an Open format depending on spread of seed times. On Trial effective from 1st May 2019.

Adopted.

Item 6. Member Motions.

The President indicated that at the close date specified in the Constitution there had been one member resolutions submitted for ballot. In order to be passed this Motion needs to obtain a minimum 75% majority of members present and Voting. The Motions is shown below together with voting results:

MOTION (submitted and introduced by member Shell Gurney and Seconded by Jessica Mellon.)

Motion:

The minimum age of dogs allowed to compete in flyball competitions should be raised to 18 months.

Reason given in support of motion:

Veterinary sports medicine has progressed significantly in the last 15 years and specialist veterinarians and therapists in the field are now recommending that we wait until our dogs are fully developed before beginning the high-impact aspects of our sport, like jumps and flyball box turns. As the vast majority of dogs are not finished developing at 12 months and still have open growth plates, we place unnecessary stress on their developing joints by racing them at this age, putting them at high risk of injury and setting them up for future issues like early-onset arthritis and joint breakdown. The AFA states in its rules and policies that it is inhumane to race a dog under the age of 12 months, however, for dogs to be ready to race right on 12 months of age, they usually will have had to be training for many months prior to this, including doing full flyball runs.

Both NAFA and the FCI have already raised their minimum ages and most high-impact dog sports in Australia have had their minimum age set at 18 months for many years now.

Please find letters from veterinary sports medicine specialists, Dr Chris Zink (Veterinary Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Group & Zink Integrative Sports Medicine - USA) and Dr Malcolm Ware (The Vet Practice & Canine Orthopaedics Sport Medicine Centre – Melbourne) and canine myofunctional therapist, Sacha Packer (The Balanced Canine – Sydney) who regularly treat flyball dogs.

Questions asked – what is the situation regarding minimum age of dogs for Training in the ring and demonstrations/training days events. Response – no change is proposed re age for training in ring – it will remain at 12 months for use of jumps and turning on box – this recognises that training is normally for a

shorter duration than a full race meeting and less intense from a dog physiology viewpoint.

Question – what will happen with dogs that have already started racing and are currently less than 18 months. Response – good question – there will only be a few dogs in such a position as the only recent race Meeting for a dog to start racing was on 7th August 2020 – so all dogs will who have already raced will have to have reached 18 months of age by no later than 7th Feb 2021. In these circumstances the Motion was amended to include an Exemption from the 18 months rule for any dog already racing and below the 18 months age. Exemption became part of Motion.

Amended Motion - The minimum age of dogs allowed to compete in flyball competitions should be raised to 18 months (dogs under 18 months of age that have started racing before 17th October 2020 are exempt from the 18 month of age rule).

Note - It was confirmed post Meeting that the exemption would only be needed until 7th February 2021 as the last possible race meeting for a dog to start racing at 12 months of age was in August 2020.

Amended Motion submitted for ballot – Voting confirmed – Yes 85; No 21 and Abstain 3 – Total Voting 106 Members. Ballot obtained an 80% majority and Motion was accordingly PASSED.

President confirmed that new age for start of racing would apply effective from competitions after 17th October 2020.

Item 7. AFA Annual Awards.

The President announced that there had been Two Presidents appreciation Award nomination received this year. Both were fully endorsed by the Committee. They are:

Maillie Gibson from Frankston.

Maillie has worked very hard over the previous year with junior members from all over Victoria forming the very first ever all Junior flyball team. All handlers, box loaders and team captain were under the age of 18.

Through her hard work and dedication she helped form bonds through many different clubs and is ensuring the flyball stars of the future. She helped, trained and encourage all the kids to learn to work together, listen carefully, communicate clearly, and think as part of a team. It also gave all the kids the chance to get to know each other, build trust as a flyball community and, best of all, have some fun. Congratulations Maillie.

Anne Coleman from Eastside Flyers.

Anne has served the AFA for the past 10 years as the person who manages and produces the AFA Titles and Certificates and despatches them out to members. Anne arranges to order and then collect the Title Certificates and Award pins and trophies and to print member details on Certificates and despatch to members. Congratulations Anne.

Awards for Novice Club of the Year (Little Springer Trophy)

Club of the Year – (Springer Trophy)

Team of the Year had all been suspended due to limited competition as a result of Coronavirus.

Item 8 Life Membership Nomination.

The President announced that one nomination had been received by the Committee for the award of Life Membership in recognition of service to the AFA. That nomination was for Karen Bland of Southern Cross Club. He indicated that to be successful the Constitution required a minimum majority of two thirds – 66.66% of members present and voting.

The nomination, submitted by Jennie Redmond and seconded by the required 4 members indicated that Karen has been heavily involved in the promotion of the sport of flyball and continues to be to this day.

She suffered a large setup health wise a few years ago, but through hard work and determination returned to the sport she loves.

She has been involved in organising and running many competitions over the years and working with large events like the world dog games, easter royal shows and various events around the country. She has also been AFA rep at many events.

The Motion was read and introduced by Maria on behalf of the nominee and seconders and following introduction was submitted for ballot.

Voting – Yes 57, No 29, Abstaining 23. Total Voting 86 – Percentage obtained 66.3% - Motion failed to obtain required minimum majority.

Item 9 Committee Elections.

The Meeting noted that all but one nominated position on Committee had received a single nomination and accordingly no ballot was required for these positions. There was however, as at close of nominations, one position of S.A.

Representative vacant. This position was available to be filled by a S.A. member at the AGM if nomination was received. Martin Watt advised the Meeting that Carmel Nottle was willing to accept the nomination. There being no further nominations Carmel was declared elected.

The following Members, being the sole applicants for the Executive positions shown, were declared elected unopposed:

President -	Richard Mellon
Vice President –	Jenny Millar
Secretary -	Brian Lindsay
Treasurer -	Patricia Byrne

The following Regional Representatives being the sole applicants for the position were declared elected:

Tasmania	David Strong
S.A.	Carmel Nottle
Victoria	Josh Ellen
ACT	Michael Ashton
Queensland	Sally Elsom
NSW	Frank Lux

The following 7 General Committee Members were declared elected : Jennifer Crane, Steve Pitt, Samantha Brown, Ben Royes, Belinda O’Shea, Drew Harrison, and Konrad Moskal.

President welcomed the new Committee and again thanked the outgoing Committee for its efforts in 2019/20 and in particular thanked those members who did not re stand for the 2020/21 Committee.

There being no further business the Meeting was declared closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed as a correct record of discussions

President.

