**Member Motion 6**

The Australian Flyball Association (AFA) reinstate the Premiership to having an ‘Off Season’.

**Rational**

The purpose of this proposal is to ask members to decide whether or not Flyball Racing is to progress into the future as a SPORT or continue as a HOBBY.

I prefer to see Flyball Racing as a ‘Sport’ like when we were all growing up and became involved in Soccer, Netball, Basketball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Tenpin Bowling, Softball, Baseball and even Motor Racing. The foundation to the growth and success of all these sports has been a ‘Season’ and an ‘Off Season’.

The start of a season provides opportunities for sponsors and those that wish to create publicity for their club, a catalyst to engage with media, sponsors, spectators, and supporters.

During the Premiership season, teams and clubs can use the Premiership Ladder to engage print and online media to include our Sport in the Sports pages instead of plonking stories in the ‘feel good’ section that probably 2% of people read.

Sponsors are looking for exposure to the media to justify their investment so what better way to do that than have a Premiership for each State and Territory with a ‘Season’ and an ‘Off Season’?

The current AFA Committee has chosen to cancel the Premiership ‘Off Season’ and instead simply run the Premiership for 12 months, and post trinkets to the Minor Premiers of each State and Territory. This is the current AFA Committee telling its members they have decided that Flyball Racing is a hobby and NOT a sport.

If we look to the Foundation of every popular team sport in the world, we will find that the ‘Season’ and ‘Off Season’ is the cornerstone or foundation of all popular team sports.

The public are attracted to sports that have credibility. Sponsors give sports credibility to enable teams to grow and a Premiership Season and Off Season offers clubs something to offer sponsors in return for their support. What does that mean for Flyball Racing? The opportunity for our sport to enrich the lives of so many more dogs and handlers.

**Implementation considerations**

Prior to the current AFA Committee’s cancelation of the ‘Off Season’ for the Premiership, the AFA had in place a Minor Premiership (the team with the most points at the end of the regular season) and the “option” for each State and Territory to host a Grand Final after the end of the regular season. The Grand Final would entail finding a host club to include a Grand Final Division (run on handicap) in an upcoming race meeting to determine the Premiership winners.

The Grand Final Division would give a host club another hook for the media to promote sponsors and the sport of Flyball Racing.

I would propose the same, or similar system to determine the Premiership winners for each State and Territory.

When the Premiership was first introduced, the State and Territory Representatives were responsible for liaising with their constituents to determine the start and end dates of their respective Premiership seasons.

**Recommendation for implementation**

1. Liaise with State and Territory Representatives to determine a start and end date of the Premiership season for their respective areas.
2. Create a results format that will enable the Premiership table to be updated within two hours of the completion of each race meeting (subject to confirmation).

Proposed by Steven Pitt #1