

AFA Notification No.87 – September 2021

Qualifications necessary to be an Associate Member of AFA.

The AFA Committee wishes to specifically draw all members attention to the following important announcement associated with qualifications for people to be nominated for Associate membership. The Constitution of the AFA is the overriding document that sets down the regulations and rules for membership of the Association. That document makes it clear that to qualify as an Associate of a member the person nominated must reside with the nominating member. It is NOT ACCEPTABLE for the person to be a relative or friend of the member who is living at a different address to the nominating member.

The Committee noted that the wording on the current Membership Forms may have mislead some members to believe that it was acceptable to nominate a relation as an Associate, even where that person does not or no longer resides with the member. This is not the case and the Committee is amending the wording on membership forms to clarify the requirements of associates having the same address as nominating member.

The Committee wishes to stress that all Members who have Associates under their membership should now review the requirement for Associate membership to ensure that any nominated Associate does indeed reside with them. This is essential to ensure that the person is covered by the AFA insurances. Where the nominated person is involved in running a dog it is also a requirement to ensure that the dog and the other dogs in the persons team are credited with title points at any competitions to be held in the future.

Where a person has been inadvertently nominated as an Associate, **even though they are not residing with the nominating member**, action now needs to be taken to correct the membership status of the person. Where the person is running a dog they should be nominated for full membership of the Association and an adjustment of the membership fee paid. When the person has been nominated for Associate membership simply because they may, from time to time, attend AFA Sanctioned events and assist in functions such as stewarding or box loading it is possible for that person to be nominated by the Club for Volunteer Associate Membership, with the fee of \$5 applying. The volunteer members fee for the 2021/22 year will be waived where a person's Associate member fee has already been paid for 2021/22. The Association will change the member's status from Associate to Volunteer member at no cost for the current year only upon receipt of completed form from Club. Members should discuss this option with their Club officials.

If a member has nominated a person as an Associate and that person is residing with the member then no action is necessary – please note that there is no requirement for the person to be a relative of the member to qualify – the sole requirement under the Constitution is “residing at same address as the nominating member”.

AFA Secretary – Brian Lindsay.