

**THE AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION INC.**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

2021 was the second year in a row in which Flyball was severely affected by Covid restrictions, with the most impact being felt in Victoria, the ACT and NSW, while Queensland, SA and Tasmania were less affected. As at time of writing, roadmaps for reopening states and state borders have been published and, if followed, promise a better year in 2022. However, new variants of the virus continue to be a concern.

Covid outbreaks forced postponement of the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Championships in the ACT that were originally planned for October 2021. We hope that they can be successfully run in March 2022. This does mean that there will be two National Championships within six months of each other in 2022, not our preferred arrangement but better than cancelling the event altogether.

The disruptions have also forced us to cancel Club of the Year and Team of the Year for the second year. Let's hope this is the last time.

**Highlights:**

The long project to re-write the Rules and Policies of the AFA was completed during the year and the new version approved by the membership by postal ballot. We sincerely thank Paul Newman for the tremendous effort he has put into this over the last two years, as well as the Rules Subcommittee for providing first line detailed reviews. While the new version might take a little time to get used to, it is a major improvement over the old one in clarity and consistency and includes the raft of clarifications that have been issued over the years.

I would like to congratulate Robyn Addie on her appointment as our new Supervisory Judge and wish her every success during her term of office. I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous effort put in by our departing Supervisory Judge Phil Lea, who very kindly extended his term by two years.

I also congratulate our first batch of Judge Mentors, who were appointed during the year to assist the Supervisory Judge in training and mentoring of Judges, in particular Novice Judges

Design and testing of the Ulna measurement device was completed during the year and final production models have been distributed to each region. Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to this project.

The Development Subcommittee launched the new Landing Page for the AFA Website. What is needed now is content to make the page newsworthy and to encourage traffic; the long-term view is to improve the commercial value of the page and, through this, to attract potential advertisers and sponsors, to support not only the Association itself but also regional Premierships and individual Clubs. The obvious source of relevant and interesting Flyball news is our own clubs and members, so we ask members to send in your copy to our News Team via the links on the AFA Contacts page.

Changes to the Race Meet Entries system were implemented during the year to prevent Host Clubs seeing the details of teams entering a race meeting until after the Close of Entries date. This eliminates a perception that host clubs could manipulate their own team entries to achieve an advantageous Division Split. It also eliminates the need for an Independent Entries Receiver for National Championships Race Meetings.

Compared with last year, the Association has shrunk slightly. Hopefully this is a temporary dip caused by Covid, and numbers will start to increase as activity returns to normal.

The Dog Incident Subcommittee was very pleased to announce that they only dealt with one incident in the year, which they claim sets a new benchmark – albeit one that will be a challenge to match when racing goes back to normal!

## Appreciation

Members of the 2020/21 National Committee were:

Richard Mellon	President, member Rules Subcommittee
Jenny Millar	Vice President, member Dog Incident Subcommittee
Brian Lindsay	Secretary
Patricia Byrne	Treasurer, member Web Team
Ben Royes	Member Dog Incident Subcommittee and Chair Development Subcommittee, Deputy News Editor
Konrad Moskal	Member Dog Incident Subcommittee and Development Subcommittee
Sam Brown	Chair Dog Incident Subcommittee
Steve Pitt	Member Development Subcommittee
Sally Elsom	Queensland Representative
Jennifer Crane	Member Web Team
Frank Lux	NSW Representative, member Rules Subcommittee, Equipment Co-ordinator
Michael Ashton	ACT Representative, Public Officer
Drew Harrison	Member Development Subcommittee
David Strong	Tasmanian Representative, Chair Rules Subcommittee
Josh Ellen	Victorian Representative, member Rules Subcommittee

Carmel Nottle	South Australian Representative
Belinda Fry	Member Dog Incident Subcommittee and Web Team

We also have a number of non-Committee members who supported the Association in various ways:

Anne Coleman	Titles and Awards
Paul Newman	Member Rules subcommittee
Julie Pamplin	Points and Seed times
Jodie O'Brien	Chief News Editor
Shireen Pitt	Premiership Administrator
Phil Lea	Supervisory Judge, member Rules Subcommittee

On behalf of the Association, I thank all Committee members and non-Committee office bearers for their contribution and commitment over the year. Without people being prepared to volunteer their time and expertise, the Association simply can't run.

I take this opportunity to say farewell and thanks to Committee members Konrad Moskal, Steve Pitt, Sally Elsom and Carmel Nottle, who have decided not to stand for the 2021/22 Committee. This represents a major loss of knowledge and experience and we are sorry to see them go.

We welcome new members Tracey Rose, Kathryn Royes and Paul Newman who will be confirmed at this meeting. We look forward to their fresh ideas and enthusiasm. As yet the position of S.A. Regional Representative remains unfilled.

## **Achievements**

Because this AGM was delayed past the closing date for the State Premierships, it's possible to announce the 2021 Premiership results. The number of rounds was heavily restricted by Covid restrictions in some areas, but we can offer congratulations to the Minor Premier teams in each region:

ACT – Belconnen Bullet Train on a tiebreaker ahead of Tuggeranong Screaming Torpedoes;

NSW – Norwest Thunderdogs 1;

Queensland – Paws of Thunder;

South Australia – No result;

Tasmania – No result;

Victoria – Chilli Dogs.

And finally, congratulations to all of our dogs and their handlers who have achieved new titles over the year, a real achievement given the severely restricted racing. Based on points recorded in the AFA Database as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, here are the numbers of competitors that have achieved major title milestones over the year:

Flyball Master Champion 1000 points: 8 new recipients

Flyball Master Champion Onyx: 1300 points: 8 new recipients

Flyball Dog Grand Champion 2000 points: 2 new recipients

There were no new recipients of Flyball Dog Grand Champion Jeddah 3000 points or Flyball Dog Grand Champion Ezri 4000 points awards.

In closing, I would like to wish all the best to Flyball Members, Officials and the new Committee for the year ahead, and let's hope conditions are better than the last two.

Richard Mellon,

President Australian Flyball Association 2020/21.