

**AFA Notification No. 79, January 2020.**

**This Notification deals with a further review of how the AFA can allow volunteers to assist to continue to assist in running flyball competitions, whilst also ensuring insurance coverage applies to such volunteers.**

The Committee at its December 2019 Meeting decided that effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 **no** non-financial AFA members would be permitted to enter the flyball ring, except at sanctioned training days where members of the public are allowed to participate under supervision. This decision was taken recognizing that the AFA's insurances only apply to "financial members of the AFA". After this decision was taken at the December Meeting concerns were expressed by several Committee Members that this decision had the potential to make it difficult for clubs to host competitions in the smaller States as they relied on volunteer non members ( such as past retired Members or families of members) to act as stewards, shaggers, timekeepers or even box loaders.

Given these concerns further consideration was given to ways to allow such volunteer assistance whilst also ensuring insurance coverage applied to such volunteers. Those expressing concern indicated that in most cases the same people helped on a regular basis and clubs were aware of the names of their likely volunteers and would be in a position to nominate them for membership, either at start of the financial year or pre the Competition, if there was a mechanism to allow them to be granted membership.

After discussion it was proposed and AGREED that Clubs would be allowed to identify and nominate people who regularly volunteered to assist in running flyball competitions ( normally ex members or relatives of members) as "volunteer Associate Members" and the club pay the \$5 annual membership fee to cover these people as financial members. Additional volunteers identified by clubs could be added during the year, if necessary. Our Rules require all nominations for membership to be submitted to the Committee for formal approval prior to membership being granted, so it was not possible to continue with the Honorary members form simply being completed at competitions. . The AFA Web team will design a suitable bulk membership form for volunteers to become Associate members.. It was noted that the "volunteer Associate Members" would be restricted to boxloading, stewarding, shagging or the timing table and could not run dogs.

In considering the matter of young children being in the ring it was agreed that Junior members were allowed in the ring under parent/guardian supervision PROVIDED they were considered not to pose a safety risk by their involvement. Children who are not Junior members are not permitted in the ring at any time.