

**Notification # 13 – Amendment to Clause 10 of AFA Rules and Policies - designed to clarify role and duties of the position of AFA Representative.**



**Notification Number 13 – Amendment to Clause 10 of AFA Rules and Policies - designed to clarify role and duties of the position of AFA Representative.**

The AFA Rules do not currently state the duties of the AFA Representative. Clause 10 covers the role and duties of the Judge, Stewards and Timekeepers but not the AFA Representative. Whilst the various roles of the AFA Representative are outlined in various AFA Guidelines they have not previously been incorporated in the Rules.

The Committee recently clarified the role of the AFA Representative with regard to responsibility for dealing with incidents involving dog aggression or member behaviour outside of the flyball ring. All such incidents are now clearly the responsibility of the AFA Representative to investigate and implement action as deemed appropriate, including excusing dogs or members from taking any further part in the event if they deem circumstances warrant such action.

The Committee also concluded that it was appropriate to add to Clause 10 in the Rules a statement of the Duties of the AFA Representative so that no confusion existed as to powers or role of the AFA Representative at sanctioned demonstrations or competitions.

The following wording of Clause 10.4 will be adopted as an "On Trial Rule" effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009. Whilst the date of effect for the adoption of the On Trial Rule is 1<sup>st</sup> September it should be recognised that the basic duties outlined are all currently part of the AFA Representatives role and the amendment is designed to formally clarify the duties.

**" 10.4 AFA Representatives Duties**

- (a) As an AFA Representative you typify the sport of Flyball and at all times you must promote co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs, You must be familiar with the AFA Rules, Policies and Guidelines and should be impartial and firm, yet courteous and friendly. You must have the safety and welfare of dogs and handlers at the forefront of all decisions.
- (b) The prime duty of the AFA Representative at an AFA sanctioned events is to act as mediator and to diffuse heated situations. The AFA Representative shall mediate on any disputes or queries arising at the event. If the AFA Representative finds they are in a conflict of interest situation (say a dispute involving the Representatives own team) then they should seek to involve an appropriate independent mediator The AFA representative has no power to overrule a Judges decision in the

**Notification # 13 – Amendment to Clause 10 of AFA Rules and Policies - designed to clarify role and duties of the position of AFA Representative.**



ring, excepting for reasons of safety of dogs and handlers. The AFA Representative shall report to the AFA Secretary within 48 hours on any incidents where he or she was called upon to act as mediator and where follow up action by the AFA may be required.

- (c) The AFA Representative is the official who has responsibility for investigating and ruling on any incidents that occur outside of the flyball ring. Incidents within the flyball ring are the responsibility of the presiding judge. Incidents outside the ring are the responsibility of the AFA Representative. Whilst each may consult with the other the final responsibility rests with the presiding Judge inside the ring and the AFA Representative outside the ring. Any witnessed incidents of dog aggression or member behaviour in breach of Rules outside of the ring are to be brought to the attention of the AFA Representative for their consideration as to appropriate action. The AFA Representative has the power to excuse a dog or member from taking any further part in a competition or demonstration for reported behaviour outside the ring should he/she consider the circumstances warranted that action. All such incidents should be reported in writing to the AFA Secretary within 48 hours so that they can be referred to and dealt with by the appropriate AFA Sub Committee.
- (d) The AFA Representative shall supply, witness and receive any Statutory Declaration Forms from witnesses to any Incident and shall forward same to the AFA Secretary within 48 hours.
- (e) The AFA Representative shall check timesheets, before presentations are made, for calculation of competition points, each teams fastest time and placings for the competition and shall sign each timesheet after checking.
- (f) The AFA Representative and the supervising Judge shall sign off on Provisional Judges training sheets.