

Notification no. 24 “On Trial Policy - for implementation from 1st March 2011”

The AFA Committee at its Meeting on Monday the 10th January 2011 adopted the following Policy Statement as an “on Trail Policy” effective from 1st March 2011. The Policy is designed to assist Clubs to better understand the process and requirements associated with hosting a AFA Nationals Championship.

AFA – Nationals Planning and Presentation Policy.

From a competition viewpoint the annual Australian Nationals Flyball Championships are the most important event on the flyball calendar. The Nationals are now sponsored by Purina Supercoat and are held over a two/three day period at one of the main Shows or Expo style events in Australia. Whilst the National Championships are hosted by a Club or group of Clubs they remain the AFA’s National Championship and as such must be overseen by the AFA. This Policy has been developed to ensure a consistent and high quality approach is maintained to the planning and delivery of the Championships.

Submitting Bids for hosting of Championships.

The AFA will notify all affiliated Clubs by email and by reference on the AFA web site of the closing date for bids to host any forthcoming National Championships. Bids will normally close at the end of March for the Championships in two years time (i.e. bids for the 2013 Nationals will close March 2011). The early close is to ensure that the AFA have an approved venue, date and host identified well in advance of each Championship). Bids may be submitted by a single Club or by a consortium of Clubs. Bids must show the proposed venue and the associated major event (e.g. Sydney Royal Show); the proposed dates of the Championship; and indicate that the main event managers are committed to the Nationals. The main event managers must also be in agreement to having Purina sponsorship promoted via ring surrounds, banners and the like. A set of Guidelines for hosting the Nationals are available on the AFA Web site under the “Hosting a Competition” category and these should be read before developing a Nationals bid.

Approval of Bids.

All bids will be considered by the AFA Committee and the approved Host will be notified in writing.

Planning the Championships

The AFA will nominate at least one member of the AFA Committee to work with the host club/s in the planning of the Nationals. This appointee will not be a member of the host club/s and will be the main communication channel between the AFA Committee and the hosts for matters relative to the planning of the Championships. The host/s should form an event planning committee, which must include both a Competition Organiser and a Competition Secretary. The hosts are free to allocate all other responsibilities (such as accommodation planning; raffle; merchandise; physical logistics; ticket allocation) to members of the Planning Committee.

Event Budget and Financial Arrangements.

Following AFA approval of the host club/s the host should commence to develop an event Budget covering anticipated income and expenditure associated with the Championship. As a guide income will include forecast Team entry fees, Purina sponsorship cash contribution, merchandise income sales. Expenditure will include Competition Sanction fees; Judges and Officials travel reimbursement; ribbons and prizes (other than supplied by sponsors); merchandise purchases; officials lunches; costs of catalogues and other paperwork; minor items such as batteries and marking paint and the AFA lights levy.

This Budget MUST be submitted to the AFA for approval IF the host Club/s wish to seek a level of event underwriting from the AFA. Underwriting is the underwriting of costs incurred pre event that would be unrecoverable in case of total event cancellation. Where underwriting of costs is sought the Budget should include a projection of the upfront costs likely to be incurred pre event and not recoverable if the total event has to be cancelled. It is only these pre event costs that require to be underwritten in circumstances where cancellation is required. The submission to the AFA should identify what level of underwriting is being sought from the AFA – up to a maximum of 50%. Where the AFA agrees to a percentage of underwriting it will also be entitled to receive an identical percentage of any event profit. (Event profit excludes raffle income and expenses.)

Where the Host club/s do NOT wish to seek AFA underwriting of up front costs there is no requirement to submit the Budget to AFA for approval.

Appointment and Role of Officials (Nationals Supervising Judge; Judges; and AFA Representatives).

The Competition organisers shall submit recommendations regarding all Judges and AFA Representatives to the AFA for consideration and approval.

Selection of Timekeepers and the Ring caller/s are matters for the hosts to determine but only accredited or well experienced people should be appointed

The Competition organizer shall recommend to the AFA a Nationals Supervising Judge. The Nationals Supervising Judge will be available to assist ring judges deal with any technical problems and will be responsible for co-ordination between the Judges and the AFA Representatives at the competition in event of protest/disputes in the ring. The Supervising judge will have final decision as to Rule interpretations and protest decisions. The Supervisory Judge will not normally be involved in Judging in the rings other than in an emergency/ relief capacity. The Supervisory Judge will allocate Judges to oversee any run offs

Organisers are encouraged to consider the appointment of one overseas Judge, who would have no involvement with any Clubs racing at the Championship. Where appointed this Judge would normally be used for any run offs required at the end of the Championships.

(Note Purina sponsorship is designed to cover the costs of an international Judges travel, including airfare).

Organisers should aim to have at least one Judge in each ring not involved in racing a dog. As a guide only one other judges would be required to cover a ring with a fully dedicated

international Judge. A maximum of 3 Judges would be required to cover the second ring. (This is in addition to the Supervisory Judge).

A minimum of 2 Timekeepers will be required for each ring plus a relief timekeeper. A ring caller and assistant are recommended to schedule races and deliver paperwork to the rings.

Purina Sponsorship

Purina have been appointed by the AFA as our main sponsors of flyball in Australia and in particular they are the main National Championship Sponsor each year. A requirement under the Sponsorship Agreement is that the AFA use the supplied Purina branded arenas and equipment and that all Judges and Officials wear Purina supplied uniforms. No other competing dog product advertising is permitted to be displayed or worn by AFA members or Clubs at the Championships. Competition organisers MUST co-ordinate matters involving Purina equipment/product delivery via the appointed AFA Purina coordinator.

Purina also supply the following under the Agreement:

- Trophies for all winning team members in each Division;
- Product for all competitors;
- 6 large bags of Supercoat for use in Champion Trophy or raffle prizes
- Gifts (hampers) for all Judges and Officials.
- A cash component to fund Judges travel reimbursement.

All dealing with Purina MUST be via the AFA appointed Purina Sponsorship coordinator

Entry Forms and closing dates.

Nationals entry forms are to be placed on the AFA Web site well in advance of the closing date for the championships. Closing Dates will need to be set taking into account the requirements of the main event (Royal Show or Expo) for ticket allocation; the notification to Purina of required trophies and the need to co-ordinate and obtain approval for Division splits and produce the Draw. It is suggested that a minimum of 6 weeks be allowed from close of entries to date of event.

Approval of Division splits.

The organisers shall submit a proposed set of Division splits to the AFA for consideration as soon as possible after entries close. This schedule is NOT to show team names but only the Seed times and whether they are Web or Declared. The AFA will seek input from a senior independent NAFA Competition organiser before approving the Divisions. In the event of teams withdrawing or amending their seed times (as a result of dog changes) after close of entries and up to 2 weeks before the event, the AFA will confirm via the independent NAFA the Division splits before finalizing the Draw. Any changes to the Draw within two weeks of the event must be recommended by the competition organiser and be approved by the Supervising Judge in consultation with the appointed AFA Representatives for the Nationals.

It is the responsibility of the Competition Organisers to check Web Seed times and to review declared seed times taking into account stated reasons for Declaring the seed time.

Approval for Event Format, including means of deciding placing in event of tied results.

Once the Division splits are approved the Competition organizer shall submit to the AFA a proposed event format and a recommendation regarding basis of determining tied placing results. As a Guideline a preferred format would have each team involved in 6 best of 5 heat races per day (on average say 24 heats) in each Division. Where this is not achievable the format recommended should aim to have all Divisions running approximately the same number of heats over the two days.

Competition Organisers are free to consider recommending any of the AFA approved race format, including using a Champion Trophy format of racing between Division winners. Organisers may also propose separate events such as Veterans racing format. In making these recommendations organisers are asked to take into account likely time availability and also ring availability.

Any changes to the approved format (including any changes on day of competition) must be submitted by the competition organiser to the Supervising Judge and AFA Representative/s for approval.

Availability of Draw and Seed times in each Division

The Competition organiser should plan on having the Draw and Division seed times available for posting to the AFA web site by no later than the end of the weekend before the Nationals.

Trophies and Prizes

Purina as the main sponsor of the Nationals supplies Trophies for the winning teams handlers in all Divisions. Purina also supply a bag of product for all competitors as well as Officials Present packages for Judges and Officials.

Competition organisers are encouraged to ensure that second and third placed teams in all Divisions receive place ribbons and that all other teams receive participation ribbons.

Organisers can also seek other sponsors to support prizes for teams. In considering other sponsors it is important to NOT invite competing dog food or dog treat companies to donate sponsorship. If in doubt organisers should contact the AFA's appointed Purina coordinator.

Catalogue

A Catalogue should be produced for every competitor and Official, with a reasonable number of spare copies available. As a minimum the Catalogue should include details of the Teams entered, Division splits; team seed times; promotion advertising for Purina and other sponsors; contact details for the nearest Vet Surgery and their opening hours

Cancellation

Cancellation or reduction in racing in the Nationals must be in line with the AFA Policy on cancellation. Safety of grounds from both dog and human viewpoint must be the first consideration. Any consideration of cancellation or amendment to approved racing format

or schedule shall involve consultation between the Competition Organiser; the Supervising Judge and the appointed AFA Representatives.

Adopted January 2011.