**AFA Notification to Members No. 44 – February 2014.**

1. This notification deals with an “On Trial” Rule relating to Clubs/Teams being required to renew their memberships annually in order to have member Teams enter AFA Competitions or host AFA Events;
2. The decision to eliminate the hard copy Flying Times and use the new AFA Web site to communicate to members.

**Item 1 “On Trail” Rule relating to Clubs/Teams being required to annually renew their memberships in order to have Teams enter AFA competitions or host AFA sanctioned events.**

Background:

The Committee at its February 2014 Meeting agreed that in future Clubs would be required to affiliate and renew membership annually and would be given a 30 day grace period after 30th June to renew their membership. The Treasurer would issue a reminder to all non financial clubs around end June each year . If not affiliated by end of grace period the Club/Team would be shown on the AFA listing of Clubs/Teams as being “Non Financial” and would not be allowed to enter teams in AFA Competitions or host AFA sanctioned events. If the Club/Team re-affiliates during the following 2 year period it will be required to pay back membership fees. After 2 years non financial the Club to be listed as “defunct” on AFA data base and cease to be a member of AFA.

This decision reflected the facts that annual affiliation fee for a Club/Team was only $30 and that maintenance of Club information involved a cost to AFA and also that the recommended Policy ensured all affiliated Clubs/Teams were covered by AFA Insurances as only FINANCIALLY affiliated clubs and members are covered by insurance. The Committee agreed to adopt the amended policy re Club/Team by inserting the new requirement in Section 1.0 of Rules as an “On Trial” Rule.

**Amendment to Section 1.0 of Rules and Policies.**

“All Clubs wishing to conduct AFA Sanctioned events OR have teams eligible to enter AFA Sanctioned events are required to be affiliated with the AFA - and to renew membership annually. Membership is due at end June and a 30 day grace period will be allowed for renewal. Where a club does not renew or advises that it is no longer actively involved in flyball it will be listed as “ Non financial” on the AFA data base for the following two years and if in that time it applies to re affiliate it will be required to pay all outstanding annual fees. Non financial clubs will not be able to enter teams in AFA competitions or conduct AFA sanctioned events. After being non financial for two years the Club will be listed as “Defunct” on the AFA data base of membership and cease to be a member of the Association.”

**Item 2 – Flying Times to be discontinued and the AFA Web site to be used as communication link to members.**

At the Committees February meeting the issue of abolishing the hard copy Flying Times and using the new Web for communication of all information to members was discussed.. The Flying Times editor supported the change as it was becoming increasingly difficult to get input for the newsletter and the editorial process was proving to be quite time consuming .

The Treasurer suggested that any member who had paid for hard copy newsletters this year be refunded the extra payment and that all Clubs/Teams and Members be advised of the change. Members and Regional Representatives could submit articles or reports to the Webmaster and these could be posted to the new web as Blogs.

The Committee agreed to abolish the Flying Times and to use the web site as the communications link to members. The Committee also agreed to the proposal to refund any payments received this year for hard copies of the Flying Times.