AFA Rule Notification to Members No. 51 – March 2015.

This rule Notification deals with the following:

1. Several minor changes to the Rules dealing with restricted entry competitions, checking of flyball boxes, equipment design specification for jumps, and the definition of duration of competitions. These minor changes are for immediate adoption in Rules (they are not on trial) and take effect from 1st April 2015:
2. The introduction, On Trial, of a new format of racing – Open format class racing The Rules for the new format will be on trail for a minimum 12 month period commencing 1st April 2015.
3. Amendments to AFA Policy No 5 – Nationals Planning and presentation Policy regarding arrangements for receipt of entries.

**Minor Rule changes.**

Section 1.1 (f) – add the words “ and /or dogs entered for” and delete the word “of” from the second last sentence in 1.1 (f). This sentence now reads “ Clubs notified that one or more of their nominated teams cannot be accepted due to competition limits may resubmit the seed times and/or dogs entered for their accepted teams within one week of the notification”.

Section 10.3 (a) (iv) reworded to read, “ Each box may be inspected by an officiating Judge and shall not be allowed if, in the opinion of the Judge, the box has been constructed or altered in a manner that does not meet the box requirements outlined in the Rules”.

AFA Equipment Standard no.1 – Standard for Jump Design.

Delete (Mandatory for adoption from 1st January 2012) from heading - past adoption date is no longer of interest.

Delete the third dot point dealing with Jump pads from the Specification – jump pads are no longer in use.

**Open Class Format.**

The AFA is introducing a new non regular class of racing that will allow composite teams to be formed solely for this class of racing without application of the 90 day Rule.

The On Trial Rules for this class are shown below:

**“Appendix E – Open Class Format**

Rules for Open Class format shall be the same as for ”normal” racing for the equivalent format (Round Robin or Elimination) except where specified

Otherwise in this Appendix.

1. To qualify for Open class dogs must have valid CRN.

3. Open teams can consist of a minimum of 4 dogs and a maximum of 6

dogs and dogs need not be from the same Club. (The 90-day Rule does

Not apply to open racing.)

7. Dogs entered in Open Class may also be entered in Regular Class

8. Dogs that have raced as open can be entered in regular classes at

Subsequent Competitions.

9. AFA Title points will be awarded to dogs in open competition under the

Normal rules – that is two points for a clean run win and one point for a

Clean run.

10.Open Teams are not eligible to claim Australian records

11.Open classes must involve a minimum of two nominated teams in

order to be conducted at any competition.

12. Where insufficient entries are received for Open Class, the competition organiser may combine Open with Veterans class.

13. Teams entered in Open class do not count towards Flyball Team of the Year, Flyball Club of the Year or Novice Flyball club of the Year award calculations.

Open Class of Competition – Handicap format.

Where there are insufficient teams entered for an Open Class at a

Competition resulting in the need for a single Division, or a limited number of

Divisions with wide ranges of seed times, Competition organisers may seek

Approval to run the Open Class as a handicap format.

Handicap open racing will be conducted in accordance with the following

rules:

All rules of Open Class of Competition apply.

All open teams will declare a seedtime based on the assessed minimum time of the 4 fastest dogs in the team. All teams will be subject to a break out time one second faster than their declared time. (Note – Judges have been asked to closely monitor any suggestion of sandbagging being displayed by teams involved in this format). The sound system on the Signature timing lights will be disconnected so that both teams receive light signals only. Open Teams will be subject to their own Divisional draw but organisers may spread Open races throughout the program rather than running as a separate class.

The handicap will be based on the difference in declared seed times for each

Open team in the Division and break out times will be one second faster than the declared seedtime for each team.

Programming of the console, including handicap and breakouts times, follows

the same process as set out under Champion trophy format.”

In consequence of the above new class some minor changes to other sections of the Rules are required. These are:

Section 1.1(g) (ii) add the word “open” before etc.

Section 1.1(g) (ii) add the words”except for Open class racing” at the end of line 3. This now reads “No dog shall be listed on more the timesheets for more than one class at any given event except for Open class racing.”

Section 2.4 (a) add the words” and open” before the last word “format”.

Policy 5 - Nationals Planning and Presentation Policy – add the words “or Open” after the word “Veterans” to the Section dealing with approval of formats.

Appendix – Veterans Class Format – add new point 12 “Where insufficient entries are received for Veterans class, the competition organiser may combine Veterans and Open Class”.

Rename existing Appendix E Schedule of Fees “Appendix F”.

**Policy 5 AFA Nationals Planning and Presentation Policy.**

The following words are to be added to the end of the Section dealing with “Entry Forms and closing dates”:

All entries are to be submitted to the appointed AFA independent entry receiver. The entry receiver will notify the AFA representative on the organising committee and the Competition Secretary of all entry details including seed times as soon as possible after the close date of entries