AFA Rule Notification to Members No. 62 – March 2017.

**This Rule Notification deals with the following two matters:**

**1.** Consideration of the existing Rules dealing with display of the dogs CRN. Given that each competing dog’s CRN information is available on each team’s timesheet consideration was given as to whether there was a need for a handler to display the dogs CRN as per the current rules. Given the increasing prevalence of dogs being run by members with a different membership number to the dogs CRN, consideration has been given to the rule being amended to require each member to display their membership number so that judges and other officials could be assured that all people running dogs were financial members of the AFA. In reality in most cases it is the members CRN that is currently displayed.

Consideration was also given to the application of section 5(h). Section 5(h) makes provisions for a team to forfeit a heat where a member, after being notified that they must display their dogs CRN, is later found to still not be displaying that CRN. It was suggested this provision was no longer required.

It was decided by the Committee that on an On Trail Basis from April 2017 the following rewording apply to Rule 5 (g)

“All competitors will display their membership number whilst racing. The membership number must be of a suitable size to be easily read by the Judge”.

The Committee also decided on an On Trail basis to delete section 5(h) dealing with penalty.

Both proposals were viewed to be changes to the rules and therefore needing to be treated as “On trial” effective from April 2017.

2. The second matter related to Microchipping of dogs. The committee discussed the application of the current microchipping requirements and the frequency with which these provisions are used. It was noted that there are several member jurisdictions that do not require dogs to be microchipped and hence members in these areas may not have microchips inserted.

Furthermore, to the best of the sub committees knowledge, the checking of a microchip number has only occurred in extremely rare circumstances and is not actively applied. Accordingly the Committee decided to delete the requirement in Section 6.2 to have dogs microchipped. Section 6.2 (b) was accordingly deleted on an On Trail basis as was Section 6.2 (e) and the remaining paras renumbered.

Both On-trial change to the rules effective April 2017.