

Rule Notification FY2324-7 – Policy and Manual Amendments

At its meetings on 11 December 2023 and 5 February 2024 the AFA committee resolved to amend various policies and manuals because of introduction of pairs racing. The policies amended are:

- Novelty Events Policy
- AFA Policy on the Authority to Alter Entries and Sanction Details.

In addition, amendments were made to the Timekeepers Manual and EJS Lights Manual for pairs racing to assist AFA Officials with the administration of pairs racing.

In addition, the Committee resolved to amend the Australian National Flyball Championships policy with respect to printing of catalogues and to give discretion to the race meeting organiser to classify a division as handicap format if criteria are met.

The amendments to the policies are effective immediately.

The policies and manuals published on the AFA website will be updated shortly.

Background

Pairs Racing

The Rules sub-committee identified that several policies, and manuals required amendment for pairs racing to aid race meeting organisers and AFA officials involved in running pairs racing.

It is expected that as pairs racing is conducted that additional instructions will be issued to deal with matters that arise. Apart from modifying the Rules the following documents were identified as requiring modification:

- Novelty Events Policy;
- AFA Policy on the Authority to Alter Entries and Sanction Details;
- EJS Lights Manual; and
- Timekeepers Manual.

In addition, changes have been made to the race application form, race entry form and points calculation process.

Nationals

Following a review of the Canberra Nationals 2023 the organising committee recommended to the AFA Committee review the printing of catalogues and the introduction of handicap divisions where appropriate.

Last year there was a division where the spread of seed/web times was 4 secs or greater those teams had to run under scratch format. The intent remains that the Nationals are run under scratch format.

The committee agreed to reduce the number of printed copies of the catalogue and give discretion to the Nationals race meeting organiser to seek approval from the authorised approver to run a division under handicap format if criteria are met.

Amendments

1. Novelty Events Policy

Insert the following definition:

normal team racing means any class of racing recognised by the AFA in the rules.

2. AFA Policy on the Authority to Alter Entries and Sanction Details.

Insert the following delegations:

- ***Run only pairs class at a race meeting when less than four teams enter in other classes*** – Primary approver – any two members of the Executive and Secondary approver – AFA Committee
- ***Run only pairs class when team(s) withdraw after close of entries leaving less than four teams in other classes*** – Primary approver – Authorised approver and Secondary approver – AFA Committee or any two members of the Executive.

3. EJS Lights Manual

Amendments highlighted in yellow background

Section 1.2

The underlying operating software for controlling all devices in the Signature EJS in accordance with the rules of Flyball racing **for all classes except pairs racing** has been pre-programmed into the console. This software is not accessible to operators.

Most of the pre-programmed features and capabilities also apply to pairs racing, except for heat win signalling and automatic breakout detection.

3.1 Basics & Getting Started

The Polaris Timing Console is the brain of the Signature Flyball timing system. It controls the operation of the other components, provides the operator interface for operating the system, and allows the setting of options and parameters to suit racing requirements. Functions include:

- Controls sequencing of the light trees during heat start, including managing false starts and delayed (handicap) starts;

- Displays start time, dog split times and total team run time;
- Monitors for infringements such as start faults, early crosses and delayed crosses;
- Displays heat winner (except for pairs racing);
- Monitors and alerts to breakouts (except for pairs racing);
- Sends timing information to the main display panels;
- Provides warmup timer.

In addition, the following sections have been updated to provide more clarity and information for use and troubleshooting for normal usage:

- Section 1.5.1 - Warmup (countdown) timer
- Section 1.5.2 - Breakouts
- Section 1.5.3 - Handicap starting
- Section 1.6.1 – Start fault options
- Section 1.8.3 – Disable/Enable False Start – Both lanes
- Section 2.3 – Assemble Signature Equipment
- Section 2.3.1 – Large Display / Scoreboards
- Section 3.1 – Basics and Getting Started
- Section 4 – Troubleshooting Guide

4. Timekeepers Manual.

Section 2.2 Timekeeper duties the reference to entering breakouts as amended to 2 decimal point.

Amendments highlighted in yellow background for the following sections

3.1 Record dogs

The **timekeeper** must circle the dogs running in each **heat** as advised by the **team captain** either verbally or by marking the **team copy timesheet**.

Notes:

1. In four-dog racing, even if there are only four dogs in a **team**, the **team captain** is still required to advise the **timekeeper** that these four dogs are racing in each **heat**.
2. In pairs racing, even if there are only two dogs, the **team captain** must still confirm that both dogs are racing in each **heat**.

Note: If there is no record of time for a **team** the **timekeeper** should write “no time” or a dash (-) on the **official timesheet**.

3.2 Record heat result

The **timekeeper** is required to record the result of each **heat** as advised by the **judge**.

The **timekeeper** must:

- circle the '4' for four-dog racing or the '2' for pairs racing when the **judge** advises that the **team** had a **clean run**.

3.3 Record other heat information

The **timekeeper** must record other information for the **heat** as advised by the **judge** which may include:

- B/O (Breakout): The **timekeeper** for a **racing lane** in which a **breakout** occurred must:
 - enter the **heat** completion time (as above);
 - circle '4' for four-dog racing or '2' for pairs racing;
 - circle 'L' and 'B/O';
 - advise the judge whether the breakout was a minor or a major breakout.

5. Amend Australian National Flyball Championships Policy

The new text for the change is highlighted in **yellow background**.

Approval of racing schedule

The **authorised approver** for the **Nationals** will be a group comprising:

- the **supervisory judge**; and
- two **regional representatives** (neither of whom may be from the State or Territory of the **host club**) appointed by the **AFA committee**.

The **race meeting organiser** must submit the proposed **division** splits to the **supervisory judge** as soon as possible after the **close of entry date** but not less than four weeks before the event.

As soon as practical after the **division** splits are approved the **race meeting organiser** must submit the balance of the **racing schedule** to the **supervisory judge**. The typical expectations are:

- racing in **round robin format**;
- each **division** in **regular class** running in **scratch format**;
- each **team** having six best three of five **heats races** per day (or an equivalent number of **heats**). Where this is not achievable all **teams** should run approximately the same number of **races** over the course of the event;
- minimum rest period for a **team** between adjacent **races** of:
 - four **races** where the **team** will be racing in one **ring** only;
 - eight **races** where the **team** may be racing in two **rings**;
 - 12 **races** where the **team** may be racing in three **rings**;

- additional **rings** if more than 25 **teams** are entered;
- use of the count back method for breaking ties in placings.

The **race meeting organiser** may request approval from the **authorised approver** for a **division** to be in **handicap format** where the best available **division** split results in a **division** of three or more **teams** with a **division spread** of more than two seconds.

Catalogue

A catalogue must be produced and made available:

- on the **AFA** website; and
- by giving one hard copy to every **team**, to each timing table, and having a reasonable number of additional hard copies available for use of **officials** during the event.