

Rule Notification FY2425-11 Consequences of interference before a heat

At its meeting on 5 May 2025 the AFA committee resolved to amend the rules so that when interference occurs before a heat, including during the warm up period, the offending dog's team forfeits the next heat but that heat is not run.

The change to the rules is set out below. It will be effective from 1 July 2025 and will be included in the next published version of the rules.

Background

The rules currently provide that when interference occurs before a heat, including during the warm up period, the offending dog's team forfeits the next heat. However that heat is still required to be run and to win the heat the non-offending team must finish the heat. This contrasts with the position when interference occurs during a heat where a win is automatically awarded to the non-offending team.

There is also an anomaly in the way title points are earned. Where a heat is run after interference dogs in the non-offending team can earn two title points for a clean run whereas for interference during a heat those dogs earn a single point.

The committee considered that there should be consistency regardless of when the interference occurs and that the best way to achieve this is to amend the rules so that when interference occurs before a heat the heat is not run, the non-offending team is awarded a win for the heat and each dog listed to run for the non-offending team in the heat earns one title point.

Rule changes

The first bullet point in rule 6.17 is amended to read as follows:

- before a **heat**, including during the **warm up period**, the **team** forfeits the next **heat** and that **heat** will not be run;

The second bullet point in rule 6.212 is amended to read as follows:

- if the forfeit relates to a subsequent **heat** and is for a reason other than **interference**, both **teams** must run the subsequent **heat**; however, the **heat** will not be **restarted** for a **false start** by the forfeiting **team**, and dogs in the forfeiting **team** may not run again after a fault.

In rule 9.1 a new bullet point is inserted after the second bullet point as follows:

- when a **team** must forfeit a subsequent **heat** for **interference**, each dog in the opposing **team** listed on the **official timesheet** to run in the subsequent **heat** earns one **title point**;