

## Rule Notification FY2425-5 Dog Capability

At its meeting on 6 January 2025 the AFA committee resolved to amend the rule regarding excluding a dog on the basis of the assessment by a judge or AFA representative that the dog is unable to complete the course or is not in sufficient control by specifying consequences for an excluded dog and providing for concerned members to report behaviour.

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

Effective from 1 January 2024 the rules were changed on an on-trial basis to give judges and AFA representatives the power to exclude a dog from a flyball event if in their opinion the dog was not capable of completing the course safely (refer to Rule Notification FY2324-3). The rule change was subsequently approved by members by a poll conducted prior to the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

In reviewing the operation of the rule the rules sub-committee observed that the rules are silent on consequences for a dog excluded under this rule. The sub-committee considered that the exclusion should be treated in the same way as if the dog had been issued a black card. It was noted that this corresponds with how a dog is treated when excluded by an AFA representative under rule 7.5. The committee also considered that members should be able to formally report relevant behaviour.

### Rule change

The following paragraphs are inserted at the end of rule 4.5:

The exclusion of a dog by a **judge** or **AFA representative** under this provision is equivalent to the issue of a black card to the dog by a **judge** under rule 6.23 and is to be dealt with in the same way.

Any **AFA member** who believes that a dog is unable to safely complete the course or is not in sufficient control to compete in a safe manner should bring this to the attention of the **judge** or **AFA representative**.