

Rule Notification FY2425-7 Preparing and Approving a Running Order

At its meeting on 3 March 2025 the AFA committee resolved to replace Appendix 9 to the rules which was intended to assist authorised approvers in approving running orders.

The new Appendix 9 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

Concerns had been expressed that Appendix 9 did not explicitly require a running order to include adequate breaks between a team's scheduled races but merely required consideration to be given to include an unspecified break where a team had a gap of three races or less.

The committee considered that having regard to the health and safety of dogs that both race meeting organisers and authorised approvers should be responsible for ensuring that a break of at least 15 minutes is inserted in a running order where a team has a gap of less than three clear races.

The committee also considered that the questions posed in Appendix 9 should be expressed as mandatory requirements so as to reduce the scope for disagreements between race meeting organisers and authorised approvers.

Rule change

Appendix 9 to the rules is replaced with the following:

Appendix 9. Preparing and Approving a Running Order

The purpose of this Appendix is to assist **race meeting organisers** when preparing, and **authorised approvers** when asked to approve, a **running order**. The **running order** is **prepared** after the **division splits** and racing format have been approved.

1. Each **team** must be allocated the appropriate number of **races** for the approved racing format.
2. Each **team** must have an equal (or balanced) number of **races** in both the left and the right **racing lanes**. *Note: When a **team** has an uneven number of **races**, it cannot have an equal number of **races** in each **racing lane**.*
3. All **teams** within the one **division** must have roughly the same minimum and maximum gaps between **races**. Example below:

Division	Team	Lane	Race Number				Biggest gap	smallest gap
1	C	Left	17	26	31	35	14	4
		Right	5	9	13	39		
	D	Left	3	7	12	39	10	4
		Right	17	22	27	33		
	E	Left	1	5	15	33	7	3
		Right	12	21	26	37		
2	F	Left	24	40			10	8
		Right	6	16	32			
3	G	Left	2	19	7		11	5
		Right	14	40				
	H	Left	11	32			14	6
		Right	2	25	38			
	I	Left	8	14	38		10	4
		Right	24	28				

- If any **team** has a gap of less than three clear **races** the **running order** must include a scheduled break of at least 15 minutes between the relevant **races**.
- Teams** from the same **club** should not have back-to-back **races**. When this is unavoidable the **club's teams** should be allocated to the same **racing lane** if possible. *Note: Colour coding of clubs on a spreadsheet is an effective way of identifying clashes.*
- The **running order** should identify when each **division** completes a round in **round robin format**.