**AFA Notification No. 78 December 2019.**

**This Notification deals with a number of Rule clarifications/amendments and some associated changes to Policies and Guidelines documents :**

1. **Review of policy of non AFA members being allowed in flyball ring.**

The Committee reconsider the acceptability of having non- financial members of the AFA in the ring and allowed to act as stewards, shaggers or boxloaders. The review also aimed to provide clarification re young children being taken into the ring by parents/guardians who were racing a dog. After discussion, and recognizing the new insurance situation, the Committee decided that effective from 1st January 2020 **no** non- financial AFA members would be permitted to enter the flyball ring, except at sanctioned training days where members of the public are allowed to participate under supervision. In considering the matter of young children being in the ring it was agreed that Junior members under parent/guardian supervision were allowed in the ring PROVIDED they were considered not to pose a safety risk by their involvement. Children who are not Junior members are not permitted in the ring at any time. ( Note the Committee has agreed that it will further consider the matter of how it might reintroduce the concept of Honorary members being allowed to assist in the ring at competitions whilst also ensuring that insurance requirements were meet).

1. **Amendments to Policy 4 and Guideline 1 dealing with cancellation of an AFA event before the event commences.( Effective for Comps closing on or after 1st January 2020).**

The decision taken at the 2019 AGM, requiring competition organisers to use text messages to notify teams of the cancellation of a competition, if that decision was made before the competition was commenced and whilst teams were likely to be travelling, necessitated amendments to AFA Policy 4 dealing with Competition Cancellation and Guideline 1 dealing with Hosting an AFA Sanctioned Race meeting.

The following has been added after Point 27 in Guideline 1:

**CANCELLATION PROCEDURE BEFORE EVENT COMMENCES**

If within 24 hours prior to the commencement of the event that due to matters beyond the control of the event organiser there is a likelihood the event could be cancelled then the organiser is to communicate with team contacts in accordance with Policy 4 – Competition Cancellation Policy. Team contacts are also required to follow the process within that policy.

Insert in the “Day Before” section of the FINAL CHECKLIST

* Make sure the team contact list is printed and available in case of possible event cancellation.

**Policy 4 Competition Cancellation Policy has also been amended as follows:**

**Cancellation of event before teams arrive**

The Competition Organiser must have, before the commencement of the event, a Team Contact text group list that contains mobile numbers that has been compiled from the event entry forms.

If the event is to be cancelled prior to the arrival of travelling teams or individual members then the **Competition Organiser is responsible** for sending a text to all Team Contacts that the event has been cancelled.

**Team Contacts are responsible** for passing on any information they receive to their team members.

This process is a Best Endeavours approach where the Competition Organiser’s responsibility ends once the text is sent; he/she will not be held accountable for failures in the text delivery system.

1. **Amendments to Australian Record Run verification process and associated Form ( Effective from 1st January 2020) .**

The process for verification of an Australian record run required amendment to reflect the introduction of handicap racing format option in regular competition. This was necessary to allow times ( with handicap removed )

established under handicap format to be recognized for Australian record purpose. A amended Form incorporating this circumstance has been added and the following amended wording to Rule 2.6 dealing with Record Times has been added to Rules:

       Section 2.6 – Record Times

       The requirements for having an Australian record time recognised are:

       (a) The heat must be run under electronic timing;

         b) A continuous video of the heat must be made that includes the start, all passes and the finish, and showing the console display and the time sheet after the completion of the heat. During the heat, the video must be in line with the start / finish line, with a clear view of the gate poles and the light tree;

       (c) If the heat is a Handicapped heat, then the handicap actually entered must be recalled to the console display and videoed as part of the continuous take, and verified by the Judge;

         (d) The Judge must confirm that the heat was completed in compliance with the Rules of Racing;

       (e) The heat must be timed with a stopwatch when the video is reviewed to confirm that the take is of the actual run in question;

         f) The Judge and two neutral members of the AFA Committee must complete and sign Form C13.

1. **Amendment is designed to provide guidance to Organisers and officials involved in approving competition Formats and Division splits**. **( On Trial effective from 1st January 2020).**(Guideline 3 dealing with calculating Division Splits will be updated in due course to reflect amended Rules).

The following amended Section 1.3 and 2.7 reflects the main elements of the change:

**REVISE Section 1.3 – Racing Divisions, Format and Running Order**

a)   The racing divisions, format and running order for each race meeting must be approved by a Regional Representative or the Supervisory Judge.

b)   The Race Meeting Organiser must send the proposed racing divisions, format and running order to the Regional Representative or Supervisory Judge not less than seven days before the race meeting.

c)   Promptly after the racing divisions, format and running order are approved the host club must make them available on the AFA website.

d)   In determining divisions for a race meeting the following criteria apply:

i)     single team divisions are not permitted – each division must have a minimum of three teams unless the Regional Representative or the Supervisory Judge agrees to approve a division comprising two teams;

ii)    combined divisions are not permitted;

iii)  where the Division Spread is one second or less the division must be run in non-handicap format;

iv)  where the Division Spread is more than two seconds the division must be run in handicap format;

v)   where the Division Spread is more than one second but not more than two seconds the division may be run in non-handicap or handicap format at the election of the Race Meeting Organiser in consultation with the Regional Representative or Supervisory Judge.

e)   The race meeting format includes:

i)     the divisions and whether each division will be run in non-handicap or handicap format;

ii)    the teams in each division and their respective seed times (either Web Seed Time or Declared Seed Time) and breakout times;

iii)  the format of racing, for example, round robin, single elimination, double elimination, or a combination of round robin and elimination;

iv)  The number of round robins per division;

v)   the number of heats per race;

vi)  how ties will be broken.

**ADD New Definition in Section 2.7**

**Division Spread:**the difference between the fastest and slowest seed times (whether Web Seed Times or Declared Seed Times) of the teams in a racing division.

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