

## Rule Notification FY2425-12 Use of declared seed times

Following its meeting on 5 May 2025 the AFA committee resolved to amend the rules to clarify that if a team includes four dogs which have together set a web seed time for any team the team cannot use a declared seed time slower than that web seed time and to specify potential consequences for a team which submits a declared seed time slower than its deemed web seed time.

The changes will be effective from 1 July 2025 and will be included in the next published version of the rules.

### Background

The AFA committee has for some time been concerned about the misuse of declared seed times. In 2022 a number of changes were made to the rules in an attempt to strengthen provisions around the use of declared seed times and ensure these are used fairly. Those changes included reducing the gap between seed times and breakout times and introducing the concept of a major breakout.

The then AFA committee also considered a proposal to clarify the rules by expressly preventing teams which included the same dogs as were in a team with an existing web seed time from submitting a slower declared seed time. At the time it was decided not to proceed with changes to the rules pending clarification as to how this could be monitored.

Following some recent incidents brought to the committee's attention the committee concluded that the previously proposed change should now be implemented. The committee is continuing to review ways to automatically monitor compliance but considers that in fairness to all teams implementation of the change should not be deferred until automated monitoring is available.

### Rule changes

Amend rule 2.9 as follows:

In the first bullet point, insert after "does not have": ", or is not deemed to have,".

Insert after the note:

If a **team** includes four dogs that have together set the **web seed time** for any **team** then:

- the **team** is deemed to have that **web seed time**; and
- the **team** may not elect to use a **declared seed time** slower than its deemed **web seed time**.

If a **team** breaches this rule and the breach is discovered before racing starts the action to be taken will be determined by:

- the **race meeting organiser** and the **authorised approver** when the breach is discovered before the day of the **race meeting**; or

- the **race meeting organiser**, an officiating **judge** and an officiating **AFA representative** if the breach is discovered on the day of the **race meeting**.

The action taken may include:

- recalculating the **division split** and producing a new **running order**;
- not altering the **division split** but requiring the **team** to use the **web seed time** and, if appropriate, changing the relevant **division** to **handicap format**;
- declaring the **team** to be non-competitive;
- excluding the **team** from the **race meeting**.

If the breach is discovered after racing starts:

- the **team** will forfeit all **heats** run before the breach was discovered; and
- the **team** will be declared to be non-competitive.

*Note: For provisions applying to **non-competitive teams** see rule 5.10.*

If the breach is discovered after the end of the **race meeting** the **team** forfeits any placement at the **race meeting**.

Amend rule 9.1 as follows:

In the fourth paragraph insert before “rule 4.4”: rule 2.9 or”.

Insert after the existing paragraph four:

All **title points** earned by every dog in a **team** at a **race meeting** will be cancelled if the **team** is found to have breached rule 2.9 by electing to use a **declared seed time** slower than its deemed **web seed time**.

In the existing seventh paragraph insert at the start of the first bullet point: “unless the **team** was declared non-competitive under rule 2.9”.