



# Judges Manual

Australian Flyball Association Inc.

**2015**

The AFA highly recommends this manual to all Accredited Judges,  
Provisional Judges and interested AFA Members for a better  
insight to the AFA Rules and Policies

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## **Judges Mission Statement**

**The Mission of Australian Flyball Association Judges and Stewards is to:**

- 1. Provide the highest standard of representation at all Competitions and Demonstrations.**
- 2. Encourage and foster the highest standards of officiating amongst AFA Judges and Stewards on and off the field; and**
- 3. Promote and advance the institutions of Judging and Stewarding and the Sport of Flyball.**

**Values Statement:**

**Australian Flyball Association Judges and Stewards are committed to fostering the core values of:**

**Respect, Integrity, Fairness, Trust.**

**Principles:**

**AFA Flyball Judges and Stewards:**

- 1. See officiating at the highest level as a professional responsibility and not simply a recreation or a hobby;**
- 2. Recognise that they are ambassadors of Judging and of the sport of Flyball and as such have a responsibility to positively promote these institutions;**
- 3. Must enshrine the AFA values (ie. Respect, Integrity, Fairness and Trust) into every element of the organisations activities.**

**Objectives:**

- 1. Improve the professionalism of all AFA accredited officials.**
- 2. Ensure an appropriate training and development system is implemented for the benefit of all AFA Judges.**
- 3. Maximise Judges' potential through communication of information.**

# Judges Code Of Conduct

## References:

- Chapter 2 – Rules for Competition
- Section 2.1 - Code of Ethics
- Section 2.2 - Misconduct
- Chapter 10 - Judge's, Stewards, Timekeepers and AFA Rep.
- Section 10.2 - Judge's Guidelines

## **Explanation:**

When a member undertakes the process to be a Judge it is up to the AFA to support and point them in the right direction. As an Accredited Judge within the AFA you are looked up to by its members as a person that knows the rulings and answers. It is your job to know these and you should continually review the AFA Rules, Policies and Guidelines as well as the new AFA Committee policies which are posted to the AFA website and in Notifications. At all times you should carry a pocket rule book with you in the ring for the (tricky) reference questions. If you don't know the answer then you should say so and then either look it up or ask another Judge.

As a Judge your job is to oversee the ring and everything that happens inside the ring. Incidents that happen outside the Ring are the responsibility of the appointed AFA Representative and should be brought to that persons attention if witnessed by a Judge.

The Signature Judging System ultimately decides which team wins the heat. Decisions should be based on the electronic system, and not overruled by a stewards flag unless it is clear that the system has malfunctioned. With the Signature sets, if the staring poles aren't on and working correctly you can't start a heat with the lights. Line stewards will then be responsible for manual timing, fouling (flagging) the bad changeovers and the false starts as well as other errors. Under no circumstances should a judge continue to use electronic judging if it is not working correctly.

Once you are a Judge any action performed whether as a competitor or Judge will be seen by other members as either positive or negative. At no point should a Judge while being a competitor ever show any of the following whilst in the ring.

- Not being courteous and friendly in manner.
- Purposely delaying the restart of a heat.
- Show displeasure with a dog, a Judge, Stewards, AFA representative, host club, sponsor, other AFA member or spectator in or out of the ring. eg: showing dissent by word or actions.
- Demonstration of poor sportsmanship.
- Entering the ring to set up for a new race before the Judge has declared the previous race.
- Any other behaviour or altercation that would leave a spectator or exhibitor with an unfavourable opinion of the sport of flyball.
- Inhumane treatment of a dog. (includes racing a dog under 12 months of age).
- Abusive or foul language.
- Demonstration of dissatisfaction with a Judge's decision. This includes approaching stewards or timekeepers to question them about the decision and/or personally contradicting another judges ruling in the ring.
- Willful violation of the rules with the intent to gain an unfair advantage. (includes sandbagging).

## Items to take into the Ring

- whistle, rule book, signal cards, notebook, pen or pencils

## Handling a Protest of Offence

### Handling A Protest Or Offence

#### **References:**

Chapter 2 – Rules for Competition  
Section 2.5 Protests

### **Protests during Racing at a Competition or Demonstration**

(a) Where a Flyball Judge reports a Competitor, Dog or Official during the course of a Competition or Demonstration, the Flyball Judge shall use his or her best endeavours to inform the Competitor, Dog's Owner or Official of the report:-

- (i) At the time of the incident; or
- (ii) Before the commencement of the next heat;

(b) Apart from informing a Competitor, Dog's Owner or Official of the report, a Judge shall not speak with the reported Person or any other Persons about the report which has been made.

### **Explanation:**

- Protests must be lodged with the Judge before the start of the next heat.
- The Judge must speak to the person and the Team Captain of the team making the protest and if need be, speak to the appropriate Stewards, Timekeepers and others and decide on the action to be taken.
- Action may be taken by use of the Signal Card System
- The decision must be explained to the appropriate person lodging the protest and their Team Captain. The AFA Representative on the day should be informed on any continuing dispute.
- Breaches of interference must be noted on the Time Sheets by the Timekeeper on the advice of the Judge and Signal Cards shown.

### **Reportable Offences**

- Judges and /or the AFA Representative are responsible for reporting any offences committed within 500 metres of the ring area.
- The incident must be entered on the Incident Report Form and sent to the AFA Secretary within 48 hours (or advise that the Form will be delayed)
- Witnesses filing a report on the incident must complete a Statutory Declaration Form, signed and witnessed by the appropriate person (AFA Representative, State Representative). The Statutory Declaration may be given to the AFA Representative on the day or sent directly to the AFA Secretary within 48 hours of the incident.
- Action will be taken by the Judge in the ring in the form of the Signal Card System if appropriate.

**PLEASE NOTE: As a Judge is it your responsibility to ensure your reports are submitted to the AFA Secretary within 48 hours of any incident that require you to do so - failure to do so could result in disciplinary procedures being taken by the AFA Committee on any party involved in the delay of these reports.**

## **Specific Offences**

Any of the following types of conduct can be a Reportable Offence (ie a matter reported to the AFA for action):-

- a) Not being courteous and friendly in manner,
- b) Purposely delaying the restart of a heat,
- c) Show displeasure with a dog, a Judge, Stewards, AFA representative, host club, sponsor, other AFA member or spectator in or out of the ring. eg: showing dissent by word or actions,
- d) Demonstration of poor sportsmanship,
- e) Entering the ring to set up for a new race before the Judge has declared the previous race,
- f) Any other behaviour or altercation that would leave a spectator or exhibitor with an unfavourable opinion of the sport of Flyball,
- g) Inhumane treatment of a dog. (Includes racing a dog under 12 months of age).
- h) Abusive or foul language,
- i) Demonstration of dissatisfaction with a Judge's decision,
- j) Willful violation of the rules with the intent to gain an unfair advantage. (includes sandbagging),
- k) Third offence of interference,
- l) Aggression whether it be between dogs or handlers. It will also include a dog that is suspected of aggression,
- m) any act of misconduct,
- n) Intimidation of a Judge, Steward or Official,
- o) Receiving a Yellow Card,
- p) Receiving a Red Card.
- q) Receiving a Black Card,

## **Reporting Procedure**

### **Reports During A Competition or Demonstration**

#### **Completing Notice of Report**

- (a) During a Competition or Demonstration or after the completion of the Competition or Demonstration, the Flyball Judge shall complete a notice of report in the form prescribed by the Australian Flyball Association.
- (b) The Australian Flyball Association shall implement rules which prescribe the procedures for the lodgment and notification of notices of report and how hearings will be conducted.

## **Sanctions and Suspensions**

#### **AFA Committee**

(a) The AFA Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by The AFA Committee shall hear and determine a report made against a Person and if the report is proven, the Committee may impose such sanctions (including suspension for any term), make such orders and give such directions in each case as it in its absolute discretion thinks fit.

(b) The AFA Committee may prescribe set sanctions for Reportable Offences.

#### **Delegation**

The AFA Committee may delegate the power to investigate, hear and determine a report to a Sub-Committee or other similar body duly established and constituted in accordance with the AFA's Constitution. Any appointed Sub Committee will submit its final Report with any recommendations

regarding action to the Committee for decision. A judge may be required to submit a report to the AFA investigating Committee.

### **Rules of Protocol**

The AFA Committee shall adopt Rules that prescribe the procedures for the hearing and determination of any report. Such rules must prescribe that the person reported be given reasonable opportunity to be heard.

### **Effect of Suspension**

A person suspended by the AFA Committee is, for the period of the suspension, prohibited from playing or participating in a competition or demonstration conducted by the AFA

## **Signal Cards**

### **References:**

Chapter 9 – Rules of Racing  
Section 9.2 (r) - The Race

### **Explanation:**

The Judge or AFA Representative must report any Dog, Handler or Official who :

- Is Carded or Excused from a competition or demonstration to the AFA within 48 hours. All incidents must be advised to the AFA either in writing or via the AFA web reporting portal. All Witness statements will only be admissible as evidence to the AFA on a Statutory Declaration Form. (Available from the AFA Representative)
- Witnesses are permitted to file their own Statutory Declaration provided the AFA Secretary receives the Statutory Declaration within 48 hours after the completion of the Competition or Demonstration.

No other form of documentation other than those prescribed above will be permitted as evidence.

### **Judges will not report evidence based on hearsay.**

Witnesses who indicate they wish to lodge a Statement must be informed that all Statements must be delivered to the AFA Secretary on the prescribed documentation within the 48 hour time period or their statements may be excluded from all inquiries into the incident. (The AFA Representative can receive reports on the day and it then becomes their responsibility to ensure these reports are forwarded and received by the AFA within 48 hours.)

A new report shall be completed for each incident.

**Judges and AFA Representatives failing to ensure their documentation is correctly filled out and submitted to the AFA Secretary within the 48 hour time frame may be subject to discipline action.**

**PLEASE NOTE: It is mandatory to explain your decisions clearly and ensure that competitors understand your decisions before returning to racing. The AFA is aware that Judges occasionally leave competitors with an impression that they are being treated unfairly for incidents that don't fall under the carding system.**

## Timesheets

### References:

Chapter 5 - Teams and Timesheets  
AFA Timekeepers Manual

### ***How to fill out a timesheet correctly***

Refer to the Timekeepers Manual for specific instructions on completing a timesheet correctly.

### **Explanation:**

The AFA requires duplicate timesheets. An original copy printed on white paper, which stays at the timing table and a coloured copy for teams. Teams use their copy to check the data on the original timesheet is correct prior to signing off the timesheet. This is to ensure race points are correct for the correct dogs.

Timesheets are not to be altered or removed from the timekeepers table by any member of a team or any person other than the Judges or AFA representative.

Between races it is your job to ensure that the previous race you judged has been filled out correctly by the timekeepers this includes dogs being circled, and cards issued recorded against the heat and in the header of the timesheet. If there are errors consult with the team captain, timekeepers, AFA Representative and anyone else you need to, to correct the timesheet. Signing the timesheet at the end of the day indicates to the AFA that everything on the timesheet is true and correct and it has been filled out correctly so please ensure to the best of your ability that this is so.

Write on timesheets in black or blue ink. Do not highlight any part of the original copy. The timesheets are scanned and highlighted data becomes obscure.

## Meaningless Heats

### References:

Chapter 1 – Hosting a Sanctioned Competition of Racing  
Section 5 - Meaningless Heats

### **Explanation:**

If a competition finishes early, the competition organizer cannot add on another round robin or run offs for the sake of gaining titles points. Only what has been approved by the AFA for the scheduled competition can be run.

## Leg Wrap

### References:

Chapter 9 – Rules of Racing  
Section 9.4 Lamé Dogs, Bitches in Season, Dogs Recovering from Surgery,  
Leg Wrapping

### **Explanation:**

The most common type of leg wrap used is vet wrap. Other types can be thermal material held with velcro or just a normal crepe bandage. All leg wrap is to be checked by the judge prior to racing. A written health clearance by a veterinarian initially overrides a judge's assessment. A review of the dog racing ability may be done during a competition.



## Whistles

### **Explanation:**

The Judges' whistle should be readily accessible. Start each the whistle in your mouth.



heat with

This will enable the you to have both hands free to signal and at the same time be able to blow the whistle without hesitation. In flyball racing the need to blow the whistle happens in an instant. Either have it on a string around your neck or in your hand. Do not put your whistle in your pocket during the heat.

## **Vetting**

Bitches in season are not permitted to race flyball, they are a distraction. Before racing commences (on each day of a 2-day competition), request handlers submit entire bitches for an oestrus check. You will need

- gloves & tissues
- not stress the bitch
- locate the vulva
- be able to recognise the result

Any discharge from the vulva indicates the bitch is in oestrus and may not compete at the competition.

## **Measuring Dogs & Height Cards**

### **References:**

Chapter 6 - Measuring and Height Cards  
Section 6.1 - Measuring  
Section 6.2 - Height Cards

### **Explanation:**

Dog standing properly to be measured

The front legs will be vertical with the paws directly below the shoulders. The back legs will be positioned with the hocks perpendicular to the ground and spread no wider than the width of the dog. The dog's entire head is to be in an upright position above the level of the withers as shown in the above illustration. The dog may be measured up to 3 times. The height measurement shall go to the lowest height for the benefit of the dog.

### **Explanation:**

Do not sign off on height cards when dogs are not standing correctly. A dog should be able to free stand in the correct stance before a Judge can sign off on the height measurement. Height cards can be contested so please ensure that you take the time to measure every dog correctly.

PLEASE NOTE: When you are measuring a dog ensure there are not two or more handlers trying to make the dog stand for measuring. There can only be one handler with the dog and ensure that there is clear space around the dog for at least 6 feet.

## **Balls**

Balls need to roll and bounce. Some squishy balls don't bounce. A check of the balls prior to the commencement of a competition is preferred, but balls can be checked whilst judging. Give a warning to the handler in the first instance. Second offence is a deliberate breach of the Rules.

## Runners and Ball shaggers

A team is allowed 2 extra people besides the handlers (one per dog) in the ring when they are racing. These extra people are usually called a runner or a ball shagger. They are in no way to obstruct the view of Judge while a heat is being run. Nor are they allowed to cross the centre line at the back of the ring unless retrieving loose balls. If they interfere with the opposing team in any way they will cause their team to forfeit the heat.

## Training in the Ring

### References:

Chapter 8 - Practice Runs  
Notification 16

### Explanation:

The competition ring is to be used for competition racing only. The Ring becomes the competition ring 30 minutes prior to the announced start time of racing. Only by prior agreement with the AFA committee and advertised on the entry form (if the competition organiser has had prior notice) may the ring be used for training and demonstration purposes during the lunch period by dogs NOT entered for that competition.

All other demonstrations, non AFA sanctioned competitions or training must be done in a separate ring area set up specifically for this purpose.

This includes any team that for one reason or another continues to run as a non-competitive team. You are not allowed to use the ring as a training facility. If you do wish to continue to run non-competitively your dogs need to be competent at their runs and not interfere with the team in the other lane that is racing. If your dogs are not competent you will be requested by the Judge to not run your dogs again. At any time a team may request that you do no run.

## Collars

### References:

Chapter 8 Practice Runs  
Paragraph (e)

### Explanation:

Part (e) of chapter 8 excludes any sort of training collar.

The current AFA committee considers that citronella collars should not be used in Flyball Training or competition, because the use of citronella collars in the ring contravenes the AFA's training in the ring rules and policies and citronella spray may interfere with dogs in and outside the ring.

Other examples would be prong collars, check chains, shock collars etc, etc. The committee believes that to get the best from any dog participating in flyball training and competition has to be a positive experience at all times for your dog. Disciplining of dogs in flyball even to the point of growling the word "NO" to your dog is not acceptable and could cause your team to be penalised.

## Starting Heats

### **Explanation:**

The aim of the AFA is to have a universal Judging system. Due to the number of AFA Judges it is important that judges have a consistent starting sequence. This will enable any competitor from any State to know how the heat will be started by any Judge at any competition.

- There is always a timed warm up period between races. The Judge should give a 30 second warning for the commencement of the first heat. This can be difficult if a Judge is involved in a discussion involving a protest or a ruling. But Judges at all times should be ready with their 30 second warning. The Judge may rely on the Signature system VDU countdown time to display 30 seconds remaining in the warm up period.
- When the warm up time has reached its limit the Judge will turn around facing the teams and blow their whistle and tell the teams to **'Line Them Up'**.
- A check of stewards, timekeepers can be done in the warm up time and/or after the teams have been told to 'Line Them Up' to ensure they are all ready.
- The Judge will then make the statement (not ask a question) **'Teams Ready'** Look at the teams to ensure coherence.
- The next statement facing the teams is **'Watch the Lights' (the heat is now started)** the Judge will then turn around and start the lights off on their countdown.

If teams are not ready to go the Judge is **still required to start the first heat** of the race. That would depend on the reason that a team might not be ready, for example, a dog that has slipped out of its harness. If a team does not race the first heat because they are not ready they will forfeit that heat. They are allowed to finish getting ready between the first and second heats. But if this takes longer than three minutes from when the teams were supposed to enter the ring then the team that has failed to be ready will then forfeit the race.

Exemption would be when there are two rings and the team/club has notified you that they will be held up because members of their team/club required for the race are in the other ring competing. This exemption does not include a delay for the team changing dogs to race in the same ring.

If the team cannot show just cause for being late they will then be excused from the rest of the competition.

### **Explanation:**

At the end of each heat but before declaring the said heat, the Judge must check with both line stewards and the rear inbound steward by asking 'anything to report?'

## Indicating False Starts

### **References:**

Chapter 9 - Rules of Racing  
Section 9.2 - The Race

### ***electronic starting lights***

### **Explanation:**

The timing lights will foul a red light for the offending dog's team. The Judge will stop the heat by blowing their whistle as loud as they can (please ensure the whistle is in your mouth at the start of every heat). At the same time signaling which team false started by raising a left or right clenched fist toward the light tree. (See diagram). Where both teams false start raise both left and right clenched fists toward the light tree.

### **no electronic starting lights**

**Explanation:**

With manual timing it will be up to the line steward to watch for false starts as listed above as they are the only person in a position to see the line clearly. There must be a definite infraction to be flagged. This instruction should be given to the line steward at the steward's pre race talks. The Judge signals the false start in the same way as with electronic starting lights.

***Clarification of Rule regarding rerunning a heat after a false start.*****Explanation:**

The Committee noted that the wording of the AFA Rules (Section 5b) indicates the Team CANNOT substitute a dog, as the heat has not ended. There is no reference in the current Rules however that prevents a change in the teams running order, including changing the start dog. The Committee confirmed that the wording of NAFA Rules are the same as the AFA Rules in this regard and that NAFA has always allowed teams to change running orders in a rerun but not substitute a dog. The Committee was advised that AFA Judges have generally interpreted the Rule to require the same running order to be maintained in the rerun. Given this is not stated anywhere in the Rules the Committee determined that a clarification should be issued indicating teams are free to alter running order where a false start has occurred but cannot substitute a dog.

**Signals for False Starts**

Judges Signal for false starts:

by raising a left or right clenched fist toward the light tree. (See diagram). Where both teams false start raise both left and right clenched fists toward the light tree.

**Double False Starts**

A double false start occurs when the first dog from both teams crosses the start line before the light has turned green. The EJS system in this instance will come up with a red foul light in each lane.

The correct procedure for a double false start is that both teams get penalised for the false start and the heat should be restarted under the same conditions as for a normal false start. If either team false starts again that dog will then have to run again at the **end** of the line up.

**Reruns:****References:**

Chapter 9 Rules of Racing  
Section 9.2 (n) - Fouls

**Explanation:**

It clearly states in the AFA Rules & Policies that if a dog has to rerun that it must run at the end of the lineup after the other dogs in the team have made their run.

This includes any dog that has crossed the start line; eg: A dog crosses the start line doesn't want to take the first jump and turns around and goes back to its handler. This dog should then move to the back of the lineup. In 90% of cases because these dogs and handlers are usually new to competition, their handler will

continue to try to get their dog to run. Sometimes they will try 5 or 6 times before one of their fellow team members tells them to stop or their dog runs. If the other team has finished, stop the heat after two rerun attempts. Any further attempts can be considered training in the ring. There are times when permitting several attempts at a rerun may give a heat result.

This handler should move to the back of the line up after the first time their dog refused to complete the course.

The only dog on a team that is able to get two consecutive goes at its run on the flyball course is the dog that runs last.

### **Signals for Reruns**

Judges Signal for Reruns:

by raising the left and/or right hand horizontal to the ground with pointing finger/s indicating the number of dog/s required to rerun. (See diagram) As the rerun commences the signal is withdrawn.



1 dog to rerun right lane



1 dog to rerun left lane

## **Manual Timing**

### **References:**

Chapter 1 - Hosting a Sanctioned Competition

Section 1.4 - Seed Times and Break Out Penalties

Chapter 10 - Judges & Stewards - Manual Timing

Section 10.1 - Judges

### **Explanation:**

Your starting cadence should be: "ON YOUR MARK" (1000) "READY" (1000) "SET" (1000) "WHISTLE" (Blow your whistle).

Determining the winner of the heat is not done by stop watch times. It is done by the line stewards who are in the best position to see the line clearly. If there is difficulty in determining a winner then a tie or a dead heat can be awarded by the judge.

The stop watch time is not taken into consideration when determining the winner. The stop watch times are to be written on the time sheet as they are received by the timekeeper from the line stewards. They should not be changed because a slower time may have gone to a winning team. The "M" on the timesheet should be circled and the rest of the timesheet should be filled out the same a normal.

## Interference

### References:

Chapter 9 Rules of Racing  
Section 9.2 (i) - The Race  
Chapter 25.7 Definitions  
AFA Policy 2 - Dog Behaviour Policy

### AFA Policy:

To stop a race for interference blow your whistle.

The first offence for the offending dog is a Yellow card. The judge is required to submit a report of the incident to the AFA. If the same dog interferes a second time, a Red card is issued for the violation and the dog is excused for racing for 3 heats. The judge is required to submit a second report to the AFA. If the same dog interferes a third time a Black card is issued for the violation and the dog is excused from the rest of the competition. The judge is required to submit a third report to the AFA.

There is concern that some dogs repeatedly interfere at competitions with handlers not pulling their dogs until they have been excused for three incidents. Any dog that interferes during a competition is reported by the Judge to the AFA. The AFA keeps a record of these reports. The reports are to be submitted to the AFA within 48 hours of the competition. The reports may be submitted electronically or posted to the AFA Secretary. It is the judge's responsibility to ensure the report is received by the AFA within 48 hours. Disciplinary action could be taken for all parties if this policy is not followed.

A judge may issue a Black card after a Yellow card if the dog shows no interest in doing the flyball run, and has not been aggressive.

Any dog that repeatedly interferes could be suspended for a length of time for training purposes from all AFA sanctioned events.

Competitions are not the place to practice with a dog that is not ready for racing or which has been poorly trained. The opposing team has the right to run a clean race without any interference from the other team. Every time there is interference, especially in the racing lanes, there could be injury to a dog, not necessarily through aggression, but from collision etc.

Interference should not be confused with "distraction" especially in the runoff area. A dog crossing the centre line and meeting a dog from the opposing team, after they have both finished their race is not interference, but a possible distraction and should be dealt with according to the appropriate rule. This also applies to motivators, balls, food or anything that may distract the other team's dog.

## Interference and Holding Back Dogs

The AFA Committee has elected not to formulate a policy, but rather to issue a guideline and to allow Judges to use existing rules and policies.

The rules currently state that "training in the ring during the competition will mean a forfeit of that heat". Therefore, if a team is holding back a dog to avoid interference, the following needs to be applied:

**First Incident** - Team declared to be "training in the ring" and the heat will be forfeited. The Judge is to then inform the team that "if they are unable to replace the offending dog with a reserve any further incidences will result in them being declared non-competitive for the remainder of the competition".

**Second Incident** - Judge will declare the team non-competitive.

It was made clear at the AFA Committee meeting that holding back the dog to avoid interference should not be termed sandbagging as they are not doing so to gain an unfair advantage.

Title points for a clear run will not be awarded to any team that has held their dog/s back to avoid interference.

**It is important to remind competitors that being declared non-competitive is not a negative option. Whilst the team are no longer able to win heats or earn title points, they are able to continue running the team with the option of lowering the jump height, they can continue to hold the dog back. This can then be a positive training experience and provide stress free training environment to the team.**

## **Distractions**

### **References:**

Chapter 9 Rules of Racing  
Section 9.2 (k) - The Race, Distractions

Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing balls, using a flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means nor by throwing any object for their dogs (i.e. balls, toys, Frisbees, dummies, gloves or treats). This includes box loaders calling a dog's name which may attract a dog from the opposite lane.

Team members are required to pick up loose balls.

The first offence of any of these infractions shall receive a warning. A second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat.

### **Explanation:**

Right lane team dogs may run close to the centre line. They should be trained to return to their handler and not cross the centre line to approach left lane dogs. Left lane team may congregate near the centre line. they are not causing interference.

## **Dropped Balls**

### **References:**

Chapter 10 - Judges, Stewards, Timekeepers and AFA Rep.  
Section 10.3  
Notification 16

### **Explanation:**

Line stewards are required to watch for dropped balls. As the above rule states the ball has to be carried in the dogs mouth over the start/finish line.

Box Stewards and Judges need to watch for dogs running down the lane with a ball already in their mouths. If they see this they must watch and make sure the dogs drops the old ball and catches the new ball from the box for the run home. If the dog does not swap the ball then the steward should raise their flag for a foul or the Judge can call a foul.

Ball buckets need only to be placed behind the Box Loader and not behind the back stops, as long as it is out of sight.

## Determine the winner of a heat

### References:

Chapter 9 - Rules of Racing

Section 9.2 (o) - The Race, Determining the winner of a heat

The judge in the first instance relies on the Electronic Judging System in the first instance.

## Determine the winner of a race

### References:

Chapter 9 - Rules of Racing

Section 9.2 (p) - The Race, Determining the winner of elimination racing

Section 9.2 (q) - The Race, Determining the winner of round robin racing

Judges need to be aware of the countback systems for determining the winner of Elimination Racing format and Round Robin format

## Breakout

### References:

Chapter 1 - Hosting a Sanctioned Competition

Section 1.4 - Seed Times and Break Out Penalties

This is also set out under *Chapter 7 – Forfeit Rules section (g) forfeit for Break Out.*

It is the judges' responsibility to ensure that breakouts are recorded correctly by the timekeepers.

When a single breakout occurs, a loss is recorded on the timesheet as well as a time for that heat, also BO will be circled next to that time and the heat is forfeited to the team that did not breakout. This is the same for the next two breakouts by the same team.

Where a team breaks out and is eliminated from a Round Robin competition all teams racing the breakout team (before and after the breakout) will be awarded competition points for wins or ties against the breakout team.

A team that has already broken out 3 times in a preceding round robin format would not be eligible to race in either single or double elimination racing to decide the placing/s of the competition.

If a team breaks out in an elimination racing format prior to the round robin format starting they would be excused from any more elimination races, but could participate in the round robin format of the competition.

(A judge does not have a right to award title points or take them away).



## Forfeiting Races

### References:

- Chapter 7 - Forfeit Rules
  - Section 7 (a) Reporting for Races
  - Section 7 (b) Without Just Cause
  - Section 7 (c) With Just Cause
  - Section 7 (d) Multiple Teams Same Race
  - Section 7 (e) Non-Competitive Teams
  - Section 7 (f) - Infringement
  - Section 7 (g) - Break-out

### Explanation:

A team that has only four dogs entered in the competition and one of their dogs commits an offence under the signal card policy which results in a red card being issued by the judge for that dog (which excuses the dog for the next 3 heats). That team can elect to forfeit the next three heats with just cause (being the red card) and then return to regular competition. You as a judge must explain this to the team captain.

## Start Tapes

### References:

- Chapter 4 - Ring Setup
  - Section 4.3 - Ring Layout (i)
  - Section 4.3 - Centre line (c)

### Explanation:

The use of start tapes/distance markers is allowable, but not mandatory. Both lanes must be set up equal and the tapes must not be a trip hazard.

The centre line runs from the back of the inbound area to the back of the box end of the ring.

## Judges Responsibility

Judges, remember that when you accept or offer to do a judging appointment at a competition that you are expected to perform to a standard set by the format of the competition.

With the increasing amount of races in competition formats it is becoming more and more important for judge's at competitions to push the time delay between heats to a minimum.

Competitions now are limited by daylight hours with formats of 50 to 65 races in a day it is now more than ever important that the judges take responsibility to assure a competition organiser that they have the ability to perform their task quickly and efficiently so as to enable the competition to finish at a reasonable time.

The change-over-times are set (90 seconds to 3 minutes) but the delay between the individual heats is being increased by the slowness of some teams and judges getting ready for the next heat. This can be overcome by the judge speeding up their own process.

### Example:

When you have declared the heat turn to the teams while you are walking back to your position tell the teams to **'line them up'** – it is at that point that the teams should inform you they are changing dogs (teams you may have to think faster on your feet, this is a racing ring). You are then required to check with your stewards and timekeepers if they are ready – by the time you turn back to your teams and say **'teams**

**ready'** the teams should be lined up and ready to go before you say **'Watch the Lights'**. This process may not always work but if you as a judge stick to this routine you will find that teams will become faster as the day progresses which will help in speeding up the racing.

**The above wording is a must for all judges for starting heats, by not using that wording you are confusing teams and slowing the process.**

## Record Runs:

### References:

Chapter 2 - Rules For Competition  
Section 2.6 - Record Times

### Explanation:

You will be required to stop racing if there has been a record run recorded and following the steps listed on the C13 and C13A form and instructions. Not all of the things listed will need to be completed during the racing stage of the competition. Some things can be completed at a later stage. Duties that are required to be completed as soon as a record run is recorded are listed below:

1. Measure the course to verify that is set properly
  - (i) Racing lane length
  - (ii) Jump placement for each jump as per instructions
  - (iii) Jump Height for each jump as per instructions
  - (iv) Check the box as per instructions

Do not sign off the form for part 1 at this stage.

The following duties can be done after the competition racing has been completed:

1. Check the measurement of the height dog as per instructions
2. Sign off step one of the form
3. Video verification as per instructions (This is a recommendation so if the video is not able to be verified on the day under the requirements listed it may be left until the President has received the original).

The above will save time during a competition.

## Wet Weather

### Reference:

Policy 4 - Competition Cancellation Policy

### Explanation:

In the event of wet weather, you as a judge should consult the competition organiser to assess a plan of action should the weather deteriorate to a point that may require a decision to shorten the competition.

## Judges Talk – Team Captains

- All stewards and timekeepers are part of our judging system.
- There is no arguing/speaking with anyone. If there is a protest, bring your protest to the judge's attention and then take it to the AFA Representative and/or the Competition Organizer.
- Judges and stewards (aside from your flag signal) are not obligated to advise teams when a dog is to run again, but the Judge will signal which team has false started and when there is a double false start. Teams need to watch for fouls against their box loader as well.
- Judges endeavor to explain their decisions to the best of their ability. Protests need to be lodged before the start of the next heat.
- Announce yourself, competition organiser, AFA representative, & timekeepers.
- Announce race format, change over time, other housekeeping particular to the competition.
- Exit and entry gates, and wait areas.
- Runners and Ball shaggers may assist the team. There is only to two extra people per team in the ring at any one time. They are not allowed to obstruct the Judges view in any way. Nor are they allowed to interfere or cross the centre line with the team in the other lane, this will be called interference and their team will forfeit the heat.
- There is no training in the ring. If dogs are not competent the Judge can stop your dog racing again.
- Timesheets are to stay at the timing table and not be returned to teams. The only people allowed to handle the timesheets are the officials. Please don't let team members handle their timesheets without an official present and under no circumstances are teams permit to leave the timing table area with their timesheets.

## Box Loaders – pep talk

- remains in an upright position behind the box until the heat is declared by the Judge.
- may retrieve a loose ball or get a fresh supply of balls.
- may offer verbal encouragement provided it doesn't distract the opposing team
- violation of the rules may cause your team to forfeit the heat.
- If, in the opinion of the Judge/Steward, a box loader assists a dog, except where provided for in the rules, the dog shall run again.
- Intervention: should the ball bounce back in the cup as the dog tries to catch it, the box loader may re-set the box for the dog to trigger it (without penalty). This is the only time at which the box loader is permitted to signal a dog to push the pedal.
- If the box has malfunctioned they are to signal to the Judge straight away. Stand in front of the box and wave your arms around until the Judge sees them. DO NOT TOUCH THE BOX. The Judge will come and inspect the box. If in the Judge's opinion the box has malfunctioned the heat will be rerun. If the Judges opinion the box is found to be working that team will forfeit the heat.

**Box loaders are not to have balls showing. This includes the bucket of balls, which must be kept behind the box out of sight.**

## Stewards – pep talk

### Timekeepers

- complete timesheets with instructions from the Judge as required.
- Timekeepers are to operate one lane each on the timing system. They fill out the timesheets for their respective lanes. If the timing system is not working it is the line steward's responsibility to operate the manual timing, stop watch backup system not the timekeepers.
- Timekeepers may remind the judge there is a breakout, a subsequent breakout or a tied heat (ie; times within .003 of a second).

### Line stewards

- are the backup timers when the judge determines the electronic judging system has failed and timing reverts to manual. The Line Stewards will operate a stopwatch for each heat for their lane.
- will also raise their flag for any missed jumps or dropped balls. A dog must carry the ball across the line in their mouth.
- watch for false starts or bad changeovers with manual timing. Stop watches do not decide who wins a race in manual timing, the stewards and judges do.

### Box stewards

- are to watch for missed jumps and dropped balls and raise their flag if this happens.
- ensure the box loader for their lane follows the rules. The steward is to raise their flag for the appropriate fouls or let the judge know the problem at the end of the heat in cases of heat forfeits.
- watch for dogs running down the lane with a ball already in their mouths. If they see this they must watch and make sure the dogs drops the old ball and catches the new ball from the box for the run home. If the dog does not swap the ball then they should raise their flag for a foul.
- Flags should be held up sufficiently to enable the team to have an opportunity to note the penalty. They will be held up only for the dog that fouled and put down when the judge signals the dog is to rerun, and/or when another dog begins its run.
- Stewards should also keep an eye on jumps heights. They are requested to inform the Judge if they think the team is jumping the incorrect jump height.
- Stewards shall be friendly and courteous, even sympathetic, but above all impartial and firm. A steward is not to engage in conversation with a disgruntled exhibitor. You can direct them to the AFA Representative to protest before the start of the next heat and let the judge know this has happened. A steward must not assist teams during warm up or racing. You must not eat in the ring you may distract a dog.
- A steward shall remain stationary during each heat, dogs may go around stewards and balls bouncing off a judge or steward shall be deemed in play. Stewards must not offer verbal encouragement to teams. You are not obligated to let a team know that you raised your flag it is up to them to see it and to rerun their dog.
- Signal to the Judge if you are not ready when they ask you if you are.

### Ring Steward

- responsibility is to watch the inbound area at the back of the ring. They will be looking for, loose balls, throwing of motivators/balls, bouncing of balls, dogs crossing the centre line at the back of the ring, any interference either caused by dogs or humans and fouling in the ring.
- If any of these infractions occur they are to notify the Judge before the start of the next heat.

HAVE FUN