



Incorporated No INC9876008

AUSTRALIAN SLEDDOG SPORTS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday 28th January 2024
16.00h WST/ 19.00h EDST

Committee:

Mark Needham (MN) (Chair)	Samantha Abraham (SA)
Vanessa Joy (VJ)	Geoff Clinch (GC)
Courtney Orr (CO)	Kathleen Sprigg (KS)
Emily Vourlides (EV)	Christine Grilk (CG)
Finnian McKeown (FM)	

1. Apologies /Member attendees

Member Attendee: Holly Jessen
Apologies:

2. Minutes of previous meeting

- The Minutes of the last NC Meeting were accepted as true and correct by Vanessa Joy and seconded by Emily Vourlides.

3. Correspondence

Incoming

- Rule update submissions multiple
- Club group disability insurance renewal
- SDRQ NEGRC and SDRV Affiliation
- Nationals Support email NEGRC
- Registry Logments for Annual Return multiple years
- IFSS Championship classes in future
- Insurance certificate for group disability insurance
- IFSS Race Judge course EOI multiple
- Vaccination follow up response – Vaughan/Jess Winther
- Multiple RM exam applications and exams for grading
- Affiliation particulars request from NEGRC
- Response to insurance questions from PetPlan
- Outcome of the 2024 NEGRC Affiliation vote
- Hosting IFSS Race Judge Training from SASDC
- DP RM Report
- IFSS Race rules update request
- IFSS Survey reminder



- General Assembly calling notice IFSS
- Individual membership renewal – Prue De Vries
- JDP Sub committee EOI
- SDRV pointscore questions
- NEGRC Complaint
- Response regarding complaint from NEGRC
- IFSS Youth committee

Outgoing

- Nationals support response
- Annual Summary for multiple years sent
- Vaccination follow up email sent
- RM Licenses sent to those who passed exam
- Affiliation information sent to NEGRC
- Apology regarding JDP from 2023 missing deadline
- Membership renewal reminder to Individual members
- Affiliation and rule review sent to clubs
- Complaint Notification sent regarding NEGRC complaint lodged

4. Financial Matters

\$5998.30 is currently in the bank account.

Incoming:

- \$2.39 interest
- \$2800 SDRQ Affiliation
- \$2100 NEGRC Affiliation
- \$145 Individual Membership
- \$2800 WASSA Affiliation
- \$290 SDRV Affiliation

Outgoing:

- \$343.50 Annual Returns 2019-2023
- \$484.96 JDP 2022 Reimbursement
- \$1328.02 Nationals 2023 Reimbursement
- \$947.01 Petcover Insurance

5. Rules Review

- Holly Jessen submission
Section 3 (3.4)

Discussed issues that could happen with a fast hound team for instance starting at the back as it comes back to being like reverse starts which is not something that is always safe.

Suggestions of changing time they would go out at back of pack to maybe 60 seconds but will think on if this will work.



Vanessa will re word and send to committee and Holly so we can finalise at the rules review meeting in February.

- Emily Vourlides submissions
Section 4 (4.5)

Courtney questioned if this caused too many issues at races that were WC last year. It was agreed that this wasn't really an issue it was worked around by the clubs with members.

Discussed we might need to take this to the members and see what they think before implementing this rule change.

Courtney suggested we don't get enough votes on socials so maybe we need to do an anonymous poll or via email.

Finnian raised if anonymous we don't know if people are voting more than one time.

Decided it was a good idea to get vet information from all our consulting vets and consider what we have at our next meeting and how we move forward.

Finn also has a vet contact to ask and will let us know what they say.

Vanessa will contact Katy Craig and Rebekah French-Davis.

Emily and Sammy will work on contacting Michelle in QLD.

7.3

Discussion on people that don't run with front brakes at all or who have removed them being the only people who may not like the rule change.

Agreed that the ones who have taken them off would hopefully still have them they could reattach for events. Discussion on rigs that may not have front brakes but discussed the rigs usually have a plate for the brake to be added if needed.

Christine raised concerns of SA members in regard to SASDC hosting the WC event as the Trophy race after the IFSS Training and that rules like this that are IFSS rules would just not be followed by said members.

Courtney raised that we may need a list of IFSS rules that will be different at all WC events so members understand before entering. Agreed to keep IFSS WC talk to a later agenda item as this is for the ASSA rules not IFSS.

Agreed to all vote on this rule to move forward or deny.

Vote was a clear majority to pass this rule and Courtney will update in the rules.

9.13

Discussed handbrake on rigs not being something that will stop dogs from pulling the rig away with no one standing on it. Some rig users are just

carrying a velcro strap they could put around the brake lever if needed in a race.

Agreed to remove this point from the rules.

Courtney will update in the rules.

Proposal 4 – New Rule listing

Agreed

10.3

Vanessa has a formula that she explained but will put on paper with examples for us to discuss at the next meeting. This would not be compulsory but up to the RGO.

- SHCNSW Submission

16.8

Discussion on possibility of a dual RM for this instance even in Pointscore races to make it easier for clubs like NSW who struggle with RM's.

Agreed it won't affect most clubs as they won't need dual RM's but if needed it's in the rules.

Both RM's would need to complete a RM course and hold an ASSA Race Marshal licence.

Agreed to change – Courtney will re word section and submit to committee for approval.

6. Charlotte DP RM issue follow up

Discussion on how we move forward with this complaint and what it is that Charlotte is requesting of us.

Discussed the RM report and Caleb Gersbach's incident letter attached.

Agreed we need to follow the sportsmanship procedure to alert Lisa Gersbach and Caleb Gersbach of the complaint and give them time to respond.

We also need to follow the same complaints process to let Jo Winther know of complaint against how this was handled at the race and give her time to respond.

Mark will draft the emails for Jo Winther and Lisa Gersbach for committee to approve.

Courtney will draft a response to Charlotte to let her know we now have the RM report and will be starting to investigate this complaint as per ASSA procedure.

7. IFSS Race Judge Training

Discussed the expressions of interest that we have received at length and how fantastic it is to see some great applications from all over the country.

Agreed on final list to attend the training and these applicants will cover someone in every state but NSW due to no NSW applicants.



Emily showed us the site which will be used for the training as per discussions in meeting with SASDC before they accepted to host.

Courtney will draft responses to all members who expressed interest letting them know who was successful and who wasn't.

8. IFSS Rules Review

Emily will have a look if anything we need to submit for the rule change specifically around temperatures as that was an issue last season.

9. IFSS WC and exemptions

Postponed discussion until we reconvene on Thursday.

10. Date Clash response

Christine is not happy with the wording of the email and would like it to be shorter and to the point.

Discussed what we are trying to achieve here with no clashes across the country for Pointscore and all the points that are covered in the email.

Mark offered to re word the email for a softer approach.

Courtney raised why we are re doing something that already has everyone's vote for approved besides one. Once we have majority something is approved and moves forward.

Mark would still like to try re wording a draft for committee.

11. Pointscore document update

Christine wanting to know why we are dropping from top 10 to top 5 of the year before Pointscore winners to give extra points.

Vanessa explained how this has been affected the past few years by the lower number in classes. Clarified for Chris that this has nothing to do with speeds or if you were in the previous year's Pointscore its about who runs in the class again and then all in that class get points.

Agreed to approve the document.

12. Insurance

Postponed discussion until we reconvene on Thursday.

13. NEGRC Complaint

Postponed discussion until we reconvene on Thursday.

14. IFSS Survey

Courtney asked if everyone was happy for her to do a spreadsheet for us all to vote before we do the final vote as we have with previous committees.

18. Other business

19. Next meeting

Reconvening on Thursday at 7pm AEDST to finish agenda items that were not covered at this meeting due to the late hour the meeting finished.

20. Meeting Attendance

	Nov 2022	Jan 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024
Committee:									
Mark Needham (Chair)	✓	✓							
Vanessa Joy (VP)	✓	✓							
Emily Vourlides (Treasurer)	✓	✓							
Courtney Orr (Secretary)	✓	✓							
State Representatives:									
Geoff Clinch (NSW)	✓	✓							
Finnian McKeown (VIC)	✓	✓							
Christine Grilk (SA)	✓	✓							
Kathleen Sprigg (WA)	✓	✓							
Samantha Abraham (QLD)	✓	✓							
Vacant (ACT)							NA		
Vacant (TAS)							NA		