**ATTACHMENT 5e – DOGS VICTORIA**



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

**Rules for the conduct of**

**Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events**

(Effective from 1st January 2020)

**Approved by the Australian**

**National Kennel Council Ltd 2014**

Amended

August 2017

October 2017

October 2019

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the**

**Australian National Kennel Council Ltd**

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**1**. **INTRODUCTION**

Where referred to in the Rules, the words

**(VIC) Proposed Change**

**Where referred to in the Rules, the words:**

**(VIC) Rationale**

**To add semi colon.**

1.1 Member Body shall mean the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd Member Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

1.2 Affiliate shall mean an Affiliated member body of Member Body conducting Lure Coursing Trials and Tests.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 1.2**

**1.2 Affiliate shall mean an Affiliated club, committee or subcommittee of ~~a~~ Member Body conducting Lure Coursing Trials and Tests.**

**(VIC) Rationale 1.2**

**To tidy up wording to flow better and to allow for subcommittee or other approved bodies to run Sanctioned Events.**

1.3 These Rules are binding on Member Bodies of the ANKC Ltd.

1.4 Interpretation of these Rules should not be necessary; however, should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification, application must be made by the Member Body to the ANKC, whose decision shall be binding.

**2.** **DECISIONS**

2.1 The Member Body at its discretion, may grant permission to an Affiliate to hold Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events and they are to be conducted in accordance with the Rules set down by the Member Body and applicable ANKC authorised Rules.

2.2 Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting a Sanctioned Event shall be subject to appeal to the Member Body in the State or Territory in which the Sanctioned Event is conducted.

2.3 The Rules of the Australian National Kennel Council shall apply to all Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events. In the event of any inconsistency, the Rules of the Member Body shall prevail.

2.4 Anyone taking part in a Lure Coursing Sanctioned Event that openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judge/s shall render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the Sanctioned Event, and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Member Body.

2.5 Any person participating in any form of Lure Coursing Sanctioned Event does so at their own risk and no Member Body or Affiliate shall be responsible for any injury or damage to any person, dog or property.

**(VIC) Proposed Rule 2.5**

**2.5 Any person participating in any ~~form of~~ Lure Coursing Sanctioned Event does so at their own risk and no Member Body or Affiliate shall be responsible for any injury or damage to any person, dog or property.**

**(VIC) Rationale 2.5**

**To tidy up the wording.**

2.6 Lure Coursing tests and trials are sports, and all participants must be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both on and off the field.

**3.** **PURPOSE, FIELDS, COURSE DESIGN AND EQUIPMENT**

3.1 The purpose of Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events is to preserve and assess the lure coursing skills inherent in Sighthounds and to demonstrate their ability to perform the function for which they were originally developed. Lure Coursing is a simulation of the way a hare or rabbit might run in the open field, with the course pattern being irregular and varied with every event. Lure Coursing is a test of the dog’s ability to work by sight without showing signs of undue stress or lack of fitness. It tests the dog’s instinct, physical structure and temperament. Judges assess performance by observing the dog’s agility, enthusiasm, endurance, speed and follow through the course. The sport is a test of the physical capabilities of the dog. The sport is not a test of scenting ability or trainability.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 3.1**

**3.1 The purpose of Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events is to preserve and assess the lure coursing skills inherent in Sighthounds and to demonstrate their ability to perform the function for which they were originally developed. Lure Coursing is a simulation of the way a hare or rabbit might run in the open field, with the course pattern being irregular and varied with every Sanctioned Event. Lure Coursing is a test of the dog’s ability to work by sight without showing signs of undue stress or lack of fitness. It tests the dog’s instinct, physical structure and temperament. Judges assess performance by observing the dog’s agility, enthusiasm, endurance, speed and follow throughout the ~~course~~ run. The sport is a test of the physical capabilities of the dog. The sport is not a test of scenting ability or trainability.**

**(VIC) Rationale 3.1**

**To bring the definition in line with proposed changes to glossary to terms and to tidy up the wording.**

3.2 The lure coursing field is the area that contains the physical course the dog is being Judged on. The lure coursing field entry may be defined by fences and gates or ropes or other markers. Slightly sloping or somewhat hilly terrain is appropriate to reflect a natural coursing environment, providing that the full course can be seen by lure operator and Judge/s. If natural or pre-existing obstacles are present the course must be laid so that they do not constitute any danger to the dogs. The lure coursing field must be free from holes which could present a danger to the dogs. Artificial obstacles must not be introduced to the path of the dog on the course. The preferred minimum lure coursing field size should be no less than 5 acres.

3.3 The Affiliate is responsible for grounds safety, course design and the laying of the course.

The Affiliate may assign this responsibility at its discretion.

The course must be between 600 metres to 1000 metres long, unless a shorter course is later approved as a contingency. A single laid course must be used for the entire event unless equipment failure or field conditions on the day otherwise require. The course must be measured by measuring wheel or GPS based app under the supervision of the Judge/s and course length recorded on the judging sheet. Course lengths may vary dependent on field and weather conditions on the day. Course layouts must contain turns in both directions and straight sections that demonstrate the dogs’ lure coursing capabilities. The lure line must be securely anchored to the ground to minimise the risk of dogs becoming entangled by the line.

A course may only be shortened below 600 metres to account for field or weather conditions on the day, with the approval of the Judge/s. Any decision to shorten the length of the course must be recorded on the judging sheet.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 3.3**

**3.3 The Affiliate is responsible for grounds safety, course design and the laying of the course.**

**The Affiliate may assign this responsibility at its discretion.**

**The course must be between 600 metres to 1000 metres long, unless a shorter course is later approved as a contingency. A single laid course must be used for the entire Sanctioned Event unless equipment failure or field conditions on the day otherwise require. The course must be measured by measuring wheel or GPS based app under the supervision of the Judge/s and course length recorded on the judging sheet. Course lengths may vary dependent on field and weather conditions on the day. Course layouts must contain turns in both directions and straight sections that demonstrate the dogs’ lure coursing capabilities. The lure line must be securely anchored to the ground to minimise the risk of dogs becoming entangled by the line.**

**A course may only be shortened below 600 metres to account for field or weather conditions on the day, with the approval of the Judge/s. Any decision to shorten the length of the course must be recorded on the judging sheet.**

**(VIC) Rationale 3.3**

**To bring the definition in line with proposed changes to glossary to terms.**

3.4 The lure coursing machine powers the lure around the course by a motor. It must ideally be capable of running for a full Sanctioned Event, in all conditions, without breaking down or overheating. The Affiliate is responsible for providing back up event equipment that enables all runs to be completed.

The lure is to be made from white unscented plastic material which is to be replaced as necessary to ensure that it remains clearly visible to dogs, Judge/s and Lure Operator. No other object is to be affixed to the line. The lure is to be attached to a line made of cord with a minimum diameter of 2mm. A sufficient number of pulleys and tie-downs should be used to maximise the safety of the dogs on the course. Plastic cones may be used outside the path of the dog to indicate location of pulleys to driver and Judge.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 3.4**

**3.4 The lure coursing machine powers the lure around the course by a motor. It must ~~ideally~~ be capable of running for a full Sanctioned Event, in all conditions, without breaking down or overheating. The Affiliate is responsible for providing back up ~~event~~ equipment that enables all runs to be completed.**

**The lure is to be made from white unscented plastic material which is to be replaced as necessary to ensure that it remains clearly visible to dogs, Judge/s and Lure Operator. No other object is to be affixed to the line. The lure is to be attached to a line made of cord with a minimum diameter of 2mm. A sufficient number of pulleys and tie-downs should be used to maximise the safety of the dogs on the course. Plastic cones may be used outside the path of the dog to indicate location of pulleys to driver and Judge.**

**(VIC) Rationale 3.4**

**The machine must be capable of running for a full Sanctioned Event.**

**4. LURE COURSING SANCTIONED EVENTS**

4.1 Lure Coursing Tests and Trials are conducted by an Affiliate after obtaining the approval of the Member Body. All ANKC registered dogs aged 15 months and over who are eligible may participate. A test is an event at which Junior Courser, Singles Sighthound and Coursing Ability tests are conducted. A trial is an event at which Open, Veteran, Field Champion and Veteran Field Champion stakes are conducted. A Sanctioned Event is an event at which both tests and trials may be conducted.

(VIC) Proposed Change 4.1

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**(VIC) Rationale 4.1**

**To bring the definition in line with proposed changes to glossary to terms.**

4.2 A qualification in a Sanctioned Event consists of an average passing score of 100 across two runs at the same event.

**5. ELIGIBILITY FOR DOGS**

5.1 The Junior Coursing (JC) Testis the entry level to the sport of lure coursing. The dogs are not scored, but rather the Judge decides on a pass or fail based on the dog’s attributes against the five scoring criteria. All dogs must qualify with a minimum of two JC qualifications to be eligible to compete in Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events. Dogs who possess two JC qualifications are eligible to apply for the title Junior Courser (JC).

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 5.1**

**~~The Junior Coursing (JC) Test is the entry level to the sport of lure coursing for all ANKC registered dogs. The dogs are not scored, but rather the Judge decides on a pass or fail based on the dog’s attributes against the five scoring criteria. All dogs must qualify with a minimum of two JC qualifications to be eligible to compete in Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events. Dogs who possess two JC qualifications under 2 different ANKC licensed judges are eligible to apply for the title Junior Courser (JC).~~**

**(VIC) Rationale 5.1**

* **Delete, as this section should be about breeds eligible to participate, and the Junior Courser class should be added to both the sighthound and coursing ability sections to show correct progression of titles.**

5.2 The following Sighthounds registered on the Main or Limited Register with the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd are eligible to participate in the Sighthound Stream of Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events: Afghan Hound, Azawakh, Borzoi, Deerhound, Greyhound, Ibizan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Italian Greyhound, Pharaoh Hound, Saluki, Sloughi and Whippet.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 5.2**

**The following Sighthounds registered on the Main or Limited Register with the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd are eligible to participate in the Sighthound Stream of Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events: Afghan Hound, Azawakh, Borzoi, Cirneco Dell’Etna, Deerhound, Greyhound, Ibizan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Italian Greyhound, Pharaoh Hound, Podengo (medium and large), Peruvian Hairless, Saluki, Sloughi and Whippet.**

**(VIC) Rationale 5.2**

**The addition of breeds that the FCI, NZKC and AKC recognise as sighthounds for the sport of Lure coursing would bring us into line with other countries.**

5.3 Although not recognised as Sighthounds in Australia, Rhodesian Ridgebacks and Basenjis are considered eligible breeds for the purposes of Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events and shall be eligible for the Sighthound titles. For the purposes of interpretation a reference to Sighthounds shall be taken as a reference to the eligible breeds noted above.

5.4 As other Sighthound breeds become recognised by the ANKC, these may be added to the list of eligible breeds.

**(VIC) New Rule 5.5**

**Associate and Sporting Sighthounds shall be permitted to compete in the Sighthound Stream of Lure Coursing in the following classes according to height. Small (under 40cm) Medium (40cm to 55cm) Large (55cm to 70cm) Giant (70cm and over). Mixed breeds may be accepted provided they are a mix or apparent mix of Sighthound breeds.**

**The Assessment: To compete in the Sighthound stream two photos of the dog, one in profile (standing) and one from the front (standing), which are endorsed on the reverse with the registration number of the dog and owners signature must be forwarded to [insert member body name here] (attn LC Committee) directly by the member together with the current Associate or Sporting Dog certificate. Using the following form. Heights will be assessed with a measuring stick by a judge and dogs will be given a height card. (See Appendix C)**

**(VIC) Rationale 5.5**

**Other sports such as Retrieving, Sledding and Herding allow certain dogs to compete based on a breed assessment or via the sporting register (dogs registered with a kindred body). Some Working dog registers i.e. Koolie club has a ½ register. Therefore, a sighthound X Koolie is possible on the sporting register. There are also already a number of sighthounds on the sporting register that were registered via the UKC when it was still a kindred body.**

5.5 All other dogs registered with the Member Body are eligible to participate in Coursing Ability Tests (CAT) and earn the titles of CA (Coursing Ability), CAA (Coursing Ability Advanced), CAX (Coursing Ability Excellent) and CAM (Coursing Ability Master).

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 5.5**

5.~~5~~6 All other dogs registered with the Member Body are eligible to participate in Coursing Ability Tests (CAT) and earn the titles of CA (Coursing Ability), CAA (Coursing Ability Advanced), CAX (Coursing Ability Excellent), ~~and~~ CAM (Coursing Ability Master) and Coursing Ability Champion (CA Ch).

**(VIC) Rationale 5.5**

**To amend due to proposed CA Ch rules.**

5.6 Any dog with ANKC Ltd registration shall be eligible to compete in Lure Coursing Sanctioned Events. It is important that dogs be sound enough to compete. Dogs with fewer than four legs shall be considered lame or unsound and therefore ineligible to participate.

5.7 For the purpose of the awarding of a Dual Champion or other multiple discipline Champion, only the Open Stakes Field Champion (FCh) or the Veteran Field Champion (vFCh) titles count towards the awarding of a Dual Champion title by the ANKC.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 5.7**

**For the purpose of the awarding of a Dual Champion or other multiple discipline Champion, only the Open Stakes Field Champion (FCh), ~~or the~~ Veteran Field Champion (vFCh) and Coursing Ability (CA Ch) titles count towards the awarding of a Dual Champion title by the ANKC.**

**(VIC) Rationale 5.7**

**To amend due to proposed CA Ch rules.**

**6. LURE COURSING SANCTIONED EVENT REQUIREMENTS**

6.1 To compete at Sanctioned Events, owners of competing dogs must be current financial members in good standing with their Member Body.

6.2 The owner entering a dog in a Lure Coursing Test or Trial does so at their own risk. The owner agrees to abide by the rules of the Member Body. If a dog has more than one owner, permission must be granted in writing by all owners before entering a dog in a Sanctioned Event.

6.3 Lure Coursing is a competitive and physically strenuous activity. It is the responsibility of the owner/s to ensure their dog/s are fit for the activity of Lure Coursing.

6.4 By submitting an entry form, the exhibitor confirms that to the best of their knowledge that their dog is fit and able to take part in the Sanctioned Event.

6.5 No check chains, harnesses, head collars, prong collars and/or e-collars are permitted. Only one item of permitted restraint is allowed on to the field on the dog.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 6.5**

No ~~check chains, harnesses, head collars,~~ prong collars and/or e-collars are permitted. ~~Only one item of permitted restraint is allowed on to the field on the dog.~~ Two pieces of equipment may be used to facilitate getting the dog to the start line. Only one item of equipment may be on the dog for release.

**(VIC) Rationale 6.5**

* **To allow different restraints to allow handlers to manage their dogs onto the field.**
* **Some strong dogs require two pieces of equipment when moving through the trial precinct and onto the field. This should be allowed, as long as only one item of equipment is used to release the dog.**

6.6 Dogs may only have one handler on the field. With the Judge/s permission, handlers with a disability may have an assistant to help bring the dog onto the field but only one person may release the dog.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 6.6**

~~Dogs may only have one handler on the field.~~ ~~With the Judge/s permission,~~ Handlers with a disability, or those with a strong dog that they are not able to handle individually without risk to their and the dog’s safety may have an assistant to help bring the dog onto the field. Only one person may release the dog.

**(VIC) Rationale 6.5**

Lure coursing is a highly arousing sport and handlers with some dogs have difficulty with getting their dog safely to the field, so a second handler is required. The terrain in which lure coursing events are held is sometimes slippery and hilly, which adds to the difficulty of handling a stronger dog.

6.7 Bitches in season showing a discharge characteristic of being in season must not be in the trial precinct and are not eligible for any Sanctioned Event.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 6.7**

Bitches in season showing a discharge characteristic of being in season must not be in the trial precinct and are not eligible to compete in any Sanctioned Event. At the request of the Trial Secretary, any bitch present within the trial precinct may be swabbed.

**(VIC) Rationale 6.7**

Still allows the Trial Secretary discretion over whether bitches are swabbed or not and allows the Trial Secretary to approach any exhibitor if they feel it is warranted.

6.8 Bitches in whelp are not permitted to compete at any Sanctioned Event. Bitches must be at a minimum 10 weeks post whelp to compete in any Sanctioned Event.

6.9 Owners of dogs must apply to the ANKC Member Body for pre-requisite titles before entering their dogs in a higher class. Substitutions or upgrades of dogs are not permitted. At the discretion of the Secretary, a competitor who completes the necessary passes to a title and has applied for that title, after the closing of entry, may request and be transferred to the next higher class.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 6.9**

6.9 Owners of dogs must apply to the ANKC Member Body for pre-requisite titles before entering their dogs in a higher class. ~~Substitutions or upgrades of dogs are not permitted.~~ At the discretion of the Secretary, a competitor who completes the necessary passes to a title and has applied for that title, after the closing of entry, may request and be transferred to the next higher class.

**(VIC) Rationale 6.7**

The deleted line contradicts the following line. In a sport where there are limited trials that are often held on multiple trial weekends, it makes no sense to restrict competitors once they have applied for their title not to be able to move up to the next class with the Secretary’s permission.

6.10 If in the Judge/s opinion a dog is unfit to run the dog will be ineligible to compete at that Sanctioned Event. Any official may refer a dog that they suspect is not fit to trial to the Judge/s for assessment. In this situation the decision of the Judge/s is final. Where a club employs the services of a qualified Veterinarian to conduct soundness examinations, the Committee may determine that the dog is ineligible for competition on the basis of advice from the Veterinarian.

6.11 The wearing of muzzles is not compulsory; however, hounds that have been disqualified for interfering with other hounds or aggression towards another hound whilst lure coursing shall wear a muzzle at all times on the field.

**(VIC) New Rule 6.12**

**When a competitor has multiple dogs entered in the same class, every endeavour will be made to separate their entries.**

**(VIC) Rationale 6.7**

**Separating the same owners’ dogs allows time for the handler to warm up and cool down the dogs. This also allows time to collect and return to their containment place.**

**7. EXCUSALS, DISMISSALS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS**

**(VIC) Proposed Rule 7**

7.1 *Excusals*

Dogs who fail to run after the Tally-ho.

Dogs who leave the field during the course.

Dogs who delay the course by 5 minutes or more.

Dogs who foul the course.

Handlers who attempt to direct their dogs during the course.

Consequence: The dog does not get a score but may run in the second run if excused in the first run.

(VIC) Proposed Change 7.1

**7.1 *Excusals***

Dogs who fail to run after the Tally-ho.

Dogs who leave the field during the ~~course~~ run.

Dogs who delay the ~~course~~ run by 5 minutes or more.

Dogs who foul the ~~course~~ field.

Handlers who attempt to direct their dogs during the ~~course~~ run.

Consequence: The dog does not get a score but may ~~run~~ compete in the second run if excused in the first run.

(VIC) Rationale 7.1.

To allow for proposed changes to glossary of terms to provide greater clarity as to when an excusal is warranted.

*7.2 Dismissals*

All dogs:

Dogs who invade the field at any time during the Sanctioned Event.

Consequence: The dog may not participate for the rest of the Sanctioned Event.

*Dogs in QC/Open/Veterans:*

Dogs who playfully interfere with the ~~course~~ run of another dog.

Dogs who course another dog rather than the lure.

Consequence: The dog may not participate for the rest of the Sanctioned Event and must requalify for the Qualifying Course.

(VIC) Proposed Change 7.2

*7.2 Dismissals*

All dogs:

Dogs who invade the field at any time during the Sanctioned Event.

Consequence: The dog may not participate for the rest of the Sanctioned Event.

*Dogs in QC/Open/Veterans:*

Dogs who playfully interfere with the ~~course~~ run of another dog.

Dogs who course another dog rather than the lure.

Consequence: The dog may not participate for the rest of the Sanctioned Event and must requalify for the Qualifying Course.

(VIC) Rationale 7.2.

To allow for proposed changes to glossary of terms to provide greater clarity as to when an dismissal is warranted.

7.3 *Disqualification*

Dogs who fight on the field.

Dogs who aggressively interfere with the course of another dog.

Consequence: ANKC Member Body dog aggression procedures are invoked and the dog must requalify for the Qualifying Course.

(VIC) Proposed Change 7.3

7.3 *Disqualification*

Dogs who fight on the field.

Dogs who aggressively interfere with the ~~course~~ run of another dog.

Consequence: ANKC Member Body dog aggression procedures are invoked and the dog must requalify for the Qualifying Course.

(VIC) Rationale 7.3.

To allow for proposed changes to glossary of terms to provide greater clarity as to when an disqualification is warranted.

**8. LURE COURSING TITLES AND AWARDS**

8.1 **Sighthounds**

Dogs entered in a Lure Coursing Sanctioned Event shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out below. Applications are to be made to the Member Body once requirements are met. These dogs may gain Title Certificates whether competing as a single dog on the field or lure coursing with another dog. Please see Appendices A & B for Title Progression charts.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 8.1a**

1. **Junior Courser (JC)**

**The Junior Coursing (JC) Test is the entry level to the sport of lure coursing. The dogs are scored, based on the dog’s attributes against the five scoring criteria. All dogs must qualify with a minimum of two JC qualifications to be eligible to compete in the Sighthound Stream. Dogs who possess two JC qualifications under 2 different ANKC licensed judges are eligible to apply for the title Junior Courser (JC).**

**(VIC) Rationale 5.1**

* **To tidy up that all Sighthounds must enter the Junior Courser class as their first point of entry to the sport.**
* **Novices and those running new dogs in the sport should be given feedback on the performance of their dogs, rather than a simple answer of pass/fail. The original rules called for dogs to be scored in JC the same way as other classes and this provided greater satisfaction and education for competitors.**
1. **Qualifying Course**

A Qualifying Course is a single run undertaken by a Sighthound to determine if it runs cleanly with another dog of similar running style. This run is not scored, the Judge passes or fails the dog. A pass enables the dog to run in the Open or Veteran Stakes.

The QC dog is an experienced dog of the same breed, or another sighthound or eligible breed of similar running style. When a different breed is being used to QC the dog, the Judge/s must approve the combination. The identification of a suitable experienced dog is the responsibility of the owner seeking a QC for their dog.

Subject to dismissal provisions, if the dog does not pass, the owner may choose to run the dog in another QC class at subsequent Sanctioned Events.

A dog that successfully passes a QC shall be issued with a Qualifying Certificate. This Certificate shall be produced, if requested, to any Secretary who seeks to verify a dog’s eligibility to compete in an Open or Veterans stake.

All rules relating to the conduct of Lure Coursing trials apply to the conduct of both dogs in a QC.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 8.1.b**

**~~a~~b) Qualifying Course**

**A Qualifying Course is a single run undertaken by a Sighthound to determine if it runs cleanly with another dog of similar running style. This run is not scored, the Judge passes or fails the dog. A pass enables the dog to run in the Open or Veteran Stakes.**

**The QC dog is an experienced dog of the same breed, or another sighthound or eligible breed of similar running style. When a different breed is being used to QC the dog, the Judge/s must approve the combination. The identification of a suitable experienced dog is the responsibility of the owner seeking a QC for their dog.**

**Subject to dismissal provisions, if the dog does not pass, the owner may choose to run the dog in another QC class at subsequent Sanctioned Events.**

**A dog that successfully passes a QC shall be issued with a Qualifying Certificate. This Certificate shall be produced, if requested, to any Secretary who seeks to verify a dog’s eligibility to compete in an Open or Veterans stake.**

**All rules relating to the conduct of Lure Coursing trials apply to the conduct of both dogs in a QC.**

**(VIC) Rationale 8.1.b**

Should be b), not c)

**b) Open and Veteran Class**

To qualify as a Field Champion Sighthounds running in Open Stakes must:

* earn 100 points under at least 4 different Judges or judging combinations on 2 different fields;
* obtain a minimum of one (1) first placing or two (2) second placings in their class.

To qualify as a Veteran Field Champion Sighthounds running in Veteran Stakes must:

* be 7 years of age or over except in the case of Irish Wolfhounds who must be 5 years of age or over.
* earn 75 points under at least 4 different Judges or judging combinations on 2 different fields;
* obtain a minimum of one (1) first placing or two (2) second placings in their class.

All points accrued in Open/Field Champion Stakes can be transferred across when the dog starts to compete in Veteran Stakes. Once enrolled in Veteran Stakes, a dog cannot transfer back.

Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their FCH title are eligible to compete for the Lure Courser of Merit (LCM) title. They must have gained an additional 80 breed points after gaining their FCH title and have received one first or two second placings to achieve the LCM.

Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their LCM are eligible to compete for the Lure Courser Excellent (LCX) title. They must have gained an additional 50 breed points after gaining their LCM title.

A higher numbered title will be available for every additional fifty (50) breed points (LCX2, LCX3 etc).

Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their vFCH title are eligible to compete for the Veteran Lure Courser of Merit (vLCM) title. They must have gained an additional 30 breed points after gaining their vFCH title and have received one first or two second placings to achieve the vLCM.

Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their vLCM are eligible to compete for the Veteran Lure Courser Excellent (vLCX) title. They must have gained an additional 20 breed points after gaining their vLCM title.

A higher numbered title will be available for every additional twenty (20) breed points (vLCX2, vLCX3 etc).

The accrual of points is set out in the table below. To earn points the dog must achieve a qualifying score. Dogs that are excused, dismissed or disqualified count do not count towards points.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 dog | 2 dogs | 3 dogs | 4 dogs | 5 dogs | 6 dogs | 7 dogs | 8 dogs | 9 dogs | 10 dogs | 11 or more dogs |
| First | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| Second |  | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 14 |
| Third |  |  | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| Fourth |  |  |  | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 10 |
| All other entrants that pass |  |  |  |  | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

Eligible streams for the Best in Field award are Open, FCh, Veteran and vFCh as the streams where Sighthounds compete against other Sighthounds in the field.

Best in Field shall be determined on the basis of scores awarded alone and not involve run offs between Sighthounds.

Along with the first place points for its breed, the Best in Field is eligible for additional points for Sighthounds beaten to a maximum of 16 total points for the Sanctioned Event. No more than 16 points may be earned by any Sighthound in a Sanctioned Event.

Only one Best in Field may be awarded per Sanctioned Event across all four streams.  Where there is a tie in scores for Best in Field, it will be awarded on a count back. Only the winner of the Best in Field award is eligible for additional points.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 8.1.c**

**~~b~~c) Open and Veteran Class**

**To qualify as a Field Champion, Sighthounds running in Open Stakes must:**

* **earn 100 points under at least 4 different Judges or judging combinations ~~on~~ at 2 different ~~fields~~ Sanctioned Events;**
* **obtain a minimum of one (1) first placing or two (2) second placings in their class.**

**To qualify as a Veteran Field Champion, Sighthounds running in Veteran Stakes must:**

* **be 7 years of age or over, except in the case of Irish Wolfhounds who must be 5 years of age or over.**
* **earn 75 points under at least 4 different Judges or judging combinations on 2 different ~~fields~~ Sanctioned Events;**
* **obtain a minimum of one (1) first placing or two (2) second placings in their class.**

**All points accrued in Open/Field Champion Stakes can be transferred across when the dog starts to compete in Veteran Stakes. Once enrolled in Veteran Stakes, a dog cannot transfer back.**

**Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their FCH title are eligible to compete for the Lure Courser of Merit (LCM) title. They must have gained an additional 80 breed points after gaining their FCH title and have received one first or two second placings to achieve the LCM.**

**Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their LCM are eligible to compete for the Lure Courser Excellent (LCX) title. They must have gained an additional 50 breed points after gaining their LCM title.**

**A higher numbered title will be available for every additional fifty (50) breed points (LCX2, LCX3 etc).**

**Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their FCh or vFCH title are eligible to compete for the Veteran Lure Courser of Merit (vLCM) title. They must have gained an additional 30 breed points after gaining their vFCH title and have received one first or two second placings to achieve the vLCM. Any dog who has completed their FCh, is not required to complete their vFCh upon transferring to the Veteran stream to be able to compete for Veteran Lure Courser of Merit (vLCM).**

**Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their LCM or vLCM are eligible to compete for the Veteran Lure Courser Excellent (vLCX) title. They must have gained an additional 20 breed points after gaining their vLCM title. Any dog who has completed their LCM, is not required to complete their vLCM title upon transferring to the Veteran stream to be able to compete for Veteran Lure Courser Excellent (vLCX).**

**A higher numbered title will be available for every additional twenty (20) breed points (vLCX2, vLCX3 etc).**

**The accrual of points is set out in the table below. To earn points the dog must achieve a qualifying score. Dogs that are excused, dismissed or disqualified count will still ~~do not~~ count towards points.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1 dog** | **2 dogs** | **3 dogs** | **4 dogs** | **5 dogs** | **6 dogs** | **7 dogs** | **8 dogs** | **9 dogs** | **10 dogs** | **11 or more dogs** |
| **First** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **16** |
| **Second** |  | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **14** |
| **Third** |  |  | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **12** |
| **Fourth** |  |  |  | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **10** |
| **All other entrants that pass** |  |  |  |  | **4** | **4** | **4** | **4** | **4** | **4** | **4** |

**Eligible streams for the Best in Field award are Open, FCh, Veteran and vFCh as the streams where Sighthounds compete against other Sighthounds in ~~the~~ a ~~field~~ Sanctioned Event.**

**Best in Field shall be determined on the basis of scores awarded alone and not involve run offs between Sighthounds.**

**Along with the first place points for its breed, the Best in Field is eligible for additional points for Sighthounds beaten to a maximum of 16 total points for the Sanctioned Event. No more than 16 points may be earned by any Sighthound in a Sanctioned Event.**

**Only one Best in Field may be awarded per Sanctioned Event across all four streams.  Where there is a tie in scores for Best in Field, it will be awarded on a count back. Only the winner of the Best in Field award is eligible for additional points.**

**(VIC) Rationale 8.1.c**

* **To add clarification that dogs can enter the Veteran stream upon age, and do not need to then gain a vFCh or LCX title. This is to add clarification in words to the rules that a dog can transfer to the Veteran Class at any point in the title progression and continue to accrue subsequent titles.  This brings the wording in line with the flow chart in Appendix A: Sighthound Stream Title Progression.    It clearly sets out there is no requirement for a dog to “go back” and complete a Veteran Field Championship.**
* **The dogs were still beaten even if they were excused, dismissed or disqualified. In confirmation excused and dismissed dogs still count towards the points of the winner. If the dog has participated in a class for which it is eligible, then the point should remain.**

**c) Singles Stakes**

Singles Stakes are for Sighthounds that run on their own after they have titled as a Junior Courser. Sighthounds running by themselves are only eligible for Singles Field Champion (sFCH), Singles Lure Courser of Merit (sLCM) and Singles Lure Courser Excellent (sLCX) titles. Points are not transferable between Singles Stakes and the Open/Field Champion/Veteran/Veteran Field Champion Stakes.

Sighthounds and eligible breeds need ten qualifications under 4 different Judges or judging combinations to be eligible for the title Singles Field Champion (sFCH).

Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their sFCH title may be eligible to compete for the Singles Lure Courser of Merit (sLCM) title. They must have gained an additional 8 qualifications after gaining their sFCH title.

Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their sLCM may be eligible to compete for the Singles Lure Courser Excellent (sLCX) title. They must have gained an additional 8 qualifications after gaining their sLCM title.

A higher numbered title will be available for every additional 8 qualifications (sLCX2, sLCX3 etc).

**(VIC) Proposed Change 8.1.c**

**~~c~~d) Singles Stakes**

**Singles Stakes are for Sighthounds that run on their own after they have titled as a Junior Courser. Sighthounds running by themselves are only eligible for Singles Field Champion (sFCH), Singles Lure Courser of Merit (sLCM) and Singles Lure Courser Excellent (sLCX) titles. Points are not transferable between Singles Stakes and the Open/Field Champion/Veteran/Veteran Field Champion Stakes.**

**Sighthounds and eligible breeds need ten qualifications under 4 different Judges or judging combinations to be eligible for the title Singles Field Champion (sFCH).**

**Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their sFCH title may be eligible to compete for the Singles Lure Courser of Merit (sLCM) title. They must have gained an additional 8 qualifications after gaining their sFCH title.**

**Sighthounds and eligible breeds who have gained their sLCM may be eligible to compete for the Singles Lure Courser Excellent (sLCX) title. They must have gained an additional 8 qualifications after gaining their sLCM title.**

**A higher numbered title will be available for every additional 8 qualifications (sLCX2, sLCX3 etc).**

**(VIC) Rationale 8.1.d**

**Renumbered due to addition of Junior Courser into this section.**

**d) Senior Courser Title**

To be eligible for the title of Senior Courser, 6 Passes after the award of the JC are required to be earned. Passes can only be accumulated in the Singles, Open or Veterans streams at a Trial where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 per Trial (two runs). To be eligible to apply for the title, passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations on 2 different fields.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 8.1e**

**~~d~~e) Senior Courser Title**

**To be eligible for the title of Senior Courser, 6 Passes after the award of the JC are required to be earned. Passes can only be accumulated in the Singles, Open or Veterans streams at a Trial where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 per Trial (two runs). To be eligible to apply for the title, passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations ~~on~~ at 2 different ~~fields~~ Sanctioned Events.**

**(VIC) Rationale 8.1e**

* **To bring in line with proposed changes to Glossary of Terms.**
* **Renumbered.**

8.2 **Titles for All Other Breeds**

All other dogs registered with the Australian National Kennel Council are eligible to participate in the coursing ability stream.

1. **Coursing Ability (CA**) – 8 Passes are required to be earned to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a meet where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 per meet (two runs). Passes must be given by a minimum of three different Judges or judging combinations.
2. **Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA)** 8 Passes are required to be earned to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a meet where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 per meet (two runs). Passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations
3. **Coursing Ability Excellent (CAX)** 8 Passes are required to be earned by to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a meet where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 per meet (two runs). Passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations.
4. **Coursing Ability Masters** (**CAM**) 8 Passes are required to be earned by to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a meet where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 per meet (two runs). Passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations on two different fields. A higher numbered title will be awarded for every 8 additional passes.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 8.2**

**8.2 Titles for All Other Breeds**

**All other dogs registered with the Australian National Kennel Council are eligible to participate in the coursing ability stream.**

1. **Junior Courser (JC) 2 passes are required and are awarded by two (2) different Judges. The dogs are ~~not~~ scored ~~but rather the Judge decides on a pass or fail~~ based on the dogs attributes against the scoring criteria.**
2. **Coursing Ability (CA) – 8 Passes are required to be earned to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a ~~meet~~ Sanctioned Event where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 points ~~per meet~~ ~~(two runs)~~. Passes must be given by a minimum of three different Judges or judging combinations.**
3. **Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA) 8 Passes are required to be earned to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a ~~meet~~ Sanctioned Event where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 points ~~per meet~~ ~~(two runs)~~.. Passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations.**
4. **Coursing Ability Excellent (CAX) 8 Passes are required to be earned by to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a ~~meet~~ Sanctioned Event where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 points ~~per meet~~ ~~(two runs)~~. Passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations.**
5. **Coursing Ability Masters (CAM) 8 Passes are required to be earned by to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a ~~meet~~ Sanctioned Event where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 points ~~per meet~~ ~~(two runs)~~. Passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations ~~on at two different fields~~. A higher numbered title will be awarded for every 8 additional passes (eg CAM2, CAM3, etc).**
6. **Coursing Ability Champion (CA Ch). On completion of CAM title a dog can acquire 5 passes towards a Coursing Ability Champion. Passes must be a score of 160 or above and must be from 5 different Judges at 2 different Sanctioned Events. Passes less than a score of 160 can count towards a CAM multiple title. Any scores achieved after the awarding of CA Ch can be counted towards a CAM multiple title. A Coursing Ability Champion title counts towards the awarding of a Dual or Triple Champion title by the ANKC.**

**(VIC) Rationale 8.2**

* **To include the JC as part of the progression for Coursing Ability dogs. There have been instances of members entering their dogs into CA as they weren’t aware of the need to complete a JC. This clarifies the title progression in line with the flowcharts in the rule book.**
* **To include a Cousing Ability Champion. Some Coursing Ability Dogs make great lure coursing dogs in their own right and consistently successful dogs that course well over time, should be eligible to be awarded a Coursing Ability Champion title, and by providing a minimum score shows that the dogs are coursing at a consistently high level. Coursing Ability dogs should be eligible for a Coursing Ability Champion title as there are numerous other sports where dogs that are not bred for those sports are eligible for a champion title in that sport, for example agility, tracking and obedience. Lure coursing would also not be viable without Coursing Ability dogs and as such a CA Ch rewards those Coursing Ability handlers that continuously support the sport of Lure Coursing, by providing an opportunity to earn a front-end title.**

**(VIC) New Rule 8.3**

* **Dogs in the Coursing Ability Stream that have reached the age of seven can obtain titles as a Veteran Coursing Ability Dog.**
* **Junior Courser (JC) - 2 passes are required at Sanctioned Events and are awarded by two (2) different Judges.**
* **Veteran Coursing Ability (vCA) – 4 Passes are required to be earned to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a Sanctioned Event where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100 points. Passes must be given by a minimum of three different Judges or judging combinations.**
* **Veteran Coursing Ability Advanced (vCAA) 4 Passes are required to be earned to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a Sanctioned Event where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100. Passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations**
* **Veteran Coursing Ability Excellent (vCAX) 4 Passes are required to be earned by to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a Sanctioned Event where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100. Passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations.**
* **Veteran Coursing Ability Masters (vCAM) 4 Passes are required to be earned to be eligible for the title. Passes can only be accumulated at a Sanctioned Event where the dog has accrued a minimum total score of 100. Passes must be given by a minimum of four different Judges or judging combinations. A higher numbered title (eg vCAM2, vCAM3, etc) will be awarded for every 4 additional passes.**

**(VIC) Rationale 8.3**

**To provide a stream for older Coursing Ability Dogs to participate and gain titles.**

**9.** **OFFICIALS**

All Lure Coursing Field Tests and Trials shall have the following officials:

Secretary

Gate Steward

Huntmaster

Lure Operator

Judge/s

They shall be responsible for the following duties which may be delegated as appropriate.

9.1 **Secretary**

* Checks in all dogs that are present on the day before the start of the Sanctioned Event and marks off those that are scratched, absent or on time on the check-in sheet.
* Prepares judging sheets, distributes them to the Judge/s, collects the completed score sheets, collates the scores and determines placings on the day.
* Conducts and displays the public draw of blanket colours.
* Liaises with the Judge/s appointed for the day immediately if there are any inconsistencies with the scoring.
* Compiles the required paperwork for the Member Body and submits it.

9.2 **Gate Steward**

Gate Steward is the intermediary between those competing on the field, and those waiting to enter the field. The Gate Steward has responsibility for:

* Giving adequate notice to handlers that their dogs are due to run.
* Ensuring that safety precautions are observed (e. g. covered shoes for handlers, no check chains, head-collars or harnesses on dogs).
* Ensuring dogs enter the field with only one item of permitted restraint attached.
* Ensuring that a handler only brings one dog per run on to the course.
* Ensuring that only one handler enters with the dog unless prior permission has been obtained from the Judge/s.
* Ensuring that each handler is wearing the correct number and that it will be visible to the Huntmaster.
* Checking, if applicable, each dog is wearing an approved blanket of correct colour.
* Marking off each dog as it is enters the field and recording those that are absent for both courses/runs of the day.
* Controlling the marshalling area.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 9.2**

**9.2 Gate Steward**

**Gate Steward is the intermediary between those competing on the field, and those waiting to enter the field. The Gate Steward has responsibility for:**

* **Giving adequate notice to handlers that their dogs are due to run.**
* **Ensuring that safety precautions are observed (e. g. covered shoes for handlers~~, no check chains, head-collars or harnesses on dogs~~).**
* **Ensuring dogs enter the field with only ~~one item of~~ permitted restraints attached.**
* **~~Ensuring that a handler only brings one dog per run on to the course.~~**
* **~~Ensuring that only one handler enters with the dog unless prior permission has been obtained from the Judge/s.~~**
* **Ensuring that each handler is wearing the correct number and that it will be visible to the Huntmaster.**
* **Checking, if applicable, each dog is wearing an approved blanket of correct colour.**
* **Marking off each dog as it ~~is~~ enters the field and recording those that are absent for both ~~courses/~~runs of the day.**
* **If the gate steward is not acknowledged after 3 calls when the previous dog is completing its run, that dog is to be scratched from the run.**
* **Controlling the marshalling area.**

**(VIC) Rationale 9.2**

* **Based on proposed changes to glossary of terms, the word courses is irrelevant here.**
* **Based on change to permitted items permitted to bring the dog onto the field.**
* **Based on the change to allow two handlers to bring a dog onto the field if necessary.**
* **Handlers need to be present ringside to keep the event running smoothly.**

9.3 **Huntmaster**

The Huntmaster is in control on the field. Their duties are to:

* Call up each new dog as each previous dog completes their run.
* Ensure that where multiple dogs are running that they are positioned correctly at the start according to blanket colour.
* Ensure that safety precautions for slipping dogs are observed (e.g. slip lead is held correctly).
* Before each run, check in the following order: Judge/s ready, lure operator ready, handler/s ready. Brief the handlers “do not release your dogs before the “T” in Tally-ho”. After affirmative answers, provide a hand signal to the lure operator to start the lure.
* Give the verbal signal ‘Tally-ho” to release the dogs for each course, and “Retrieve your dogs” at the end of the course when appropriate.
* Notify the handler of a pre-slipped dog and also the Judge/s immediately after the course is complete. If the Huntmaster fails to notify the Judge/s of a pre-slip, the Judge/s shall have the prerogative to question the Huntmaster if in their opinion the release seems questionable. If neither Huntmaster nor Judge/s deem there to be a pre-slip the dog will not be penalised.
* Direct the handler of a dog that fails to run at the “Tally-ho” or returns to its handler while the course is in progress, to immediately retrieve the dog. In the case of an immediate retrieval, it will be the Judge/s who determines whether a retrieved dog shall have a restart.
* Notify the Judge/s of any occurrence that happens during the course which might be grounds for excusal, dismissal or disqualification. Appropriate action shall be at the sole discretion of the Judge/s.
* Inform the handlers immediately of all dogs in a course that is called a no-course or a course in which a dog is dismissed or disqualified.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 9.3**

**9.3 Huntmaster**

**The Huntmaster is in control of the field. Their duties are to:**

* **Call up each new dog as each previous dog completes their run.**
* **Ensure that where multiple dogs are running that they are positioned correctly at the start according to blanket colour.**
* **Ensure that safety precautions for slipping dogs are observed (e.g. slip lead is held correctly).**
* **Before each Junior Coursing run, check in the following order: Judge/s ready, lure operator ready, handler/s ready. Brief the handlers “do not release your dogs before the “T” in Tally-ho”. After affirmative answers, provide a hand signal to the lure operator to start the lure.**
* **For all other runs check in the following order - Judge/s ready, lure operator ready, handler/s ready. After affirmative answers, provide a hand signal to the lure operator to start the lure.**
* **Give the verbal signal ‘Tally-ho” to release the dogs for each ~~course~~ run, and “Retrieve your dogs” at the end of the ~~course~~ run when appropriate.**
* **Notify the handler of a pre-slipped dog and also the Judge/s immediately after the ~~course~~ run is complete. If the Huntmaster fails to notify the Judge/s of a pre-slip, the Judge/s shall have the prerogative to question the Huntmaster if in their opinion the release seems questionable. If neither Huntmaster nor Judge/s deem there to be a pre-slip the dog will not be penalised.**
* **Direct the handler of a dog that fails to run at the “Tally-ho” or returns to its handler while the ~~course~~ run is in progress, to immediately retrieve the dog. In the case of an immediate retrieval, it will be the Judge/s who determines whether a retrieved dog shall have a restart.**
* **Notify the Judge/s of any occurrence that happens during the ~~course~~ run which might be grounds for excusal, dismissal or disqualification. Appropriate action shall be at the sole discretion of the Judge/s.**
* **Inform the handlers immediately of all dogs in a ~~course~~ run that is called a no-course or a ~~course~~ run in which a dog is dismissed or disqualified.**

**(VIC) Rationale 8.2**

**There are now a number of very seasoned dogs running in Lure Coursing in Australia in both the Sighthound and CAT streams.  Once dogs are running in classes above JC those dogs (and their handlers) know the routine on the field.  It is clearly evident that when the statement “Do not release your dogs…..” etc is called  out the experienced dogs hear Tally-ho and fight to be released.  And this is very problematic if the checks are carried out in the order the current rules have them, where the words Tally Ho are said twice often in close succession.  No other jurisdiction in the world has this requirement other than in Preliminary runs such as JC.**

**To update wording due to proposed changes to glossary of terms to clarify the meaning of course and run.**

9.4 **Lure Operator**

The Lure Operator is responsible for operation of the machine that drives the lure around the course.

One Lure Operator shall drive the lure for each class to ensure consistency for all dogs in competition. Due to the requirements for the Best in Field award one Lure Operator must drive for Open, FCh, Veteran or vFch. Changes to Lure Operators must be approved by the Judge/s.

Their duties are to:

* walk the course prior to the commencement of the trial with the Judge/s.
* make one test run of the lure before the first course is run. Where possible a reliable lure coursing dog should be used to test the flow of the course.
* start and stop the lure on the signal from the Huntmaster.
* keep the lure a reasonable distance in front of the dog/s at all times. In the event the lure becomes unsighted by the dog, the lure must continue in the planned direction until completion of the course.
* stop the lure on a signal from the Huntmaster or Judge/s, but shall automatically stop the lure any time a dog becomes entangled in the lure string or when in their opinion a potentially dangerous situation may develop.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 9.4**

**9.4 Lure Operator**

**The Lure Operator is responsible for operation of the machine that drives the lure around the course.**

**One Lure Operator shall drive the lure for each class to ensure consistency for all dogs in competition. Due to the requirements for the Best in Field award, one Lure Operator must drive for Open, FCh, Veteran or vFch. Changes to Lure Operators must be approved by the Judge/s.**

**Their duties are to:**

* **walk the course prior to the commencement of the trial with the Judge/s.**
* **make one test run of the lure before the first ~~course~~ run is ~~run~~ undertaken. Where possible a reliable lure coursing dog should be used to test the flow of the course.**
* **start and stop the lure on the signal from the Huntmaster.**
* **keep the lure a reasonable distance in front of the dog/s at all times. In the event the lure becomes unsighted by the dog, the lure must continue in the planned direction until completion of the ~~course~~ run.**
* **stop the lure on a signal from the Huntmaster or Judge/s, ~~but~~ or, at their discretion ~~shall automatically~~ stop the lure any time ~~a dog becomes entangled in the lure string or when in their opinion~~ a potentially dangerous situation may develop.**

**(VIC) Rationale 9.4**

**To update due to proposed changes in glossary of terms and remove extraneous language.**

9.5 **Judge/s**

In addition to those rules and procedures set out elsewhere in these rules, as they relate to Judges, the following shall apply.

* Judge/s officiating at Lure Coursing Tests or Trials must be registered with a Member Body list of eligible Judges.
* An Affiliate may, at their discretion, use up to three Judges for any given meet.
* If a dog owned or part-owned or leased or part-leased by a Judge or immediate family of such Judge, irrespective of where they are domiciled or any other person normally domiciled with the Judge, is entered in a Sanctioned Event, the stakes which the dog is entered are to be Judged by an alternative Judge. The same judging combination shall Judge Open, FCh, Veteran and/or vFch.
* No Judge shall perform any other field meet duties during his/her judging assignment.
* Each Judge, before the Sanctioned Event commences, shall walk the course set out.
* Where a Judge is billeted with an exhibitor, that exhibitor shall not be excluded from entering and coursing their dogs at that event.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 9.5**

**9.5 Judge/s**

**In addition to those rules and procedures set out elsewhere in these rules, as they relate to Judges, the following shall apply.**

* **Judge/s officiating at Lure Coursing Tests or Trials must be registered with a Member Body list of eligible Judges.**
* **An Affiliate may, at their discretion, use up to three Judges for any given meet.**
* **If a dog owned or part-owned or leased or part-leased by a Judge or immediate family of such Judge, irrespective of where they are domiciled or any other person normally domiciled with the Judge, is entered in a Sanctioned Event, the stakes which the dog is entered are to be Judged by an alternative Judge. The same judging combination shall Judge Open, FCh, Veteran and/or vFch.**
* **No Judge shall perform any other ~~field meet~~ duties during his/her judging assignment.**
* **Each Judge, before the Sanctioned Event commences, shall walk the course set out.**
* **Where a Judge is billeted with an exhibitor, that exhibitor shall not be excluded from entering and coursing their dogs at that Sanctioned Event.**

 **(VIC) Rationale 9.5**

**To update due to proposed changes in glossary of terms.**

**10.** **CONDUCT OF THE OPEN STAKES**

10.1 The order and arrangement of dogs competing in Open & Veteran Stakes (including Field Champion stakes for these classes) shall be determined by a random drawing by breed at the beginning of the trial. The draw shall be after check-in and shall be made in full public view.

10.2 If, by dismissal, disqualification or withdrawal, the number of dogs in stakes become unbalanced, the Judge/s may direct that a second random public draw be made to redistribute dogs before the commencement of the second course. On completion of any second draw, the blanket numbers for dogs are to be publicly displayed prior to the commencement of the second course. No other reassignment of blanket colours or changing of dogs between stakes is permitted.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 10.2**

**10.2 If, by dismissal, disqualification or withdrawal, the number of dogs in stakes become unbalanced, the Judge/s may direct that a second random public draw be made to redistribute dogs before the commencement of the second ~~course~~ run. On completion of any second draw, the blanket numbers for dogs are to be publicly displayed prior to the commencement of the second ~~course~~ run. No other reassignment of blanket colours or changing of dogs between stakes is permitted.**

**(VIC) Rationale 10.2**

**To allow for proposed changes to glossary of terms clarifying the difference between course and run.**

10.3 Upon request from an owner on the entry form, multiple entries from an owner shall be divided as evenly as possible between each course.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 10.3**

**10.3 Upon request from an owner on the entry form, multiple entries from an owner shall be divided as evenly as possible between each ~~course~~ run.**

**(VIC) Rationale 10.2**

**To allow for proposed changes to glossary of terms clarifying the difference between course and run.**

10.4 If only one dog of a breed is entered, that dog may be run with another breed if all handlers and the Judge/s agree. The dogs will be scored separately.

10.5 A dog that is dismissed or disqualified will not be permitted to run in the second course, and will not be counted as having been in competition when calculating the points.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 10.5**

**10.5 A dog that is dismissed or disqualified will not be permitted to ~~run~~ compete in the second ~~course~~ run, and will not be counted as having been in competition when calculating the points.**

**(VIC) Rationale 10.2**

**To allow for proposed changes to glossary of terms clarifying the difference between course and run.**

10.6 Dogs may be run as singles, braces or trios. Dogs shall be designated by colours according to their draw number.

1st number drawn - Yellow (placed on left)

2nd number drawn - Pink (middle or on the right in braces)

3rd number drawn - Blue (placed on right)

Blankets are to be plain, non-reflective, with no visible identifying marks and are to be provided by the handler.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 10.6**

**Dogs may be run as singles, braces or trios, at the discretion of the Affiliate club, Judge and Lure Driver. Dogs shall be designated by colours according to their draw number. It should be preferable, where possible, to run dogs in braces rather than trios.**

**1st number drawn - Yellow (placed on left)**

**2nd number drawn - Pink (middle or on the right in braces)**

**3rd number drawn - Blue (placed on right)**

**Blankets are to be plain, non-reflective, with no visible identifying marks and are to be provided by the handler.**

**(VIC) Rationale 10.6**

**The preference is for dogs to run as braces. These are safer as there is less chance of collision, is easier for the lure driver, and easier for the judge to judge. Dogs running in Braces will often show better performance and overall get better scores.**

10.7 Best in Field contenders are those who have competed in Open and Field Champion Stakes only.

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 10.7**

**Best in Field contenders are those who have competed in Open, Veteran, ~~and~~ Field Champion and Veteran Field Champion Stakes only.**

**(VIC) Rationale 10.6**

**To include Veterans sighthounds in Best in Field Stakes.**

10.8 The wearing of muzzles is optional, however, hounds that have been disqualified for aggression towards another hound whilst lure coursing shall wear a muzzle at all times on the field. Muzzles must be correctly fitted and of a basket type that allow the dogs to open their mouth. Muzzles must be supplied by the exhibitor.

**11. JUDGING**

11.1 While on the field during the judging assignment, no Judge shall discuss anything relative to the judging assignment with any handler or owner.

11.2While observing the course in progress, when two or more Judges are used, the Judges shall stand apart. They shall not discuss scores or placements of dogs.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 11.2**

**11.2 While observing the ~~course~~ run ~~in progress~~, when two or more Judges are used, the Judges shall stand apart. They shall not discuss scores or placements of dogs.**

**(VIC) Rationale 11.2**

**To update language due to proposed changes to glossary of terms.**

11.3 A Judge shall be able to call a “no course” for any of the following reasons:

a) The dogs are interfered with or disrupted or the Judge cannot fairly score the course.

b) When a segment of the lure falls off and any dog reacts to said segment, but only if the course cannot be fairly scored.

c) If a dog or dogs touch or catch the lure and, in the Judge/s opinion/s by so doing that action causes interference with the running of the lure.

d) Any time a dog becomes entangled in the string, the Judge/s shall order the lure stopped and may declare a no course.

1. The lure does not operate in a manner that allows the Judge to score the dogs.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 11.3**

**11.3 A Judge shall be able to call a “no course” for any of the following reasons:**

**a) The dogs are interfered with or disrupted or the Judge cannot fairly score the ~~course~~ run.**

**b) When a segment of the lure falls off and any dog reacts to said segment, but only if the ~~course~~ run cannot be fairly scored.**

**c) If a dog or dogs touch or catch the lure and, in the Judge/s opinion/s by so doing that action causes interference with the running of the lure.**

**d) Any time a dog becomes entangled in the string, the Judge/s shall order the lure stopped and may declare a no course.**

1. **The lure does not operate in a manner that allows the Judge to score the dogs.**

**(VIC) Rationale 11.3**

**To update language due to proposed changes to glossary of terms.**

11.4 Judges are responsible for scoring all categories.

Placing of winners shall be decided on the basis of qualities evidenced by the following and shall be scored in whole numbers only and governed by the following system:

Enthusiasm — 15 Points

Follow — 15 Points

Speed — 25 Points

Agility — 25 Points

Endurance — 20 Points

Total — 100 Points

**Less: Pre-slip penalty** minus 1 to 10 points

**Less: Course delay penalty** minus 1 to 10 points

**(VIC) Proposed Changes 10.7**

**11.4 Judges are responsible for scoring all categories.**

**Placing of winners shall be decided on the basis of qualities evidenced by the following and shall be scored in whole numbers only and governed by the following system:**

**Enthusiasm — ~~15~~20 Points**

**Follow — ~~15~~20 Points**

**Speed — ~~25~~20 Points**

**Agility — ~~25~~20 Points**

**Endurance — 20 Points**

**Total — 100 Points**

**Less: Pre-slip penalty minus 1 to 10 points**

**Less: Course delay penalty minus 1 to 10 points**

**(VIC) Rationale 8.2**

**In a sport that was designed to “recreate the physical requirements of open field coursing” and to allow the continued testing of functional abilities of sighthounds it seems odd that any one area of judging criteria would be given a higher weighting in scoring.  Both AKC & FCI operate their scoring systems on the basis of equal points across the 5 criteria.  ASFA is the odd one out this regard.  An extensive search of historical references has failed to come up with the reasoning behind scoring the for the abilities of Follow, Enthusiasm and Endurance being given less weighting that those of Speed & Agility.  It would be thought that the ability to follow game in the first instance would be just as important at speed, agility and endurance. It also simplifies judging and makes all categories of equal value making scoring fairer for CAT dogs as scoring is skewed in the favour of sighthounds and fast breeds..**

11.5 When a **pre-slip** occurs, the Judge shall levy a penalty of between 1 and 10 points for that course. The pre-slip penalty shall not be carried over in the case where a no-course is called on the course in progress.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 11.5**

**11.5 When a pre-slip occurs, the Judge shall levy a penalty of between 1 and 10 points for that ~~course~~ run. The pre-slip penalty shall not be carried over in the case where a no-course is called on the ~~course~~ run in progress.**

**(VIC) Rationale 11.5**

**To update language due to proposed changes to glossary of terms.**

11.6 When a **course delay** of less than five minutes occurs, the Judge shall levy a 1 to 10 point penalty for that course. This includes when a dog is slipped when no Tally-Ho has been sounded. The course delay penalty shall be carried over in the case where a no course has been called on the course in progress and shall be cumulative in the case of repeated delays.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 11.6**

**11.6 When a course delay of less than five minutes occurs, the Judge shall levy a 1 to 10 point penalty for that ~~course~~ run. This includes when a dog is slipped when no Tally-Ho has been sounded. The course delay penalty shall be carried over in the case where a no course has been called on the ~~course~~ run in progress and shall be cumulative in the case of repeated delays.**

**(VIC) Rationale 11.6**

**To update language due to proposed changes to glossary of terms.**

11.7 The score given to the dog at the end of the Sanctioned Event, must be out of 200. Where two Judge/s are used, the final score for each dog shall be the total sum of all four scores, divided by two. Where three Judges are used, the final score for each dog shall be the total sum of all six scores, divided by three.

11.8 Ties will be decided on a count back of scores. Whichever dog has the highest scores in the second run in the following three categories will be awarded the higher placing. The first criterion is Follow, the second is Agility, the third is Endurance. If all three scores are the same for the second run, the scores for the first run will be taken into consideration.

11.9 A Judge may score some dogs in a course and re-run other dogs from the same course. At their discretion, the Judge may score dogs which fail to complete the course for any reason.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 11.9**

**11.9 A Judge may score some dogs in a ~~course~~ run and re-run other dogs from the same ~~course~~ run. At their discretion, the Judge may score dogs which fail to complete the ~~course~~ run for any reason.**

**(VIC) Rationale 11.9**

**To update language due to proposed changes to glossary of terms.**

11.10 After a course has been Judged, and marked score sheets turned over to the Secretary, only the Judge can change their final score and only on the day of the trial in the case of score-adding arithmetical or blanket colour error. Changes must be initialled by the Judge.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 11.10**

**11.10 After a ~~course~~ run has been Judged, and marked score sheets turned over to the Secretary, only the Judge can change their final score and only on the day of the trial in the case of score-adding arithmetical or blanket colour error. Changes must be initialled by the Judge.**

**(VIC) Rationale 11.10**

**To update language due to proposed changes to glossary of terms.**

**12. GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

Blanket: A plain coloured (Yellow, Pink, Blue), non-reflective vest without embellishments or identifying marks provided by the competitor and worn by dogs competing in multiple dog competition.

Combination of Judges: Where two or three Judges are judging the same classes at the same time at Sanctioned Event

Course: Consists of 1, 2 or 3 dogs pursuing a lure over a selected course pattern. Begins with the “Tally Ho” and ends with the retrieval of dogs.

**(VIC) Proposed Change: ‘Course’:**

**Course: ~~Consists of 1, 2 or 3 dogs pursuing a lure over a selected course pattern. Begins with the “Tally Ho” and ends with the retrieval of dogs.~~****The pattern a dog runs over the ground within the field, which has been set by a judge.**

**(VIC) Rationale: ‘Course’**

**To provide clarity around the meaning of the terms course, event, field and run throughout the rule book.**

Course Delay: Delays caused by dogs whose handlers delay the start of the run, dogs that break away from and avoid their handlers prior to the “Tally-ho” and dogs that avoid their handlers at the end of a run. Can include dogs or handlers entering the field when it is not their turn delaying the start of the catalogued dogs run.

Decision: Any official decision of a dog by a Judge other than a score: e.g. an excusal, dismissal or disqualification.

Dismissal: A dismissal means a dog shall be unable to participate for the rest of the day.

Disqualification: A disqualification means a dog is unable to participate for the rest of the day and must be reported to the member body in accordance with member body requirements.

Excusal: Dogs removed from the field for remainder of the run in which they are competing, but may compete later in the day.

Fail to Run: Any behaviour of any dog who upon “tally-ho” makes little or no attempt to pursue the lure, examples include dogs who remain standing at the start or dogs who walk or run away from the direction of the lure

(VIC) New Definition: ‘Field’

Field: The space where a course is set up on the grounds. This may be enclosed by fencing or bunting where appropriate. Dogs in this area are under the control of the Huntmaster and no dogs, except those that are currently preparing to run the course, running the course or being caught after running a course are permitted in this area.

(VIC) Rationale: ‘Field’

**To provide clarity around the meaning of the terms course, event, field and run throughout the rule book.**

Draw: A random draw determining the order in which the dogs will run in multiple dog stakes.

No Course: Any course that a Judge determines cannot be Judged

**(VIC) Proposed Change: ‘ No Course’**

**No Course: Any ~~course~~ run that a Judge determines cannot be judged.**

(VIC) Rationale: ‘No Course’

**To provide clarity around the meaning of the terms course, event, field and run throughout the rule book.**

Pre-Slip: When a dog is slipped before the Huntmaster gives the Tally-ho signal.

**(VIC) New Definition: ‘Run’**

**Run: Consists of 1, 2 or 3 dogs pursuing a lure over a selected course on a designated field. A run begins with the Huntsmaster call of “Tally Ho” and ends with the Huntmaster’s call of ‘Retrieve Your Dog’.**

**(VIC) Rationale: ‘Run**

**To provide clarity around the meaning of the terms course, event, field and run throughout the rule book.**

Sanctioned Event: Collective noun to describe lure coursing Tests and/or Trials held by an Affiliate.

**(VIC) Proposed Change: ‘Sanctioned Event’**

**Sanctioned Event: ~~Collective noun to describe lure coursing Tests and/or Trials held by an Affiliate.~~** **A competition that is held by an affiliated club under the auspices of the ANKC state controlling body. A Sanctioned Event is two runs per dog, held on the same day.**

**(VIC) Rationale: ‘Sanctioned Event’**

**To provide clarity around the meaning of the terms course, event, field and run throughout the rule book.**

Slip: The act of a handler releasing the dog at the start of a course on the verbal signal “Tally-Ho”.

(VIC) Proposed Change: ‘Slip’

Slip: The act of a handler releasing the dog at the start of a ~~course~~ run on the verbal signal “Tally-Ho”.

**(VIC) Rationale: ‘Slip’**

**To provide clarity around the meaning of the terms course, event, field and run throughout the rule book.**

Trial Precinct: Includes the competition field and any adjacent areas which may include marshalling areas, secretary’s office, carpark, catering areas, sponsors areas, or designated exercise or offlead areas.

**Appendix A: Sighthound / Associate Sighthound Stream Title Progression**

**Junior Courser Class**Pass x 2Title: JC

Singles Stakes

Veterans Stakes

Open Stakes

**Singles Class**Pass x 10Title: sFCh

Singles Lure Courser of Merit
Pass x 8
Title: sLCM

Sanctioned event classes are indicated in **bold.**

Points earned in the Open/FCh stakes can be transferred to the Veteran equivalent where indicated by the dotted line. Points cannot be transferred back.
\* Multiplier titles are available for all LCX Titles

Lure Courser Excellent

50pts required plus one first or two second placings.

Title: LCX \*

Veteran Lure Courser Excellent
20pts required plus one first or two second placings.
Title: vLCX \*

**vFCh Class**30pts required plus one first or two second placings.Title: vLCM

**FCh Class**80pts required plus one first or two second placings.Title - LCM

Singles Lure Courser Excellent
Pass x 8
Title: sLCX \*

**Open Class**100pts required plus one first or two second placings. Title: Field Champion

Title: FCh

**Veteran Class**75pts required plus one first or two second placings.Title – Veteran Field Ch

All Sighthounds

Senior Courser Title
Pass x 6
Title: SC

**Qualifying Certificate**

**Appendix B: Non Sighthound Stream Title Progression**

**Junior Courser Class**Pass x 2Title: JC

Sanctioned event classes are indicated in **bold**

Coursing Ability ChampionPass x 5 (160+)
Title: CA Ch (Prefix)

Veterans Coursing Ability Master
Pass x 4
Title: vCAM

Veterans Coursing Ability Advanced
Pass x 4
Title: vCAA

Veterans Coursing Ability
Pass x 4
Title: vCA

Veterans Coursing Ability

Coursing Ability Master Multiple Titles
Pass x 8
Title: CAM2, CAM3 etc

**Coursing Ability Master Class**Pass x 8Title: CAM

**Coursing Ability Excellent Class**Pass x 8Title: CAX

**Coursing Ability Advanced Class**Pass x 8Title: CAA

**Coursing Ability Class**Pass x 8Title: CA

Veterans Coursing Ability Excellent
Pass x 4
Title: vCAX

**Appendix C: Associate Sighthound Application Form**



**APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE OR SPORTING SIGHTHOUND**

**TO COMPETE IN LURE COURSING TRIALS FOR SIGHTHOUNDS**

This application must be approved before an Associate or Sporting Sighthound can compete in its first Lure Coursing Trial for Sighthounds.

Member’s name: ................................................................................................................................. Membership number: ..........................................................................................................................

Address: ................................................................................................................................................

Telephone number: ..................................... Mobile: ...........................................................................

Email address: .......................................................................................................................................

Registration Number of the Associate or Sporting dog: .....................................................................

Microchip Number of dog: .................................................................................................................

Date of Birth of dog: ...........................................................................................................................

Registered Name of dog: ....................................................................................................................

Breed of dog: ......................................................................................................................................

Sex of dog: ..........................................................................................................................................

Height of Dog: ....................................................................................................................................

**I confirm that the dog which is the subject of this application is a Sighthound or of Sighthound type.**

I include with this Application two photos of the dog, one in profile (standing) and one from the front (standing), which are endorsed on the reverse with the registration number of the dog and my signature.

......................................................................................................................................... (Signed by member)

*This Application and the photos must be forwarded to ………………………………………………………………[insert member body name here] (attn LC Committee) directly by the member together with the current Associate or Sporting Dog certificate.*