

- 1) Change the requirement of clubs holding a SchH trial to an “AWMA sanctioned event” -- this gives flexibility for a club to host, for example, a regional training seminar, etc. A regional event could apply for and receive approval from the Executive Board – lends status to the event while satisfying the club’s requirements without having to ask for a waiver. Further, the section that says Regional Directors approve trial dates could be loosely interpreted to allow them to also approve “events” for the clubs in their regions. A minor change to that section is included in this item.

[Article V, section 1, paragraph b(v).] (v) Each full member club shall hold at least one (1) ~~sanctioned AWMA IPO/schutzhund trial~~ **sanctioned event** each calendar year beginning January 1 of the year after the year in which the club is granted full member status. The Executive Board of Directors shall approve any waiver of this requirement. Failure to comply with this provision will reduce the club to affiliated status for at least one (1) year. The affiliated club shall meet all the requirements once again to become a full member club.

[Article IX, Section 3] AWMA Regional Director shall be the regional representative of the association. The Regional Director shall assist in the development of new clubs in the region and shall approve trial dates **and other AWMA sanctioned events** for all clubs in his/her region. The Regional Director shall forward requests for AWMA judges to the Director of Judges. He/she may be assigned other duties as needed.

- 2) There have been several times in the past year (and before that) when the opinion of the Director of Judges was a key input to the deliberations of the Executive Board; this position is also part of the Executive Board in other organizations. However, the Executive Board is just a little too large; getting thorough discussion on issues is problematic, and there have been votes that barely constituted a quorum. The second change to this passage reduces the number of Directors at Large to 1 or 2 from the current 4 or 5, which constitutes a net reduction of 2 members with the addition of the DOJ.

[Article VI, section 2(a,b)] SECTION 2: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

a. Definition:

The Executive Board of Directors shall consist of all elected AWMA Officers, Regional Directors, **the Director of Judges** and of ~~not fewer than four (4) and not more than five (5)~~ **either one or two** representatives from the membership at large. To be eligible for election, each member of the Executive Board (whether at-large or as an officer) must have titled a dog to at least an IPO 1, VPG 1, FR 1 or MR 1.

b. The General Board of Directors shall elect from the list of full members of AWMA ~~not fewer than two (2) and not more than three (3)~~ **one** persons, who ~~are~~ **is** not an AWMA officers, to be **a** members of the Executive Board of Directors. They shall be known as **a**

Directors at Large. They shall serve a two (2) year term and shall be elected in even numbered years. ~~The number of Directors at Large to be elected shall be that number, either two (2) or three (3) that when added to the number of AWMA officers and~~

~~Regional Directors equals an odd number. The election for Directors at Large shall be by plurality.~~ **In the event that this results in an even number of members of the Executive Board,** the Executive Board of Directors shall elect from the list of full members of AWMA ~~the remaining two~~ **one additional** directors at large.

- 3) Current requirements for regional elections allow only in person or regular mail. Adding email ballots to the RD election process will smooth business.

[Article IX, section 6] d. Elections may be held for the office of Regional Director at a regional meeting or by mail between the dates of January 1 prior to the annual meeting and 14 days prior to the annual meeting of the General Board of Directors, provided, all full member clubs in the region are notified in writing, not less than thirty (30) days prior to said election. If this election is held, the AWMA Secretary shall be notified of the result within ten (10) days. **Electronic balloting is permitted.**

- 4) Late fees for clubs and individual memberships. This topic was broached a few years back, and was unsuccessfully argued. The membership chair, however, spends more money and time on late memberships and “emergency” renewals than on regular business, and it seems only fair that those that cause the most work should pay for it. In keeping with this concept, and with the attempt to keep the bylaws simple, the following is proposed :

[Article IV, Section 2, paragraph b. Non-payment of dues --One (1) month before the expiration date of his membership, each member shall be so notified by AWMA. Any member whose dues are not paid by the expiration date shall **be subject to the assessment of late fees for renewal. Should an additional reasonable grace period elapse without payment of dues and any late fees, the member** shall have his membership canceled. Such cancellation shall result in loss of all rights and privileges of membership. In addition local clubs shall cancel the membership of any person whose membership in AWMA is canceled. **The Executive Board shall have the authority to set reasonable late fees and grace periods for the purpose of this part.**

Under current practice, very rarely has a membership been canceled, so that we’re attempting to provide this grace period in violation of our existing bylaws. This codifies that practice, and allows the details to be made a part of the policies and procedures. With the current structure of the part on club dues, the wording is a bit different but has the same effect. Paragraph f says club dues are due on January 1. A new paragraph is added:

[Article V, Section 2, paragraph g] **g. Failure to maintain membership, remit annual dues, or otherwise comply with full member club requirements may result in a club being reduced to affiliate status upon action by the Executive Board. The Executive**

Board shall have the authority to set a reasonable grace period and late fees for clubs that fail to pay club dues by January 1.