

# RULES

## DISCUSSION PAPER: VOTING ENTITLEMENT CHANGES FOR NBA RULES UNDER COMMODITY LEVIES

*Prepared by Nick Wallingford  
14 November 1994*

### BACKGROUND TO REQUIRED CHANGES

Prior to the granting of a Commodity Levies Order in Council, the NBA will need to change rules to accommodate the changed method of levy. At the same time the NBA will need changes to voting entitlements, as the current rules relate to the number of hives on the hive levy declaration.

No strong expressions have come from the membership that the voting entitlements currently used are unfair or inequitable to any categories of hive holdings. I believe the intent, then, should be to create a new voting entitlement that perpetuates in so far as possible the voting entitlements under the current rules.

### EXISTING VOTING ENTITLEMENT

Two of our current rules describe the primary aspects of voting entitlements for commercial members.

16 e) For the purposes of the election an ordinary member shall have one vote and a commercial member one vote for each 100 hives or part thereof on which hive levy for the current year has been paid, with a maximum of 12 votes. Hive Levy shall be deemed to have been paid for the purposes of this Rule if payment thereof has been deferred by the Association in accordance with the Act.

26 c) At Branch meetings each member of the Branch present in person or by proxy shall have one vote except that on a poll on any remit to the Conference of Branch Delegates or any business for consideration at a Special Meeting members shall have the same voting entitlement as under Rule 16 (e).

Commercial beekeepers, then, have voting entitlement to the following schedule:

less than 50 hives	no votes
50 - 100 hives	1 vote
101 - 200 hives	2 votes
201 - 300 hives	3 votes
301 - 400 hives	4 votes
401 - 500 hives	5 votes
501 - 600 hives	6 votes
601 - 700 hives	7 votes
701 - 800 hives	8 votes
801 - 900 hives	9 votes
901 - 1000 hives	10 votes
1001 - 1101 hives	11 votes
more than 1101 hives	12 votes

## NEW SCHEDULE OF VOTING ENTITLEMENTS

The change to per apiary rather than per hive does not provide any an exact 'translation' to a new entitlement.

The approach I have taken is to attempt to identify two key points: the point that provides the second vote and the point that provides the twelfth vote. That is, by identifying the minimum and maximum voting points, and knowing the range between voting categories, decisions can be made on the new voting entitlement.

The basis for comparison/calculation that I have used is the 15.4 hives/apiary number used in the paper dated 10 May 1994 (Ted Roberts and Ron Rowe). I then did similar calculations for plus and minus 20% from this average (12.3 and 18.5 hives/apiary) just to make sure that no anomalies would result

The calculations indicate that

minimum number of hives to get 2 votes (existing):	101	
equivalent apiaries (20% less than average hives/apiary):	9	apiaries/vote: 9
equivalent apiaries (average hives/apiary):	7	apiaries/vote: 7
equivalent apiaries (20% more than average hives/apiary):	6	apiaries/vote: 6
minimum number of hives to get 12 votes (existing):	1101	
equivalent apiaries (20% less than average hives/apiary):	95	apiaries/vote: 8.6
equivalent apiaries (average hives/apiary):	72	apiaries/vote: 6.5
equivalent apiaries (20% more than average hives/apiary):	65	apiaries/vote: 5.9

The 'appropriate' number of apiaries per vote, then, would appear to be either 6 or 7, with the equivalent apiaries number being closer to 7. Neither of these numbers would substantially change the voting entitlement. Six apiaries per vote would provide marginal voting advantage to beekeepers with smaller numbers of apiaries; seven apiaries per vote would provide marginal voting advantage to beekeepers with larger numbers of apiaries. In both cases, however, it must be remembered that since the maximum vote "caps" at 12, once that number has been reached, no change would occur with either voting scheme - the two schemes differ only in the apiary numbers required to reach that maximum vote.

## RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the NBA rules be amended to provide voting rights along the lines of:

"... a commercial member shall have one vote for each 7 apiaries or part thereof on which levy for the current year has been paid, with a maximum of 12 votes."

This will result in a voting entitlement schedule of:

1 -7 apiaries	1 vote
8 - 14 apiaries	2 votes
15 - 21 apiaries	3 votes
22 - 28 apiaries	4 votes
29 - 35 apiaries	5 votes
36 - 42 apiaries	6 votes
43 - 49 apiaries	7 votes
50 - 56 apiaries	8 votes
57 - 63 apiaries	9 votes
70 - 77 apiaries	10 votes
78 - 84 apiaries	11 votes
85 or more apiaries	12 votes

## **AMOUNT OF LEVY TO BE PAID**

While I was working with voting, I did a short analysis to compare the amount of levy to be paid under Commodity Levies when compared with the existing hive levy.

Obviously, the greatest change will be for beekeepers who have either paid no levy previously or paid only a small hive levy.

Again using the 15.4 hives/apiary average, most beekeepers (those with more than the smaller numbers of apiaries, who will be levied 7 to 12% less) will be paying 13 to 15% less levy.

If beekeepers keep 20% less than the average number of hives per apiary (which can also occur if numbers of seasonal sites are registered), most beekeepers would face a 6 to 8% levy increase, with larger changes for the beekeepers with less than 10 apiaries (10 to 16% increase).

On the other hand, beekeepers who maintain 20% more than the average number of hives per apiary would face levy reductions in the order of 25 to 29%!

Remember when considering these figures that for the relatively large number of beekeepers who have less than 50 hives, maintained on 2 or more sites, the Commodity Levies changes will be substantial. From no levy at all, they will be moving into the category of \$50 to \$71 of levy to be paid.