



British Flyball Association

British Flyball Association

Official Rules & Regulations

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The official rules and regulations of the British Flyball Association, the governing body of International Flyball Racing within the United Kingdom.

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SECTION 1 - CONSTITUTION AND OFFICERS

1.1 Name and Objective

The Association shall be called The British Flyball Association (BFA) and its objective shall be to further the sport of International Flyball, and to promote co-operation and good sportsmanship in the sport through its committees, rules and policies, tournaments and other activities.

1.2 Code of Ethics

- a) One of the objectives of the BFA is to promote co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs. Co-operation and good sportsmanship should not be recognised in passive observance, but in all BFA related communications as a way of life and in training and competition treating committee, members and guests fairly and with respect, promoting an environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment. BFA members shall at all times be courteous and friendly. At no time should they show displeasure with a dog, a judge, exhibitor, BFA representative, sponsor, host or spectator in or out of the ring. Never conduct yourself in a manner that would bring discredit to the sport of Flyball. As a participant whether it be exhibitor, trainer, judge, host team or BFA representative, you typify the sport of Flyball. Alcohol is not permitted in the Flyball ring during competitions.
- b) Training and exhibiting shall be carried out by such methods that are in keeping with the best interests of the dog and the sport of Flyball.
- c) Abuse or severe discipline of a dog is not in the best interest of Flyball. Participants shall always follow the Rules and Policies, aims and objectives of the BFA, showing a full knowledge and understanding of the same

1.3 Committee and Officers

- a) The Committee shall be composed of 9 Officers, each of whom must be unrelated and from different Teams. Each of these 9 Officers must also be directly associated with different Teams which are in current and regular competition at Sanctioned Tournaments. If the above criteria cannot be fulfilled the Committee will form with the available members and the remaining positions will be left open, to be filled at a later date if possible. One shall be appointed from within the Committee to act as Chairperson and others shall be appointed from within the Committee by the Committee to act as (1) Secretary and (2) Treasurer
- b) The Committee shall be responsible for the enforcement of the Rules and Policies, promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship, discipline, setting and amending of the rules and guidelines for Tournaments, addressing any protest or complaint, interpreting the rules and other special activities as well as communicate with the membership and carry out their actions in a fair, even-handed and timely manner. Announcement of Committee members for the forthcoming year shall take place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) following a postal or secure electronic ballot of the membership from nominations submitted. Any member wishing to be elected onto the BFA Committee must have at least 3 years' experience in the association and must have attended at least one BFA AGM. At each AGM one third of the nine Committee members shall retire. These members together with any other nominations received in writing to the Secretary and seconded by at least one current BFA member, 30 days before the AGM will be eligible for election to the new Committee. No Committee member shall remain on the Committee for more than three years without standing for re-election. Committee members will be expected to comply with the Committee Job Description (issued Feb 2014). If the number of members standing for election or re-election to the Committee is no greater than the number of vacancies on the Committee, then the election will be considered uncontested, and no ballot will be required.
- c) Should it be necessary, the BFA committee reserves the right to ask for the retirement, resignation or expulsion of Committee members who do not attend these meetings, or have been found guilty under the disciplinary procedure of bringing Flyball into disrepute whilst a serving Committee

Member. The Committee may co-opt members onto the Committee in the event of a position becoming vacant and the criterion previously stated is fulfilled. These co-opted members will hold office until the next AGM and any co-opted member will assume full voting rights on the committee.

- d) A quorum shall consist of a minimum of 5 members of the Committee. A quorum shall only convene if all members have been informed of a meeting and have equal opportunity to attend.
- e) BFA members may be invited onto the Committee as assistants to the Committee at any time; these members may attend meetings at the Committee's request but will not assume voting rights.
- f) The Committee may at its discretion amend the BFA Rules and Policies (except Sections 1, 2 and 3) Any such rule changes are to be published by the Committee and will be implemented on the first Monday in November each year, giving a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 28 days' notice to:
 - i. All BFA registered Primary Team Captains/Managers.
 - ii. All BFA Head Judges
 - iii. All other BFA Officials

The only exception to the above timetable will be safety issues and those items voted upon and carried from the AGM which may include items from sections 1, 2 and 3, this can be implemented with immediate effect. This may be done at the discretion of the BFA Committee.

NOTE- All rule changes will be published on the BFA website as soon as possible and in the next Flyball Record.

1.4 Chairperson

The Chairperson shall:

- a) Oversee and facilitate the activities of the Committee.
- b) Head the discussions for Committee and General Meetings.
- c) Decide the outcome of votes and if the result is tied, use a casting vote to finalise the decision.
- d) Sign the Minutes of Meetings.

1.5 Treasurer

The Treasurer appointed by the Committee shall:

- a) Collect and deposit funds.
- b) Examine and certify expenditures.
- c) Provide audited accounts and prepare an annual financial report for the AGM.
- d) Report on the current financial standing of the BFA at each Committee Meeting.
- e) Keep a register of all assets of the BFA over the value of £50.00.
- f) Upkeep the Association's Insurance Policies.
- g) Administer fiscal penalties for late race returns.

1.6 Secretary

- a) The Secretary, appointed by the Committee, shall be responsible for the administrative duties of the BFA including but not limited to (1) Legal Counsel, (2) Minutes and Meetings, (3) Mailing and Correspondence, (4) Keeping relevant records of all the Associations dealings.
- b) Upon request the Secretary will provide details of the BFA Rules and Policies.
- c) Maintain a record of all approved BFA Officials, i.e. Head Judges.

1.7 Records and Statistics Co-ordinator

- a) The Co-ordinator appointed by the Committee will maintain all sanctioned tournament records and the BFA's statistics. He/she will issue tournament results, prepare seeding lists and ratify times/records.

NOTE: All this information relates solely to Sanctioned Events.

'Fun Events' will be exempt from records and statistics.

- b) Make available to sanctioned tournament organisers all the necessary data to enable the same to comply with the requirements of the BFA.
- c) Keep all relevant data up-to-date on the BFA Website.

1.8 Webmaster

- a) Approved by the Committee, the Webmaster shall be responsible for the administration and technical maintenance of the BFA Website, including both web and mail servers.
- b) On request advise the Committee on all aspects of the Website.
- c) Liaise directly with Membership and Show Secretaries, Records and Statistics Coordinator and the BFA Secretary to ensure the smooth running of their respective areas.

1.9 Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary will:

- a) Keep Team registrations, membership names, addresses and telephone numbers and maintain membership subscription details.
- b) Allocate membership/team/dog numbers.
- c) Transmit the appropriate details to the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator and to the Treasurer.
- d) Keep all relevant data up-to-date on the BFA Website.

1.10 Regional Representative Co-ordinator and Regional Representatives

The BFA Regional Representative Co-ordinator is the liaison point between the Regional Representatives and the BFA Committee. The role facilitates regular communication between the Regional Representatives for the sharing of best practice.

The BFA regions are served by appointed representatives who can be approached by prospective members, new teams, and existing members and teams for help and advice in respect of the BFA; examples include facilitating discussions, arranging ring party training seminars, providing advice and assistance to tournament hosts and answering enquires.

1.11 Show Secretary

The BFA Show Secretary will approve dates for sanctioned tournaments and ensure that event organisers receive all the necessary information to comply with the BFA requirements. Keep all relevant data up-to-date on the BFA Website.

1.12 Media and Communications Secretary

A developing role linked to the Website; includes the role for the online communications and the liaison point for members, prospective members, members of the public and media enquiries.

1.13 Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC)

The Disciplinary Sub Committee will be composed of any three current Committee Members. This should exclude the current Committee Chairperson and Secretary. If this is not possible due to a conflict of interest the Committee reserve the right to elect any current BFA member to stand on the Disciplinary Sub Committee.

1.14 Lights Co-ordinator

The Lights Co-ordinator, appointed by the Committee, will be responsible for taking bookings and the maintenance of all BFA owned electronic timing equipment.

1.15 Judges Sub-Committee

The Judges Sub-Committee will oversee BFA Judges and Judging Qualifications; promoting high standards and consistency of BFA Judging decisions.

SECTION 2 - GENERAL MEETINGS

2.1 Annual General Meeting

- a) The AGM will be attended by members and held for the following purposes:
 - i. To receive the report of the Committee and the Annual Financial Report and Balance sheet.
 - ii. To announce Committee members for the forthcoming year.
 - iii. To vote on rule changes. Rules of the Association contained within Sections 1, 2 and 3 shall not be altered except by votes at a General Meeting followed by an electronic or postal vote of all the eligible membership NOT present at the General Meeting. See also 2.3
 - iv. Approve appointments to BFA approved lists of credited officials.
 - v. Discuss any other business duly placed on the Agenda of which prior notice has been given to the Secretary. Only routine matters or those that in the opinion of the Chairperson are urgent may be exempt from such notice.
- b) The Secretary will give a minimum of 45 days' notice of an AGM to current BFA members. Agenda items are to be received by the Secretary 30 days before the date of the AGM. After the closing date for proposals and Committee nominations and as soon as the Agenda is finalised, it will be published on the Website for members to consider, discuss on regional and national closed groups and /or at regional or team gatherings, form opinion and vote at the AGM or following the AGM via the secure electronic voting system or postal return. Votes cast will be validated against the current Membership.
- c) No videoing or tape recording of proceedings will be allowed without prior consent from all members present.
- d) Proposals for new rules or amendments to current rules will be made available to all regional reps prior to the AGM to ensure each is worded appropriately and to ensure there is no conflict with any other existing rule; proposal can be open for inter-regional discussion. Any proposal felt worded incorrectly will be returned to the proposer with advice on appropriate corrections. This will be done in a timely manner allowing the proposer sufficient time to re-submit their proposal.

2.2 Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time and shall be assembled within 28 days on the requisition of 30 members from 5 primary teams. Such requisition must state the purpose of such meeting which is required to be sent in writing to the Secretary of the BFA who is responsible for notifying all members at their home addresses. The business will be limited to the matter set out in the notice to convene the meeting. The Committee may call an EGM at any time at a reasonably central venue for the membership. Voting without proxy will take place at an EGM.

2.3 Voting

All proposals will be decided by the total of votes cast at the AGM and votes cast by secure electronic vote or postal return. All members should be actively encouraged to use their voting right and attend the AGM. The voting period will open following the AGM and will close on the date published on the AGM Agenda, A window of at least 10 days will be allowed for consideration, discussion and for members to vote on proposals. Postal voting will be available for anyone unable or unwilling to attend the AGM or use the secure online voting; any postal votes must be received by the closure date as published on the AGM Agenda. All postal return votes received after this will

be void. Voting at the AGM, the secure online voting system and any postal returns will be subject to appropriate checks to ensure memberships are current. See 2.1 (iii)

SECTION 3 – DISCIPLINE

3.1 Objective

- a) The objective shall be for all members of the Association to be aware of the Association's Rules and Policies and to observe its Code of Ethics.
- b) It is the Team Captain's responsibility to ensure that all team members are aware of and adhere at all times to the BFA Code of Ethics, as described in Section 1.2 of the Rules and Policies, in order not to bring the sport of Flyball into disrepute.
- c) Discipline procedures should only be used as a last resort. An Investigating Officer should initially consider the settling of a dispute by means of Mediation or Arbitration.

3.2 Misconduct

Misconduct shall include, but not be limited to behaviour in opposition to the BFA Code of Ethics, abusive or foul language, demonstration of dissatisfaction with a judge's decision, inhumane treatment of a dog, demonstration of poor sportsmanship, wilful violation of the BFA rules, wilful intent to gain unfair advantage, or any behaviour that would leave a spectator, competitor, host or sponsor with an unfavourable opinion of Flyball.

3.3 Gross Misconduct

Gross Misconduct shall include, but are not limited to theft, fraud, disorderly and indecent conduct, physical assault or threatening physical violence on any person, drunk and disorderly conduct, the use of illegal drugs, deliberate damage to BFA property or that of any other BFA member or any other person. All the above will apply at BFA Sanctioned Shows, including outside racing times, and also at any other time when gross misconduct is deemed to have been committed by a BFA member.

3.4 Misconduct/Gross Misconduct Charge

- a) Any current BFA member may report another member or group of members for misconduct/gross misconduct. Misconduct/Gross Misconduct charges should be forwarded to the BFA Secretary in writing in the first instance, within 14 days of the alleged incident. The BFA Secretary will pass the matter to the committee. An administration fee of £50.00 should accompany each misconduct/gross misconduct charge. This fee will be forfeited if the misconduct/gross misconduct charge is not upheld or the fee returned if the charge could not be proceeded with due to the criteria not being fulfilled.
- b) The BFA Committee may prefer charges against any member or group of members within 6 months of any alleged incident of misconduct/gross misconduct. In this instance any administration fee will be waived.
- c) In a case of Gross Misconduct the BFA Committee reserves the right to immediately suspend the membership of person(s) suspected of being responsible for a complaint deemed to be of this nature, pending further enquiries by an appointed impartial investigating officer wherever possible.

3.5 Disciplinary Procedure

- a) Once the BFA Committee has received a complaint of misconduct/gross misconduct they shall carry out a preliminary investigation by appointing an impartial investigating officer wherever possible, who should make initial enquiries and report back to the BFA Committee within three days, (See reference Rule 3.1(C)) and then gather evidence and statements in writing from the complainants, defendant members and all witnesses

to the alleged incident and to ensure the relevant Tournament Organiser is aware of the said incident.

- b) The investigating officer will then report back to the BFA Committee within 6 weeks of his/her appointment having gathered the evidence to support the case. A Disciplinary Sub Committee will then be set up to decide if the complaint is deemed not appropriate/appropriate of further investigation, or whether arbitration and mediation can settle the dispute.
- c) The defendant member(s) will be given the opportunity to make oral representation(s) if they so wish.
- d) Once set up the DSC will then consider the misconduct/gross misconduct charge(s) and either uphold or dismiss them. If the DSC upholds the charges against a member or member(s) they shall be empowered to suspend from membership any member or member(s) found guilty of misconduct/gross misconduct for an appropriate length of time. In considering the length of suspension, the DSC shall have regard to the member's record and in particular any previous findings of misconduct/gross misconduct. The terms of the suspension shall be determined by the DSC, judged on the merits of each individual case.
- e) The complainant(s) and defendant member(s) shall be informed within 14 days of the DSC arriving at a decision.
- f) A report will be sent to the BFA Secretary detailing the DSC findings and recommendations. The findings will be posted in official BFA publications if the complaint is upheld, and if no appeal is received within 21 days.

3.6 Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC)

In the event of a charge of misconduct/gross misconduct the committee will appoint a Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC) to deliberate on the evidence relating to the matter. The DSC shall comprise of at least three current BFA members, who may or may not be committee members, excluding the Chairperson and the Secretary.

3.7 Appeal

- a) The defendant member(s) may appeal against the DSC's decision. The appeal should be in writing and sent to the BFA Secretary within 21 days of the date of the notification of the DSC's decision.
- b) The BFA Committee will consider the appeal.

3.8 Appeal Hearing

- a) The committee shall review the DSC's investigations, reports and deliberations together with the appeal submission. After deliberation and by majority vote the Committee shall determine from the evidence available whether to ratify or over-rule the DSC's decision, or amend the length/increase the length of suspension.
- b) The BFA Secretary shall immediately notify the appellant(s) of the Committee's decision.
- c) The BFA Committee will prepare a report of the proceedings for record purposes.
- d) The findings will be posted in official BFA publications.

SECTION 4 - SANCTIONED COMPETITION

4.1 Requirements

- a) A BFA Registered Team wishing to host a Sanctioned Tournament (the Host Team) must submit an application (BFA Form C.3) to the BFA Show Secretary, complete with a £20 non-refundable deposit (per Sanctioned Tournament). The application should state the date, time and place of the tournament, the name, address and telephone number of the Tournament Organiser (and Tournament Secretary if different), any entry fee, whether the entries are limited and the closing date for entries. **ADD When two one day sanctioned tournaments are held at the same venue on the same**

weekend, teams and dogs may only enter Saturday **OR** Sunday regardless of whether the tournament organisers are different on each day. This must be stated on the Tournament Schedule. The only exception to this is where the Committee are approached and approve tournaments being hosted in areas of growth (e.g. Isle of Man, Ireland, etc.) **ADD** Notice of cancelling a Sanctioned Tournament must be given by the Team Captain of the Host Team in writing to the Show Secretary. Tournament applications venues must be within 50 mile (crows' flies) radius from the team captain's home address. Anything outside the 50 miles will require further consideration by the Show Secretary and committee and may be allowed where they consider the best interests of the membership are served. Tournament venues must be within a 50 mile (as the crow flies) radius from the Host Team's Team Captain's home address. Tournament organisers can only book a maximum of 6 open or limited open tournaments from 1 April to 30 September. A tournament in addition to the 6 can be applied for and may be accepted under certain circumstances by the Show Secretary with the support of the Committee. The Tournament Organiser should indicate on the Application Form the number of Races each Team might expect. The Tournament Organiser must also declare on the application form if he/she is aware of any other canine event to be held concurrently at the same venue. Applications for Sanctioned Tournaments are to be submitted at least ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries. **ADD** The Host Team must declare on their application the **maximum** limit for entries (i.e. the maximum number of teams they are willing to accommodate) as no extension will be given

- b) NOTE: A Sanctioned Tournament application received less than ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries may be approved. However, each late application will be judged on its own merit. Applications less than 30 days will not be approved. This includes a change of date but not a change of venue provided the new venue is still outside the for Sanctioned Tournaments in excess of 50 miles (as the crow flies) – as determined by the show secretary from an existing Sanctioned Tournament taking place on the same date. For applications for Sanctioned Tournaments within this 50 miles radius of an existing Sanctioned Tournament, the Show Secretary, supported by the Committee, can reduce the distance between shows where it is considered to be in the best interest of the membership and the provision of sufficient racing opportunities. A Tournament schedule for all Open or Limited Sanctioned Tournaments should be submitted in word format to the BFA Show Secretary, for approval prior to distribution, no later than 30 days prior to the closing date for entries of the Tournament.
- c) Tournament Organisers who de-sanction a Tournament at short notice without good reason, or have a Tournament de-sanctioned, will not be allowed to apply for further Sanctions for a maximum of 12 months.
- d) The Organiser must follow current BFA Rules and Policies
- e) All Seeding's will be decided by a Seeding's List available from the BFA website. The times are to be those extracted from the latest available data on the 14th day before the Tournament date.
- f) The Organiser must get written approval from the BFA Show Secretary for any and all special or unusual requests. i.e. live streaming and or filming.
- g) All schedules for BFA Sanctioned Tournaments will be available to download from the BFA Diary on the website. For Limited Tournaments advance warning must be posted on the Webboard giving the date on which the schedule will be available. This must be after the last post collection for that day to give all teams an equal chance to enter. Tournament Organisers may choose to permit electronic entries provided they do not disadvantage postal entries in the process. In particular this means that any electronic entries which arrive before the first postal entries will be treated as if they had arrived at the same time as the postal entries.
- h) All Entry Forms must be submitted direct to the BFA Registered Host Team of a BFA Sanctioned Tournament entries should include an accompanying cheque, or where the Tournament Organiser has allowed payment by direct bank transfer, this must made within the time limit specified on the entry form.

N.B. All queries should be directed to the Tournament Organiser in the first instance.

- i) A Tournament may be limited but to no fewer than five BFA Registered Teams and no more than 50% of the entries may be from any Team with the same Team Number (e.g. 0015, 0015A, 0015B, 0015C). Multiple entries from the same Team are to be treated as individual entries from each Team (i.e. Front Runners A team, Front Runners B team and Front Runners C team are treated as three different entries).
REMOVE If there is another sanctioned tournament on the same date, limited tournaments may only be extended by one division (usually 6 teams) at the discretion of the show secretary.
- j) The closing date for entries of an **OPEN or LIMITED** Tournament must be at least 28 days before the date of the Tournament. As soon as the Tournament is full all further applications may be placed on a reserve list and the Host Team must advise all Teams immediately of the status of their entry. All entries are to be taken strictly on date of receipt. If a tournament is oversubscribed a draw will be made of all entry forms received on the same day. (in particular, if the tournament is oversubscribed after the first available post for postal entries, electronic entries already received will not be given precedence over postal entries and will be included in any draw required) All teams on each entry form pulled out will be allocated a place until the tournament is full (please contact the Show Secretary for clarification, if required.) At the closing date for entries the Tournament Organiser must appoint a Tournament Head Judge. If this is not possible they must contact the BFA Show Secretary immediately. If there is another sanctioned tournament on the same date, limited tournaments may only be extended by one division (usually 6 teams) at the discretion of the show secretary.
- k) Prize money for any one team may not exceed £100 per event per day. In addition, a host or sponsor may offer expense money provided the same is distributed fairly among all participating teams based on actual expense.
- l) Running orders and tournament information should be emailed to teams and also posted on the discussion board on the BFA website so they are available to all team members. Seed times used must be shown with faster and slower declared times clearly marked. If the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator is present at the Tournament, the original Time Sheets, Jump Height form(s) and Tournament Results form should be handed to him/her at the time. Otherwise, following the Tournament, the Organiser must post the original Time Sheets (BFA Form C.2), Jump Height form(s) (BFA Form C.9) and Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) to the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator within 2 days to ensure that the latter is in receipt of the same within 7 days after the Tournament. Times must be recorded on single side timing sheets showing times for both lanes (available from the Website through Admin, Online Forms, Racing Form Templates, Single Side Timers) separate from the Time Sheets used to identify dogs running heat by heat. All relevant separate Sheets are to be attached to the appropriate Time Sheets prior to hand over or posting to the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator. If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser. Advance Results should be emailed as soon as possible after the tournament ends so that the seed list can be updated.
 The Records and Statistics Co-ordinator will advise the Treasurer if the Organiser has failed to meet the 7-day deadline. The Organiser is to forward a copy of Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) together with a cheque for the Race Registration fees of £2 per team per class for all teams entered, including those running Not for Competition (NFC), (less the £10 deposit), to the Treasurer by the same 7 day deadline.
 After the 7 days the Treasurer shall assess the Organiser's liability for a £25 late penalty.
- m) The Tournament sanctioned by the BFA must use a BFA approved Tournament Head Judge, who should be a current member of either the BFA or other International Flyball body recognised by the BFA. **REMOVE** An Organiser should not be the Tournament Head Judge at his/her own Tournament. **ADD** The Tournament Head Judge should not be a member of the Host Team. The BFA will assist the Tournament Organiser by either training or making available a Tournament Head Judge.

4.2 Format

The Tournament format shall be round robin or double elimination. Other formats may be approved after consultation with the Show Secretary. (Note Speed Trials are not a proper Tournament format on their own and can only be used as a preliminary to a Double Elimination.) The racing format must be clearly indicated in the tournament schedule.

4.3 Layout

The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits. **ADD Any lanes and runback not falling within this requirement must be stated on the Tournament Schedule and Diary page.** There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. [See also 5.13 (a)] In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible). The whole length of each racing lane shall be matted to the end of the run back, including underlay with a minimum thickness of 6mm. (no underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun' matting is used) There shall also be matting for a minimum 4½' on either side of the racing lane centre line for the length of the racing lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. All indoor tournaments using rubber matting for the lanes to cover a slippery surface, e.g. a sports hall floor, must put rubber matting or another suitable non slip surface to cover the entire back board area and also between the lanes from the box line for a distance of at least 15 feet back towards the start line. i.e. from the box line to the first jump in front of the box. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area behind the Flyball box and in front of the backstops of not less than 7' beyond the front edge of the Flyball box. Tournament Organisers should endeavour to find flat ground. If the ground has an obvious incline, the Tournament Organiser must arrange racing lanes to ensure that dogs run uphill' to the box rather than 'downhill'.

The Tournament Organiser should provide water at outdoor tournaments by the ring for drinking and cooling the dogs down

4.4 Seeding

Teams should be seeded based on the information available from the BFA website. Seeding times for a tournament will be based on the fastest time recorded by a team during their last 3 sanctioned events and a seed list will be supplied from the latest available data on the 14th day before the tournament date. Any time recorded more than 4 months before this date is null and void. A declared time, to be used as the seeding time, **REMOVE may ADD MUST** be submitted by the Team Captain at least 14 days prior to the Tournament, **REMOVE to be accompanied by a written justification for the change, which may be referred to the Committee.** **ADD If a declared time is not submitted then the last available recorded time will be used (even if this is over 4 months old), if there are no previous times recorded for a team then a time of 22.00 seconds will be used as a declared time.** A declared time may be submitted - it must be at least ½ second faster or ½ second slower than the Team's seeded time and will be subject to the Team break-out rule. Teams not on the seed list must submit a time and will be subject to the team break-out rule.

Where speed trials (ST) are used as a preliminary round at a tournament, the results from that ST can be used to re-seed the teams in those divisions into new divisions for the double elimination (DE) or round robin (RR) part of the event at that tournament. A dog must remain in the same team for both ST and DE/RR even though the team may move divisions.

NOTE: Only BFA Registered Teams and non-UK teams competing under the European Flyball Charter will be officially seeded. Non BFA Registered 'scratch' Teams (i.e made up from more than 1 BFA team, all handlers etc. being BFA members) may enter a Sanctioned Tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser if there are places available not filled by Registered Teams and be seeded by declared time. Any such non-registered (UK) teams shall run 'Not for Competition'. A BFA registered team, which contains one or more dogs not eligible to run with that team, for any reason, must also run 'Not for

Competition' and will only be accepted if places are available. Team captains must declare this prior to the show, preferably on the show entry form or as soon as it is known thereafter. These teams may run either on their seed time or a declared time and will take preference over any non-BFA registered team.

4.5 Tournament Committee

- a) Tournament Organiser - The Tournament Organiser has the overall responsibility for the proper planning, management, conducting and reporting of the tournament. He/she shall act as the liaison for the team/organisation and shall ascertain the requirements as to insurance, rentals, schedules, concessions, protest etc. Insurance must include Public Liability.
- b) Entries - The Organiser shall be responsible for entries and any questions the entrants might have.
- c) Grounds - The Organiser shall be responsible for the proper layout of the tournament, setting up and dismantling the equipment, traffic flow, crowd control, parking, securing the necessary equipment, clean up during and following the tournament.
- d) Trophies - The Organiser is responsible for acquiring trophies, rosettes and if applicable cash prizes, setting up the trophy table and putting together a list of trophies, prizes and presentations.
- e) Public Address - Flyball is a spectator sport. As such, it is important to announce races, explain the sport and announce times when spectators are present.

NOTE: Having a photographer available and raffles, catalogues and other special events that generate income or that add to the success of the tournament that are not in any way prejudicial to the best interest of Flyball should be considered.

4.6 Duration of Racing

- a) Round Robin Tournaments - The Organiser shall not expect more than 8 races per hour per ring. The Organiser shall not expect more than 75 races per ring in any one day. (5 divisions of 6) **ADD including starters**. Sanctioned racing should take precedence over fun events at all times
- b) Double Elimination Tournaments - The Organiser shall not expect more than 8 races per hour (with the winner being determined in the best 3 out of 5 heats) per ring.

4.7 BFA Assistance

The BFA will provide advice to assist individuals, teams or groups hosting BFA Sanctioned Tournaments, including advice on handling entries, preparing schedules, providing insurance, providing forms, judges, rules, and set up.

SECTION 5 - RULES FOR COMPETITION

5.1 Amateur Competition

The BFA encourages amateur competitions. Teams may accept up to £100 prize money per class and/or reasonable expenses incurred for promoting Flyball or competing in Flyball competition and/or trophies, uniforms and equipment that identify a sponsor or host team.

5.2 Teams

- a) All Teams will appoint a Manager/Captain who must be a current BFA member and who will submit the Team name (and Secondary names if applicable) to the Membership Secretary for approval. If acceptable this name will be registered with the BFA and no other Team will be permitted to use it or derivatives thereof.
- b) Dogs may not be entered for racing in more than one team at an open/multibreed BFA Sanctioned Tournament Dogs may not take part in starters, intermediate or fun events on the same day as they are entered in open/multibreed. See also 5.7a) c) and d)
- c) Team members shall not be prohibited from training with other teams.

- d) A dog may change teams at any time to compete with another Team, but after this change it may not change teams again for a period of 6 months. The 6 months period shall be taken from the date the dog first races with their new team. The owner/handler must inform the membership secretary of any such change.
The only exceptions are:
 - i. Multiple entries of the same Team Registration Number.
 - ii. A dog prohibited from competing with an existing Team.
 - iii. The handler/dog has moved to another area and their previous Team accepts the transfer.
 - iv. Their previous Team has dissolved, and the Membership Secretary has been informed.
 - v. If a new team is formed and dogs are transferred to this team then these dogs may not be released from this team for a period of 6 months.
- e) A BFA Registered team must comprise all BFA Registered dogs and all handlers of these dogs must be current members of the BFA.
- f) Overseas Guest Teams must only include non-UK resident dogs.
- g) If a Starters Competition is run, dogs entered must be a minimum of 12 months old.
- h) Dogs may compete for fun or the experience. In such cases, all heats in which they compete will be forfeited and none of the dogs in the Team will be awarded Flyball points.
- i) In multi-breed only competitions, teams must consist of all different breeds recognised by any club or studbook, or one dog of mixed breed parents. Border Collies and Working Sheepdogs will be regarded as the same breed. Jack Russells will be taken to be a breed, as will each of the 4 groups making up Belgium Shepherd dogs. Any deviation from this will make the class a 'fun class'. Any new or unusual breed, not recognised by the Kennel Club must have documentation to prove this breed and this must be sent to the membership secretary at the time of registration.

5.3 Protests

- a) Protests pertaining to a Sanctioned Tournament should be addressed in the first instance to the Tournament Organiser in writing within 7 days of the Tournament and copied to the BFA Secretary.
- b) Protests pertaining to safety should be directed through Team Captains/Managers to the Tournament Head Judge prior to submission in writing to the Tournament Organiser, within 7 days of the Tournament, with a copy to the BFA Secretary.
- c) The Tournament Organiser should submit all correspondence on the protest to the BFA Secretary within 14 days of the Tournament. The BFA Secretary shall then inform the BFA Committee, who would decide whether or not the nature of the protest should be dealt with as per Rule Section 3.1 (c) or be resubmitted in accordance with Section 3.4 (a), and in this case the time limit would be extended by a further 14 days from the date of notification to the member after the committee's decision
- d) The BFA Secretary shall notify all parties of any recommendation or action taken. The individual or group making the protest may appeal to the BFA Committee.

5.4 Judges and Judges Qualifications

- a) Five judges shall officiate when two teams are running.
- b) One Line Judge shall be positioned at each team's starting line, facing each other. Two Box Judges are to be located at the box end, with a good view of the box loader, but not standing so as to interfere with, or distract the dog. A fifth judge shall act as starter, Division Judge and referee. **ADD All line and box judges within the ring must be 14 years of age or over, unless directly supervised by an additional adult member (i.e. not supervised by the Line Judge or Scribe).**

- c) Provisional Judges judging BFA sanctioned Flyball competitions shall be supervised, at all times, by a Qualified or Head Judge. Minimum age for divisional judging is 14, individuals under the age of 16 must be supervised from within the ring.
- d) To become a Qualified Judge, individuals must:
- i. Be 18 Years of age
 - ii. Have completed 5 assignments as Line Judge, Box Judge and Scribe (at least half a division start to finish)
 - iii. Completed 10 Division Judge Assignments
 - iv. Be recommended by 3 Head Judges (not from own team)
 - v. Pass a multiple choice exam on Section 5 of the BFA Rules (Rules for Competition) Evidence of completion of the above criteria is to be recorded on the approved BFA Form.
- e) Must be in good standing with the BFA for a minimum of 18 months.
- f) Qualified Judges desiring to be approved by the BFA as a Head Judge must apply to the BFA Secretary for their Log Book to be considered as a trainee Head Judge. All applicants wishing to become a Head Judge must be:
- i. an experienced Qualified Judge and have carried out a minimum of 10 divisional judging appointments as a Qualified Judge, preferably more, at sanctioned tournaments
 - ii. a competitor/dog handler with at least three years' experience in the BFA.
 - iii. in good standing with the BFA and a current member
 - iv. must **REMOVE** have been **ADD** be a Qualified Judge for at least 3 years **ADD (Log books will not be issued until applicants have been a Qualified Judge for 3 years).**
- g) The date of application will be logged and they will be sent a Training Log Book and any other necessary paperwork. This Log Book should be used to record the successful achievement of the criteria, and returned to the BFA Secretary when completed, with an application to be approved as a Head Judge. To be approved as a head judge by the BFA, qualified judges must:
- i. Be in good standing with the BFA and a current member.
 - ii. Within two years of the application have judged a division, at a minimum of five separate Sanctioned Tournaments, hosted by at least three different Teams and under three different Head Judges. Each Head Judge must provide a written report on the candidate's competency on the day, completing the sheet provided for the purpose in their Training Log Book. This does not necessarily need to be the tournament Head Judge but can be any Head Judge who is willing to write a report after observing the qualified Judge during a division at a sanctioned tournament.
 - iii. Have completed the requirements to be a Measuring Official.
 - iv. On three separate occasions, under the supervision of a Head Judge, have Box Judged, Line Judged (operating the light sequence), and Scribe, preferably for at least half a Division from start to finish.
 - v. Have attended a BFA Training Seminar within two years of the application, where they will take a written examination on the current Rule Book. Alternatively, this examination may be taken at a Sanctioned Tournament. Before taking the examination, prior arrangement must be made with the BFA Secretary who will forward the question paper to the supervising Officer, who will return the paper when completed to the BFA Secretary. The Secretary will mark the paper and indicate a 'pass' or 'not ready' in the candidate's Training Log Book. All the above duties must be recorded in the Training Log Book and each discipline when completed, must be signed by the Tournament Head Judge, Tournament Organiser or nominated Officer (where appropriate), who should be informed beforehand that the person concerned intends to undertake these duties. The applicant's name shall be published when he/she has qualified as a Head Judge. If the Committee rejects the applicant, he/she shall be notified and advised under what conditions he/she can re-apply.

- h) To retain their status, Head Judges must be current BFA Members, and attend at least one Head Judges' Seminar provided by the BFA in the last three years. This Head Judges' Seminar may be incorporated, as a separate half-day session, within a BFA Training Seminar.
- i) Measuring Officials are qualified to measure dogs in accordance with the BFA Rules. To become a Measuring Official, individuals must be at least 18 years old; have been a BFA member for at least 3 years; have competently carried out dog measuring in the presence of two Head Judges, or Measuring Officials, on 5 separate occasions where they must measure at least 20 dogs in total, including at least 4 different breeds. Each applicant must have been approved by at least 3 Head Judges or Measuring Officials. Evidence of completion of the above criteria is to be recorded on the approved BFA Form. Head Judges automatically qualify as Measuring Officials

5.5 Judges Guidelines

- a) Judges should be friendly and courteous, even sympathetic, but above all impartial and firm. Judges must have a thorough understanding gained through personal experience. A Judge must be familiar with the regulations, rules and requirements.
- b) The Judge's responsibility also extends to the exhibitors, to the host team, or organisation, to the spectators and sponsors. A Judge must be arbiter and diplomat. A Judge must leave exhibitors and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage. Therefore all Provisional, QJ's and HJ's have the responsibility to bring any rule anomalies to the attention of the Committee and may not use a discrepancy for gain.
- c)
 - i. A Judge is not to engage in conversation with a disgruntled exhibitor. A judge's decision following mediation is final.
 - ii. Any unreasonable behaviour, by any member, that is in breach of the Code of Ethics [see Section 2] will result in that member/s being dismissed from the ring by the Divisional Judge or Head Judge and all divisions for the remainder of the day (If the offending member/s remains in the arena the team will be declared NFC. See also 5.5 (c) (i) above. An incident report is to be submitted to the BFA Secretary within 14 days and will be kept on file.
 - iii. Outside of the arena the Tournament Organiser or landowner may dismiss an offender from the venue
- d) Judgement calls should be based on the experience, good character, and fairness of the Judge. The intelligent application of discretionary authority demands a Judge shall exercise common sense, fairness and initiative. Above all else, the safety and wellbeing of the exhibitors and their dogs should be foremost.

5.6 Judging Procedures

- a) Prior to the scheduled time for competition the Tournament Head Judge must inspect the ring. It should meet all the requirements of the regulations. Jump placement, jump heights, backstops, barriers and box location should be measured to make sure they meet these regulations. A deviation of a ¼" on the jump heights is considered minor and acceptable. Each box may be inspected by the Tournament Head Judge and shall not be allowed if, in his/her opinion, it has been constructed or altered in a manner that does not meet the box specifications.
- b) Two Measuring Officials, shall measure dogs jumping less than 14". All dogs must be measured at three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments; either at a gathering/meeting/event agreed by the Committee or at any day of a flyball tournament if time allows.
If the Judges are uncertain of the dog's height after 3 accurate measurements, the height shall be recorded as the lowest for the benefit of the dog.
- c) If the Division or Tournament Head Judge later determines that the team is jumping below the proper height, the team will forfeit any races won at the incorrect jump height.

One of these Judges may at any time request that a dog be measured. However, once measured, he/she is under no obligation to measure the same dog again. If in having the dog measured the Judge determines he/she has made a mistake, the team shall in no way be penalised, but will be required to jump the correct height for any remaining heats. Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally within 30 minutes of the heat in question. Height measurements are to be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by the Measuring Official and observing Judge. A copy of this completed document should be made available for viewing by the tournament participants. All measuring shall be carried out using only BFA authorised equipment. Only one handler per dog shall normally be allowed in the measuring area unless the head Judges/measuring official chose to allow otherwise for specific dogs. A dog will be measured from the ground to between its withers. It shall stand with all four legs squarely on the ground or board neither stretched nor crouched. The head is to be in a natural position. Aggression during measurement will not be tolerated and Rule 5.19 will be observed. A dog deemed 'NOT MEASURED' by the Measuring Officials will jump at the height of the smallest dog in its team (running, not standing by) if that dog measured less than 19" to between withers.

- d) Height Cards – All dogs must be measured at three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments; a gathering/meeting/event agreed by the Committee or at any day of a flyball tournament, the dog's height having been agreed by two Measuring Officials on each occasion. The signatories to the Application Form must be at least four different Head Judges. A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least 30 months old at final measurement. The final measurement is to be one of the required numbers of measurements in order to be issued with a height card. All height dogs must hold a height card by 36 months of age; if the above criteria cannot be met by 36 months of age then it must be met within the dogs first 10 sanctioned tournaments. Failure to do so shall result in loss of points for the dog and team on the day. When a Height Card is issued and recorded it must be available for inspection at each Tournament entered. The Records and Statistics Co-ordinator will produce an up-to-date list of all issued Height Cards for each Tournament so that it can be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9. Jump Height Cards cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. However, in some circumstances an Owner can re-apply if the dog's measurement is considered to be incorrect. Before re-applying, an explanation must be sent to the Committee in writing accompanied by a completed Form C.13, meeting the criteria set out above in this Rule. Once the Committee have agreed, arrangements will be made for two Head Judges, selected by the Committee, who have not previously measured the dog and do not belong to the applicant's own Team, to re-measure the dog to confirm the height. Handlers who are unable to produce their cards may have their dog's jump height contested.
- e) Jump heights shall be set at 5" lower than the dog's height at the withers with a minimum of 7" and a maximum of 14" adjusted to 1" increments to the lowest whole number (e.g. 12 3/4" becomes 12")
- f) The Tournament Head Judge in consultation with the Tournament Organiser shall Reduce, delay or suspend racing due to inclement weather conditions (i.e. excessive heat, cold, rain, etc).
- g) The Division Judge
- i. Shall be positioned between the racing lanes in an area where they have a clear view of racing to start the heat.
 - ii. He/she shall maintain a consistent sequence for electronic starting. When starting manually, the Division Judge shall maintain a consistent cadence of approximately 1-second intervals throughout the tournament and he/she should be in a position to assist the Line Judges in determining winners of close heats.
 - iii. During the heat he/she should be in a position to observe the handlers for any violations.
 - iv. If it is necessary to stop a heat, the Division Judge shall use a whistle.
 - v. Stop the heat for interference in the ring.

- vi. He/she may confer with the Line Judges and the Box Judges before determining a winner.
- vii. If necessary a Division Judge shall reposition himself/herself in such a manner as not to distract the dogs competing
- viii. Note: A loss for both teams shall be recorded in the following circumstances. An NFC team running against:
 - 1. A team presenting with less than 4 dogs (i.e due to injury or other exceptional circumstances – See also 5.17(i) The Finish and 6.1 Points). In this case only 3 legs shall be run.
 - 2. A team that breaks out

h) Line Judges (who may have stewards to assist them with their duties) shall:

- i. Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
- ii. Using both the BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2) and the single sided master sheet that shows teams and divisional break out times, record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied.
 (NOTE: When appropriate, instead of a time, one of the following may be entered: No time = NT; In the case of interference for the offending team = NT Int, for the non-offending team = Ave Int. Where Ave is recorded (for whatever reason) the number of dogs that ran to complete should be shown (eg 4 dogs or 5 dogs etc)
 If a team breaks out, BO should be entered alongside the time.
 A loss for both teams may be recorded. (See Rule 5.6(g)(ix)
 An NFC team running against:
 - a) A team presenting with less than 4 dogs (i.e due to injury or other exceptional circumstances – See also 5.17(i) The Finish and 6.1 Points). In this case only 3 legs shall be run.
 - b) A team that breaks out.
- iii. When hand timing is used or any part of the electronic equipment fails, or non BFA approved lights are used (see Rule 5.23 BFA Lights), this must also be recorded on the Time Sheet(s) heat by heat as such times will be disregarded when calculating fastest times and therefore seeding times.
- iv. Indicate with a signal for a false start.
- v. Indicate with a signal:
 When a dog is to run again (early pass, missing a jump, crossing the start/finish line without the ball)
 If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball)
 Other rule violations for which a dog must run again
 It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and rerun his/her dog
- vi. Advise the Division Judge if a Team that submits a time runs a 'break-out' time in a heat, (this being more than ½ second faster than that team's submitted time).
- vii. The Line Judges decision shall be unanimous with respect to determining winners of close heats. If they are not in agreement the Division Judge shall consult with them and either declare a winner or declare the heat to be a tie.

Box Judges; Observe dogs for faults, including dropped balls, missed jumps and not triggering the box; observe the box and box-loader for infringements including incorrect placement of the box and non-verbal encouragement; observe dogs, box-loader and spectators for interference. If the box-loader claims that the box has malfunctioned, the Box Judge shall indicated this to the Line Judge and the Division Judge by standing up, raising both arms above the head, crossed at the wrists. Following this, the Box judge shall then observe the box and ensure that it is not interfered with until it has been inspected by The Division Judge.

- i) The Box Judges and Line Judges shall remain stationary during each heat. If a ball goes around or bounces off a judge, it shall be deemed in play. The principle responsibility of each Box Judge and each Line Judge is to watch for violations in the racing lane to which they are assigned.
- j) When judging with approved electrical equipment accurate to 100th of a second, ties should only be allowed when both electrical readouts are identical to 2 decimal places.

5.7 Teams and Time Sheets

At a tournament each team shall consist of a minimum of 4 dogs and a maximum of 6 dogs; a BFA member responsible for each dog and a BFA member as box-loaders. The dogs must be eligible to run with that team. The dogs and responsible members shall be declared on the C2 Timesheet prior to the start of racing of the Division. When a team reports for racing only those dogs declared shall enter the ring, each accompanied by a BFA member to hand or to hold the dog. In addition to the handlers/holders and The box-loader a team may at their discretion be accompanied by one or two runners who are BFA members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps and otherwise assist the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team. [See also 5.2 (b) Teams and 5.7(d)]

- b) Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of 2 alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of any injury. (See also 5.17(i).
- c) The Time Sheet (BFA Form C.2) be completed and returned for checking before the division, in which the team is running, starts and shall include the team name and registration number, the team captain's name, address and telephone number, each dog's name, BFA number, breed, and jump height, together with each handlers name and BFA number. It shall also record the relevant teams 'break-out' time (if applicable). Forfeiting teams may be declared NFC or be excluded from the tournament by the Head Judge/Tournament Organiser.
- d) For multiple entries of the same team once any of their teams has started racing in the tournament there will be no switching of dogs from one team to another once the division begins.

5.8 Flyball Boxes

- a) Each team shall supply its own Flyball box, which should be safe and fit for the purpose intended.
- b) All boxes are to have a mechanical (not electrical) pedal release mechanism.
- c) The boxes may be painted or decorated as the team wishes.
- d) The ball, when released, must have a free unobstructed flight of not less than 24" from the box cup in a forward direction.
- e) Boxes shall not exceed 24" in width, 18" in height or 30" in depth. The dimensions do not include any platform the box loader uses to hold the box in place.

NOTE: Boxes should be constructed with the comfort and wellbeing of the dog in mind. Sharp edges should be avoided and adequate padding and protection should be used.

5.9 Balls

Each team shall have its own supply of un-punctured, **REMOVE, regulation** tennis balls (any colour - that should easily be distinguishable when being carried by a dog, to a judge officiating a race) Subject to the size and comfort of the dog, other **ADD tennis-type** smaller approved balls may be used.

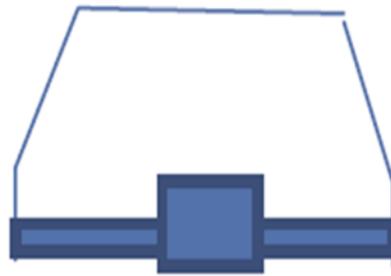
5.10 Footing

At Indoor Tournaments the host team shall provide adequate non-slip footing on the racing lane, at the box and at the start.

5.11 Barriers

The host team shall provide a solid barrier/backstop (Approx. 24" high) not less than 7ft from the front edge of the flyball box, in a horseshoe shape so that the barrier is no further forward than the box line. The total length of the barrier should be 24ft and can be in sections for ease of carrying/transporting.

Backboards 2ft high approx.24ft in total length
May be in sections for ease of movement,
i.e. 3x 8ft or 6x 4ft.



5.12 Jumps

- The host team shall provide two sets of identical Flyball jumps for the duration of the Tournament. Teams are asked to co-operate by lending equipment.
- The jumps shall be solid, white and are to have an inside width of 24", with posts neither more than 36" high nor less than 24" high. The outside of the posts may be painted any colour, but the edges must be white. Logos and/or lettering shall be permitted but limited to 4" x 20" with a minimum 2" border. The tops of the jumps are to be flexible / breakable AND protected at the front, top and back with foam or soft material (e.g. 15mm x 25mm water pipe insulation). The slats (not baseboard) shall be clearly marked with their size.
- For each heat, jump heights shall be set at the Jump height of the smallest dog (running, not standing by), as recorded on the Team's Time Sheet for competing dogs, with a minimum of 7" and a maximum of 14", this height to include any protective materials.

5.13 Set Up

There shall be a distance of 6' from the start/finish line to the first jump, 10' between each jump (4 in total) and 15' from the last jump to the front edge of the Flyball box. The distance between the box line and the start/finish line shall be not less than 51 foot and not more than 51 foot 1 inch.

- (note the illustration here does not show the 1" tolerance)*



- The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits'. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible) each racing lane shall be matted at a minimum 4' on either side of its centre line for the length of the lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. (No underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun' matting is used) Between the first and last jumps the lane shall have at least 3' wide matting. All indoor tournaments using rubber matting for the lanes to cover a slippery surface, e.g A sports hall floor, must put rubber matting or another suitable non slip surface to cover the entire back board area and also between the lanes from the box line for a distance of at least 15 feet back towards the

start line. i.e from the box line to the first jump in front of the box. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area not less than 29' leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the box in front of the backstops of not less than 7' from the front edge of the Flyball box.

- c) If the ground has an obvious incline, the racing lanes must be arranged to ensure that dogs run 'uphill' to the box rather than 'downhill'.
- d) At outdoor Tournaments only flexible stakes can be used to hold up netting at the end of the run back area.
- e) If netting is used to divide the run back area a minimum gap of 25' must be implemented from the start line and a minimum gap of 4' must be implemented at the back of the run back area.
- f) If tournament organisers want to change what has been the normal layout of the Flyball ring, these changes must be put in writing to the BFA secretary in advance for their approval before implementing these changes.

5.14 Reporting For Races

- a) If one or more team member is more than 5 minutes late for the scheduled start of a race, all else being in readiness, the Division Judge may declare a forfeit by that team.
- b) Teams that win by forfeit must run but not necessarily complete, (see 5.15(i)) the minimum required heats scheduled to qualify for points awarded in round robin or to advance in double elimination competition. If another team is not available to compete, the team shall race without an opponent. (see also 5.17(i))
- c) Forfeiting teams that do not show just cause, may be excluded from the Tournament by the Organiser and may be subject to further discipline.

5.15 Practice Runs

Tournament Organisers shall designate a time for warm ups in the rings by informing the teams prior to racing. No other training shall be allowed in or near the ring.

5.16 Tournament Format

The tournament format shall be double elimination or round robin. (See also 4.3. Format)

5.17 Rules of Racing

- a) **Control of Dogs** - Dogs may wear a collar and/or close fitting harness. No hanging parts will be allowed that are liable to flap around when the dogs are racing.
Whenever possible, dogs should have all four feet on the ground. At no time should they be dragged around by their collar or harness with any of their feet off the ground. For the dogs' safety, should dog tags on the collar be too loose, the handler may be asked to remove the tag or collar.
- b) **The Start** - Dogs may start from a stationary or running start. When using a manual start, if any part of the dog's or handler's body is over the line before the race is started, it will be an infringement, to be called by the Line or Division Judge. When electronic starting lights are used, any part of the dogs' or handler's body breaking the beam will cause an infringement to be called by the Line or Division Judge. The heat is to be restarted. If a second such infringement is called against the same team (for that heat) the dog must run again. If a second false start is called coincidental with the opposing teams first false start the heat is to be restarted.
- c) **The Run** - Each dog is to hurdle the four jumps in succession, trigger the box, and return over all four jumps and the start/finish line, with the ball in its mouth. During the return run a dog may retrieve a dropped ball without penalty, (even if this means jumping more than four jumps on the return run). Only when the first dog has reached the start/finish line with any part of its body may the second dog reach that line with any part of its body (generally this is a nose to nose pass at the start/finish line) and so on for all four dogs, as well as dogs that must run again. Early passes will be

indicated by the Line Judge and the dog will be required to run again after the other dogs have run. Dogs that are faulted for any reason must be re-run in the order that they were faulted. If a dog reaches the start/finish line before the preceding dog has reached the start/finish line or does not take every jump, or does not trigger the box and take the ball from the cup, or does not return with the ball, the dog must run again. If any part of the handler's body or associated objects crosses the start/finish line during his/her dog's run the dog must run again (with the exception of setting up a knocked down jump or retrieving a loose ball). When electronic changeover lights are used any part of the outgoing dog's body breaking the beam before any part of the returning dog's body will cause an infringement to be called by the Line Judge.

- d) **Knocked Down Jumps** - A dog that knocks down a jump or jump(s) during its run shall not be penalised, provided the following dog(s) clear the jump(s) as if it/they were standing. A 'runner' or handler may set up knocked down jump(s) if so doing does not interfere with, or guide the dog(s) in any way.
- e) **Box Malfunction** - The box loader shall indicate to the Box Judge and divisional judge when there is a box malfunction by raising both arms above the head, crossed at the wrists and the heat shall be stopped. No one may tamper with the box after a malfunction, until the Division Judge has checked it. This Judge is to examine the box and if in his/her opinion, the box has malfunctioned, the heat shall be run again. If the box is found to be working, the heat shall be forfeited. If another box is not available and the original cannot be repaired in a reasonable time, the heat and any remaining heats of the race are to be forfeited. If the box malfunctions a second time (or the spare box malfunctions) in the same race the heat and all remaining heats in that race shall be forfeited.
- f) **Out of Bounds/Out of Play** - The host team shall specify the race area boundaries. If a ball bounces out of bounds and the dog retrieves it unaided, there shall be no penalty. If a spectator, handler, box loader or other aids the dog; the dog is to run again. Out of play shall be the same as if the ball were out of bounds, for example, if the ball becomes lodged or trapped inside the box.
- g) **Conduct of the Box Loader** - Except during the warm up, to retrieve a loose ball or get a fresh supply of balls to load, the box loader must remain in the upright position behind the box with hands behind his/her back. He/she may offer verbal encouragement only, as long as such encouragement does not distract the opposing team. The box loader is to remain in position until the Division Judge determines the outcome of the heat. If, in the Judge's opinion, a box loader has violated any of these rules, his/her team may forfeit the heat. If, in the opinion of the Judge, a box loader assists a dog, except where provided for in the rules, the dog shall run again.
- h) **Interference** - If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat, the team causing the interference will forfeit the heat. If a dog continually interferes with opposing Teams, at the Division Judge's discretion it may be excluded from racing and the Team be allowed to use a reserve if one is recorded on their Time Sheet. This includes interference in the racing lane, in all bound areas and in the area where dogs are waiting to run. Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dog from running/completing its race. A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference.
- i) **The Finish** - The first team to have all four dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last of the four dogs reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat. A Heat may be won due to default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing. A Judge at his discretion can stop a race to allocate a win to a team that has not completed a heat. (Cross referenced from 5.14 (b) A win and no time would be put on the racing sheet. A loss for both teams shall be recorded in the following circumstances:
 - a) An NFC team running against a team presenting with less than 4 dogs
 - b) A team that breaks out. See also Rules 5.6(h)(iii) Line Judges and 6.1 points

A run off between 2 dogs or re-runs are not to be used to determine the winner BO times will not be used for team placing's in the event of a tie. In the event of 3 BO's all earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents.

- j) **Distractions** - Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means nor THROW any object for their dogs (i.e. motivators such as balls, toys, Frisbees, dummies, gloves or treats). Team members are required to pick up any loose balls. The first offence of these infringements shall receive a warning - a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat.
- k) **Broken Boards** - The heat shall not be stopped for broken boards, unless, in the opinion of the Division Judge the dog(s) may be subject to injury. If the Division Judge stops the heat to prevent a possible injury, it is to be restarted.
- l) **Break-outs** – With the exception of division 1, a team running more than ½ second faster than its declared submitted time will be declared the loser of that heat. (see Rule 5.17i)

Division Break-out – with the exception of division 1, a team running more than ½ second faster than the time of the top team in a division (whether seeded time or declared time) shall be the loser of that heat.

If both teams 'break-out' in a heat or one team 'breaks-out' and the other fail to finish, both will be declared losers. A team that 'breaks-out' three times in a tournament will be ineligible for any placement in that tournament. If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply.

Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets. See also Rule 5.6(h) (iii) Line Judges

NOTE: This rule applies to all Teams entered. The team may continue to race but **REMOVE any ADD all previous** wins will convert to losses **ADD (and wins will be recorded for their opponents)** on all racing paperwork and the team will therefore lose their placing for the day although their fastest time will be used, if appropriate, for a new seed time. **ADD BO times will not be used for team placings in the event of a tie. In the event of 3 break outs, all earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents.**

Flyball is a sport of racing where good sportsmanship is paramount. It is unsporting for a team to deliberately hold back (either on starts or crosses) in order to gain points or division placing. Where a team is seen by the judge or his/her ring party to be holding back on the start or crosses, the judge may consider whether the team would have broken out if they had not held back, if so the team will, at first, be warned by the Divisional Judge and the tournament Head Judge shall be informed. Teams should endeavour to run all 4 dogs. However if the other team have completed and has clearly won and there is for example an older dog or one returning from injury that has a light, the divisional Judge may accept a non-completion provide he/she has been informed of the possibility before their first race. Any team that has a legitimate reason (i.e. nervous dogs, novice dogs, and inexperienced handler) for 'slack' starts or changeovers or for any other reason shall inform the divisional Judge when entering the ring for their first race.

Should the practice persist; at the discretion of the division judge and Head judge, the team may be disqualified. (Should the tournament Head Judge be involved in the race an alternative Head Judge, if available, or, if not a Qualified Judge will act as adjudicator.) The team may continue to race but any wins will convert to losses on all racing paperwork and the team will therefore lose their placing for the day although their fastest time will be used, if appropriate, for a new seed time. If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply. NOTE: This rule applies to all teams entered. Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets.

- m) **Not for Competition** - If a team introduces training aids (e.g. jump wings) during the course of a heat, they shall be declared 'not for competition' – NFC. They continue to run but all their races will be recorded as lost. Their Time Sheet will be noted accordingly.
- n) **The Ring** - Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of open and multibreed competitions.

- o) **Judges & the Conduct of Racing** - After the warm up period and between heats when the judge has shown his/her intention to begin racing he/she shall signal to the teams to be ready to start each heat. If one team acts in an unsporting manner or wastes time preventing the heat to start at the Judges request, the Divisional Judge will at first issue a warning to the team for timewasting. Should this offence be repeated, with the other team ready to race, the Judge will signal his/her intent and start the heat.

5.18 Aggressive Dogs

If a dog shows undue aggression towards another dog or handler at any time during the competition, the Division Judge may exclude the dog from competing and a standby dog can be used. The Division Judge is to determine the degree of aggression that warrants substitution. Any dog excluded from competition must be reported to the BFA Show Secretary. A second such report and the dog will be barred from future competitions. An application for reinstatement may be submitted to the BFA Committee after a period of one year.

5.19. General Animal Welfare Responsible dog ownership

Owners have a "Duty of care" to the animals they keep which is a legal phrase meaning that owners have an obligation to do something. This means that a person has to look after the animal's welfare as well as ensure that it does not suffer.

Not only is it against the law to be cruel to an animal, you must also ensure that all the welfare needs of your animals are met.

This includes the need:

- For a suitable environment (place to live)
- For a suitable diet
- To exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- To be housed with, or apart from, other animals (if applicable)
- To be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease

Lame dogs; Bitches in Season or Pregnant; Dogs recovering from Surgery

- a) Lame Dogs must not take part or continue to take part in a competition. A Tournament Head Judge or Division Judge, in consultation with the Tournament Organiser, may exclude a dog that in their opinion is not in a fit state to race.
- b) Dogs recovering from surgery or requiring bandages to protect an injury may not take part in a competition. Bandages do not include coats, sweaters or stop pad protectors. Protective covering may be used as a preventative but may not be used to protect an existing injury.
- c) Bitches in Season (from start to end of the season) are not allowed within the precincts (as defined by the tournament organiser) of a sanctioned tournament, starters competition or fun event.
- d) The Mating of dogs at sanctioned tournaments, starter competitions or fun events is not allowed.
- e) A Bitch that is or maybe Pregnant (whether the pregnancy has been confirmed or not) is not allowed to compete at sanctioned tournaments, starters competitions or fun events and for at least 8 weeks after giving birth.
- f) Bitches due to whelp within 7 days of a competition are not allowed at a sanctioned tournament, starters competition or fun event.
- g) Litters of puppies may not be purchased or sold at a BFA tournament.
BFA members selling puppies are permitted to display photographic advertisements. Puppies that have previously been sold may be collected at a show provided the BFA Committee and TO have been given prior notification. Members bringing litters of puppies to tournaments must give prior notification to the TO in order to ensure that the puppies are sited in a suitable environment.

- h) All members of BFA teams, whether registered or unregistered individuals, are forbidden to use electronic shock collars, electronic dummy collars or pinch/prong collars on the tournament grounds at sanctioned tournaments. The tournament grounds include racing rings, spectator, parking and camping areas. Any team/handler found to be in contravention of any of the above will be disqualified from the competition with the loss of all points and placing in that division and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

5.20 Infectious and Contagious Diseases.

BFA members must not bring to a tournament any dog which has been diagnosed or exposed to any infectious or contagious disease. A BFA member who has a dog with an infectious or contagious disease must not attend a tournament until 21 days after symptoms have ceased or, where appropriate negative results have been received and must have the approval of the qualified vet who has treated the illness. The BFA Committee, also upon consultation with a qualified vet, reserve the right to exclude dog/dogs from a tournament if it is deemed to present an increased risk of spreading infection throughout the association.

5.21 Minimum Age

Dogs under the age of 18 months will not be allowed to compete at sanctioned Flyball events even if running in a team stated Not for Competition (NFC).

5.22 Record Times

British record breaking times must be recorded on the appropriate form and verified by a BFA Head judge and a committee member or their representative, (i.e. the tournament organiser or another head judge), if a committee member is not present. The following must be checked and verified: Lane length, jump height, and placement, box function and placement, function and alignment of timing equipment. The measurement of the height dog must be verified by production of a height card. If a height card is not available the dog should be measured unless it has been measured that day on Jump height form C9. Times recorded at a BFA sanctioned tournament on approved BFA timing equipment will be recognised as a record breaking time.

5.23 Race Results

The host team must display results (fastest times and wins/losses) as soon as possible after the running of each race for competitors to view.

5.24 BFA Lights

BFA approved timing equipment only may be used at sanctioned tournaments they will display three amber lights and be set at a one second sequence. Any new lights must be approved, after consultation with the Committee.

SECTION 6 - FLYBALL POINTS

6.1 Points

From 1st January 2007 each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time: under 22 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 25 points towards a Flyball title; under 26 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 10 points; under 30 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 5 points; provided that a BFA Head Judge or Officer is present and at least four BFA Registered Teams compete. The teams must actually compete. All four dogs on the team must, in the opinion of the BFA representative successfully complete a run in a reasonable length of time. The BFA representative shall determine what is reasonable. All four teams may be from within the same Team number provided all are registered with the BFA and were given an equal opportunity to enter but declined to do so. All team

handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered, with owners who are current members of the BFA. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points.

Any Team voluntarily going 'Not for Competition' (NFC) during racing will forfeit ALL points and placing's. If a Team is forced to withdraw, dogs in the Team will retain any points and placing's gained up to the time of withdrawal, provided a representative of the team present themselves at the Ring for subsequent races.

See also Rules 5.6(h) (iii)

- a) If the team number and team name on the time sheet are incorrect or do not match, the points for that team may be lost.
- b) If the dogs are not circled, the points for that leg are lost.
- c) The dog's name and number are incorrect or do not match, the points may be lost for that dog.
- d) If the handler number and name are incorrect or incomplete, not valid or do not match, the points for that dog may be lost.

6.2 Titles

- a) BFA will award a certificate of achievement and the title Flyball Dog (FD) to any dog receiving 200 points.
- b) BFA will award a certificate of achievement and the title Flyball Dog Intermediate (FDI) to any dog receiving 1000 points.
- c) BFA will award a certificate of achievement and the title Flyball Dog Graduate (FDG) to any dog receiving 3000 points.
- d) BFA will award a certificate of achievement and the title Flyball Dog Advanced (FDA) to any dog receiving 5000 points.
- e) BFA will award a Silver Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 10,000 points.
- f) BFA will award a Gold Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 15,000 points.
- g) BFA will award an 'Ice Blue Moon' Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 20,000 points.
- h) BFA will award a Platinum Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 25,000 points.
- i) BFA will award a Pearl Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 30,000 points.
- j) BFA will award a Jade Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 35,000 points.
- k) BFA will award a 'Chica Chicana' Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 40,000 points.
- l) BFA will award a Sapphire Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 50,000 points.
- m) BFA will award a Diamond Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 60,000 points.
- n) BFA will award an Opal Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 70,000 points.
- o) BFA will award a Topaz Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 80,000 points.
- p) BFA will award a 'Belle Star' Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 90,000 points.
- q) BFA will award an Emerald Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 100,000 points.

Each award above 20,000 points will, where possible, be named after the first dog to achieve that particular level unless a previous award already bears his or her name.

NOTE: 'Fun' Events will not be subject to point allocation.

6.3 Points Queries

It is the responsibility of Team Captains and Members to check points allocated to their Dogs in good time and they will therefore have SIX months from the date of any Sanctioned Tournament to lodge queries concerning these points with the Records and Statistics Coordinator. After this period enquiries will only be considered at the Committee's discretion. In such cases an administration fee of £10.00 must accompany the enquiry.

SECTION 7 - TOURNAMENT FORMAT

7.1 Round Robin Competitions

Each team races every other team entered in their division once. Each race shall have three heats or be of the best 3 out of 5 format. (The only exception, see rule 5.6 (f). If run-offs are required, Show Organisers will decide which method is used, provided that it is clearly displayed prior to the start of competition.

7.2 Double Elimination Competitions

This should be used if time does not permit the host Team to run round robin competitions. Copies of the format forms for double elimination may be obtained from the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator. Other classes offered may include Multi-breed, Veterans, Novice etc. and various 'Fun Classes'.

7.3 Tournament Duration Guidelines

- a) A 12-team round robin with 2 divisions would require 5 hours, but each team would only race 5 times.
- b) A 12-team round robin with 3 divisions would require 3 hours and each team would race 3 times.
- c) A 12-team double elimination would require 3 hours and 50 minutes. Some teams would only race twice, while others would race 5 or 6 times.

7.4 Consolation Rounds

To allow teams more racing in double elimination tournaments, some teams have offered consolation rounds for those teams eliminated early. Consolation rounds can be round robin, single elimination or double elimination.

7.5 Divisions

- a) If the host Team elects to offer divisions, teams should be placed in each division based on times. Teams may submit times for seeding purposes - otherwise the current BFA seeding will be used.
- b) There shall be no less than 5 teams in each division. Ideally, there should be 5 or 6 teams in each division with a maximum of 7.

SECTION 8 - ANNUAL AWARDS

8.1 Flyball Open Team of the Year

Awarded to the Team, that with 4 dogs has run the fastest time from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open or Limited Open competitions. This will be awarded up to third place.

8.2 Multibreed Team of the Year

Awarded to the Team that with 4 dogs, has run the fastest time from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Multibreed or Limited Multibreed competitions. This will be awarded to first place only.

8.3 BFA Junior Handler/Box Loader Awards (NOTE - New Scheme on BFA Website – this rule is planned to be replaced with BFA Young Members Scheme as part of the November updates)

Awarded to the Junior Handlers/Box Loaders in age groups 7 to 11 and 12 to 16 who have gained the most points (1 point for handling a dog or dogs or box loading for a Team or Teams at each Tournament) from 1st January to 31st December. Handlers ages at 1st January.

8.4 Claire Gristwood Award

Awarded to the Jack Russell Terrier that has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Limited Open competitions.