



AGM 2017 Summary

ALL PROPOSALS LISTED IN RULE NUMBER ORDER. Some proposals cover more than one rule; hence they are linked through the summary, however they will only be voted on ONCE as a complete proposal. (for example: The 1st proposal affects three rules so items A, N and AA are linked for one vote)

A (Linked to N & AA)

Rule 1.17

1.17 The Height Card Administrator, appointed by the committee, shall collate the information received on the C9 form into the Height Card database, ensuring that the data is made available to Tournament Organisers prior to their events (either by e-mail or online). They shall then **Remove: issue Height Cards** **ADD: update the Dog Heights Master List** once the criteria are met. They shall answer any queries from members regarding the status of a dog's **ADD: official height** **Remove: card**

Rational - To keep in line with the other proposed rule changes to 5.6d

Proposed by Donna Culley BFA number – 4016

- Jeff Hughes – How will people know their dog has a height if they don't have a height card?
- Donna Culley – I can email handlers once their dogs have a height.
- Ali Kirk – The height list will eventually be on the new website for all to see, in the meantime Donna's spreadsheet will be used.
- **Go to vote.**

B

Rule 1.19

We propose that an equality officer should be appointed to the BFA Committee in order to protect the interests and encourage participation of disabled people in the sport and to encourage safe practices for both members and dogs participating in the sport.

We feel that this role will benefit all members of the BFA as it will provide clarity on issues relating to disability and take out any possible inconsistencies of how competition organisers and judges deal with disability issues.

The tasks that would be proposed to fall within the remit of this role include:

- Providing advice, guidance and support on disability issues;
- To examine the BFA rules to ensure that the rules are clear and inclusive - i.e. Rule 5.17 g) states that the box loader must be in an upright position. Does this mean that a person who requires a wheelchair or cannot stand for long periods cannot be a box loader or can box



AGM 2017 Summary

loading be done in a sitting position as a reasonable adjustment? Rule 4.5 c) states that there should be adequate toilet facilities. What does this mean?

- To ensure that members with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in all areas of the sport including judging and ring party and developing any reasonable adjustments that may be required.
- To assess and advise on appropriate conditions for disabled campers, identifying who needs adaptations and the appropriate adaptations put in place - i.e. should mobility impaired members and their teams camping be able to camp together near the ring? Deaf members should not need to cross busy roads to get to rings.
- To assess if a defibrillator could be a useful addition to the BFA, and how to utilise this at competitions - i.e. it travels with the lights.
- To assess if a trained first aider and first aid kit should be available at competitions.
- To encourage companies hiring mobility assistance vehicles to attend large competitions so that some members can camp further away and free up space close to the rings for those in greater need.
- Developing systems for reporting any incidents of discrimination and any subsequent investigations;
- To assess the safety of dogs when interacting with disabled participants and their mobility aids - i.e. it would be helpful to have rules in place regarding the use of powered wheelchairs especially in the ring and the speed they can travel at around competition sites.

Proposed by Helen Miller BFA number 7281 and Chris Richards, BFA Number 3298.

- Ray Lewis – I think that it's a good idea that the BFA addresses these issues, however it should be appointed by, not to, The Committee.
- General agreement to above.
- Donna Culley – I agree with this but not to it being so specific.
- Jenny Wallace – wording would have to be changed.
- Andy Bawden – To bring in a new rule like this you would have to bring in sanctions, plus there's a possibility that shows would have to be cancelled if they did not comply with this.
- Helen Miller – I am happy to change to appointed by The Committee. This is really advice for all membership on shows and advice to change and adapt to be more accommodating.
- Dave Long – If there was a defibrillator for all sanctioned sets of lights this would cost a fortune and who would pay for it.
- Helen Miller; in response – This was just a suggestion.
- Charlotte Charles – If it is an equality officer, are you covering all equality or just disability access?
- Helen Miller; in response – It's mainly to do with disability access.



AGM 2017 Summary

- BFA Chair – Would you be happy if this was an advisor to The Committee?
- Helen Miller; in response – Yes an advisor would be good this was a suggestion, the wording of the proposal wasn't intended to be a new rule.
- BFA Member – What about a Disability Officer?
- Lynn Bradley; in response – The law says you cannot call it a 'Disability Officer' as it discriminates.
- BFA Member suggests – What about an Accessibility Advisor?
- Helen Miller - Agrees.
- Ali Kirk; Drafts the wording for an Accessibility Advisor.

Amendment to proposal B; Rule 1.19 -

The Accessibility Advisor, appointed by the committee, is a resource available to the whole membership. The AA will be available to the entire association for consultation on issues regarding inclusion and accessibility.

- Helen Miller – Accepted the amendment to the proposal.
- Go to vote.

C

Rule 3.5(f)

3.5(f) A report will be sent to the BFA Secretary detailing the DSC findings and recommendations.

Remove: The findings will be posted in official BFA publications if the complaint is upheld, and if no appeal is received within 21 days.

Rational: Due to Data Protection and the sensitive nature of some of these complaints the Committee have been unable to publish fully the findings of the DSC. The removal of this will allow the Committee to assess if publication is in the interest of the BFA and what information can be published.

Proposed by BFA Committee

- BFA Member, Suggestion – You could just change the word 'will' to 'may' rather than remove a whole sentence.
- Committee; response – It would tidy up the rule and make it less complicated if the sentence was removed.
- Ray Lewis – The effect of this would be minimal according to the current rule the committee have to publish, but can't in some cases because of data protection, so have to break the BFA rules. This just allows them to do what they do anyway, but will no longer be breaking the BFA rules.



AGM 2017 Summary

- [Go to vote.](#)

D (Linked to H)

Rule 4.1(a)

4.1(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 **Remove: £20** non-refundable deposit **Add: see C3 Form for current Fee** (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. 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.) 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 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. 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, the exception to this will be Tournaments that are held indoors or inside a marquee.

Rational: To remove the need for a specific financial amount being quoted in the rules making it difficult to alter when required. Specific amounts will be displayed on the relevant forms with reference to the fee remaining in the rules. With the recent need for VAT to be added to any services supplied by the BFA it was found that the Committee were unable to apply the VAT until a rule change, which could only happen at an A.G.M. In future, this will allow fees to be increased or decreased immediately without a need to change the current rules.

Proposed by BFA Committee



AGM 2017 Summary

- Jean Meaking – Can there be a proviso that these fees are only raised once per year?
- Jenny Wallace – WE cannot do this because it is tied to VAT and if the chancellor changes the VAT more than once then we do too.
- BFA Member – I am a member of a big organisation and I know that you cannot change fees ‘willy nilly’.
- Shian Corley- If the membership is concerned about potentially giving the Committee licence to raise fees, could it just read “£20+VAT” etc, which would allow for the Chancellor changing the VAT rate?
- Committee Member (Darryl?) – This change is not about raising fees, but would give the Committee flexibility, for example if we were looking at ways to give back to the Membership by lowering fees.
- Ray Lewis – The membership fees which are significantly higher are not in the rules so why are other charges?
- Donna Culley – Could there be a yearly forecast to see what is happening?
- BFA Chair – Yes we could do that if the membership wanted but there would have to be flexibility because things happen or don’t happen out of our control and we shouldn’t be made accountable for that. We are an elected committee and you should trust us to handle things correctly and fairly, this is not so that we can increase income from the membership.
- Go to vote.

E

4.1b Requirements

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. **ADD: However sanction will be granted within the 50 miles radius where the proposed Tournament offers Indoor to Outdoor racing or when the tournament offers block to staggered scheduling**

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.

My Proposal is - 4.1b I would like to propose that two competitions could be run within the 50 mile radius providing one is an indoor and one outdoor, I also propose that the two



AGM 2017 Summary

shows could both be indoor or outdoor provided one is block and the other staggered. In explanation I offer - I believe this would allow more shows to be put on, but more importantly gives the membership more choice.

Proposed by Dave Long BFA number – 0855

- Vicki Dawe – This could split attendance 50/50 between competitions.
- Doreen – This could have a financial impact.
- BFA Member – It will allow for preferences.
- Ali Kirk (Personal view) – There would be no protection for tournament organisers if a team put on a last minute show close to their tournament, they could lose entries.
- Donna Culley – I don't think there's any need for this, we have allowed shows to happen within 50 miles of ours.
- BFA Member – but if a tournament is oversubscribed it goes to a ballot, is that fair?
- BFA Member – If Donna Culley hadn't said yes to allow a show within 50 miles there wouldn't be a show to go to.
- Andy Bawden – We just need to be grown up about this, tournament organisers need to talk to each other. The Committee can allow for it to happen if the tournament organisers agree. Communication is the answer to this.
- Shian Corley – It seems there is a relatively small geographical area which has a high density of flyball clubs that this proposal would benefit, whereas, there are large swathes of England and Scotland, for example, where it could be disastrous for TOs.
- Zara Silver – Im a tournament organiser and only put one show on per year and believe two tournaments in close proximity could be jeopardised.
- Go to vote.

F

Rule 4.1(k)

4.1k) Running orders and tournament information **REMOVE: should be emailed to teams and also ADD: must be** posted on the discussion board on the BFA website so they are available to all team members **ADD: an emailed version can be sent if requested by the team captain.** Seed times used must be shown with faster and slower declared times clearly marked.

Rationale: An email isn't a commonly used way of communicating running orders.

Proposed by Donna Culley BFA number – 4016

- Garry Black – I don't think this should change its good to get the email.
- BFA Member – Emails are not always sent to team captains.
- BFA Member – Sometimes it only goes on Facebook, what if you don't have Facebook?
- BFA Member – It must go on the BFA forum according to the rules.
- Go to vote.



AGM 2017 Summary

G

Rule 4.1(k)

4.1k) Running orders and tournament information should be emailed to teams and 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.

No changes shall be made to a BFA Committee organised sanctioned tournament (e.g. Championships) running order less than 7 days prior to the event starting, except where the Committee feel the change is in the best interest of the tournament.

If the Records and Statistics Coordinator is present at the Tournament, the original Time Sheets ~~Remove: 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) ~~Remove: , Jump Height form(s) (BFA Form C.9)~~ and Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) to the Records and Statistics Coordinator within 2 days to ensure that the latter is in receipt of the same within 7 days after the Tournament. ~~Add: Jump Height form(s) (BFA Form C.9) to be forwarded to Height Card Co-ordinator via either post or email. Any protests and or reports should be forwarded to the B.F.A. Secretary within 7 days.~~

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 Coordinator. 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), 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.

Rational: To ensure that all Height Card C9 Forms get sent directly to the Height Card Co-ordinator as per the C9 Form and Tournament Organisers send any reports or protests directly to BFA Secretary

Proposed by BFA Committee

- BFA Member – What if proposal A goes through with the wording.
- Committee; response – Then the word 'card' would be removed.
- Go to vote.

H (Linked to D)

Rule 4.1(k)



AGM 2017 Summary

4.1 (k) Running orders and tournament information should be emailed to teams and 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.

No changes shall be made to a BFA Committee organised sanctioned tournament (e.g. Championships) running order less than 7 days prior to the event starting, except where the Committee feel the change is in the best interest of the tournament.

If the Records and Statistics Coordinator 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 Coordinator 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 Coordinator. 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 ~~Remove: of £2~~ per team per class for all teams entered, including those running Not for Competition (NFC), 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. [Add: Current fees will be shown on C.6 form.](#)

Rational: To remove the need for a specific financial amount being quoted in the rules making it difficult to alter when required. Specific amounts will be displayed on the relevant forms with reference to the fee remaining in the rules. With the recent need for VAT to be added to any services supplied by the BFA it was found that the Committee were unable to apply the VAT until a rule change, which could only happen at an A.G.M. In future, this will allow fees to be increased or decreased immediately without a need to change the current rule

Proposed by BFA Committee

If both proposals should pass new rule will read as follows:

Rule 4.1(k)

4.1(k) Running orders and tournament information should be emailed to teams and 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.

No changes shall be made to a BFA Committee organised sanctioned tournament (e.g. Championships) running order less than 7 days prior to the event starting, except where the Committee feel the change is in the best interest of the tournament.



AGM 2017 Summary

If the Records and Statistics Coordinator is present at the Tournament, the original Time Sheets 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) Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) to the Records and Statistics Coordinator within 2 days to ensure that the latter is in receipt of the same within 7 days after the Tournament. [Jump Height form\(s\) \(BFA Form C.9\) to be forwarded to Height Card Co-ordinator via either post or email. Any protests and or reports should be forwarded to the B.F.A. Secretary within 7 days.](#)

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 Coordinator. 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 per team per class for all teams entered, including those running Not for Competition (NFC), 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. [Current fees will be shown on C.6 form.](#)

|

Rule 4.1(m)

4.1(m) Only BFA Registered Teams with a valid seed time can compete at a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championships). There shall be no declared times permitted at a Championship.

To qualify for a Championship Teams shall have raced three times outdoors for an Outdoor Championship and three times indoors for an Indoor Championship within the ~~Remove: six~~ [Add: 4](#) months prior to the relevant tournament schedule being released.

The committee will have a number of "Wild Cards" at their disposal, details of which will be published in the schedule.

Rationale: In practice the Outdoor Champs is in reality only getting 4 months of racing time in which to qualify for the Champs held in August

Proposed by BFA Committee

[AMMENDMENT; number '4' changed to 'four'.](#)

- [Go to vote.](#)



AGM 2017 Summary

J (Linked to W)

Rule 4.3

The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits. 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 ~~Remove: with~~ ~~Add: to ensure~~ a minimum ~~Add: total~~ thickness of 6mm. (no underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun' matting ~~Add: or 'Crumb' 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

Rational: To clarify the required minimum thickness of matting required which includes any underlay. Due to thickness of 'Crumb' matting and its use as anti-fatigue matting no under lay is required.

Proposed by BFA Committee

- Daniel Culley – Can you tell me how crumb matting is “anti-fatigue”?
- Committee; in response – We are going on manufacturer’s data. Crumb matting can be thicker than Tuff-spun, so the question is would you still require underlay?
- Daniel Culley; in response – I understand manufacturer’s data but has it been tested in the context of flyball?
- Committee; in response – It is used in playgrounds all over the country.
- Daniel Culley; in response – But it has not been assessed for people standing on it for hours and there is no evidence in the context of flyball, I believe it (crumb) is actually dense and quite abrasive therefore not “anti-fatigue” in flyball. To use it without underlay would be dangerous.
- Committee; in response – Crumb matting can be up to 20mm thick, are you suggesting that even then we still would require an underlay?
- Go to vote.



AGM 2017 Summary

K (Linked to T & X)

4.3 Layout

The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits. 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 ~~Remove: not less than 7'~~ **Add: to a minimum of 5'** **where space is limited** 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

Rational: Where venues are a little short of space in the back run area the distance from the back of the backboard to the front of the box can be reduced to 5ft.

Proposed by BFA Committee

If both proposals should pass new rule will read as follows:

4.3 Layout

The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits. 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 **to ensure** a minimum **total** thickness of 6mm. (no underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun' matting **or** 'Crumb' 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



AGM 2017 Summary

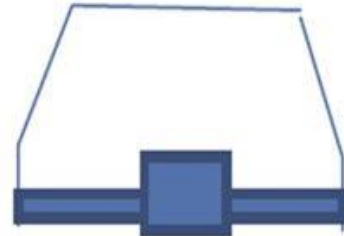
the racing lane shall include an area behind the Flyball box and in front of the backstops of 7' to a minimum of 5' where space is limited beyond the front edge of the Flyball box. Tournament Organisers should endeavour to find flat ground. If the ground has an obvious incline, the Tournament Organiser 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

- Andrew Short – The backboard cannot be 12ft centres as it would not fit.
- There was a period of discussion on the absolute rules of backboard size
- Sam Bawden – Rule 5.11 says “should be 24 ft” not has to
- Andrew Short – The removal of “i.e. 3x 8ft or 6x 4ft” alongside the diagram for rule 5.11 would allow backboards of a different length to be able to go from box line 5ft back
- Committee – we agree to this as part of our proposal so that backboard length can be adjusted accordingly

REMOVE:

Backboards 2ft high approx.24ft in total length May be in sect
i.e. 3x 8ft or 6x 4ft.



- Go to vote.

L (Linked to V)

Rule 5.2 j)

5.2 j) Veterans Teams. Where the combined age of the youngest four dogs entered is at least 32 years, the team may be declared to be a Veterans Team. If a team is so declared, the hurdles may be set four inches lower than would be case otherwise, subject to the minimum jump height defined in 5.12(c). Declared Veterans Teams may compete against Open (or Multibreed) teams at Sanctioned Tournaments – however they are ineligible for record times. Linked to 5.12 c

Rational: In explanation I offer - As dogs get older, it is sometimes preferable to reduce the stress on their muscular-skeletal structures by restricting the height of the jumps we ask them to negotiate. By allowing a team to be declared as a Veteran Team, this provides more opportunity for older dogs to compete at a more suitable height.

A similar rule is included in the Belgian Flyball rules, and the NAFA rules also include a Veteran's class.

Proposed by Ray Lewis BFA Number 2686



AGM 2017 Summary

- BFA Member – Could we put a minimum age for each dog?
- Zara Silver – How will it be policed?
- Ali Kirk; in response – The new website will show the age of the dog when it is registered.
- BFA Member – Could we have a separate seed list for veterans?
- Ali Kirk – What difference does this have to putting an older dog in starters?
- Ray Lewis; in response – It gives another option, veterans will have a specific seed time.
- BFA Member – This would disadvantage other teams.
- Daniel Culley – We have eight year old dogs who run sub four seconds and this would give us a great advantage being able to lower the jumps too.
- Sharon Allcorn – We also have 8 and 9 year old dogs that can run sub 4
- Jeannette Shelley – I am concerned that people will bring dogs out of retirement because they can then run on lower jumps
- BFA Member – You would end up with people running dogs that should not be running just to get points for them
- BFA Member – What if veteran teams did not gain any points? This would stop people running their dogs into the ground
- Sarah Prince – Then why not just enter veteran teams as NFC?

AMMENDMENT; Jump height may be set to the discretion of the team captain

- Go to vote.

M

Rule 5.6 (b), (c) and (d)

5.6 Judging Procedures

Remove:

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. 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



AGM 2017 Summary

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 height must be agreed by at least four different Head Judges/Measuring Officials. 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 dog's 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 Height Card Administrator 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, 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.

ADD:

b) Height Cards - Requirements

All dogs jumping less than 14" or measuring less than 19" from the withers must be measured at least three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments or at any gathering / meeting / event agreed by the Committee or at any day of a flyball tournament.

A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least 30 months old at its final measurement.

A dog must have three measures recorded at the same height, one of which must be its final measure, before a height card can be issued

The dog's height must be agreed by two Head Judges / Measuring Officials on each occasion and by at least four different Head Judges/Measuring Officials by its required final measurement.

Height measurements are to be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by both officials who have measured the dog(s)

Jump height recorded on the C.9 is the height of the dog from the ground to between its withers less 5".

Any measurement deemed borderline, the lowest measurement will be recorded for benefit of the dog.

A copy of the completed C9 shall be made available for viewing by the tournament participants.



AGM 2017 Summary

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.

Height Cards cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog.

The Height Card Administrator 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.

c) Measuring environment & set up

All measuring shall be carried out using only BFA authorised equipment; laser device and measuring stick where the datum line is set at 24".

The recommended distance between dog being measured and the laser is 2m and should never be less than 1 m (manufacturer's recommended distance)

Only one handler per dog shall normally be allowed in the measuring area unless the Head Judges / Measuring Officials chose to allow otherwise

A dog will be measured from the ground to between its withers. Withers being the dip between the dogs shoulder blades.

Dogs should be standing square with hocks perpendicular to the ground.

The head is to be in a relaxed, natural position neither too high nor too low.

Aggression during measuring will not be tolerated and Rule 5.19 will be observed.

A dog deemed 'NOT MEASURED' by the Head Judges/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) Appeals

An Owner can appeal their dog's height card if they consider it to be incorrect.

An explanation must be sent to the Committee via the BFA Secretary and copied to the Height Card Co-ordinator in writing (Email acceptable).

If the Committee agree to a remeasure, arrangements will be made for two Head Judges/Measuring Officials, selected by the Committee, who have not previously measured the dog and do not belong to the applicant's own Team, to measure the dog to confirm the height.

The result will be the dog's height; there will be no further appeal.

During the appeal process the dog will continue to run at the height issued on its height card unless the dog is measured at each tournament it races at whilst awaiting a decision from the committee/remeasure

Contesting a dog's height

Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally within 30 minutes of the heat in question.

The Division or Tournament Head Judge may at any time request that a dog be measured.

Handlers can produce their dog's height card, refer to the Master Height card list or refer to the C9 form if measured at the tournament.



AGM 2017 Summary

If the height cannot be proven by the above means the dog will be measured before being allowed to compete further, this will be arranged by the Tournament Head Judge (unless they are directly involved with the dog)

Team racing at the wrong jump height

If the Division or Tournament Head Judge determines that the team is jumping below the proper height, the team will forfeit any races won at the incorrect jump height.

Times recorded will not stand or count towards a seed time nor will any points be gained for legs run at the incorrect height.

Rational: The proposal hopes to take out confusion regarding height cards, introduce a clear appeals process and update the changes that have been made in practice to the measuring process.

Proposed by The Committee

- Donna Culley – In what circumstances would you disagree with a re-measure? (reference to new Appeals section and the wording “If the committee agree to a re-measure”)
- Committee – We are getting more and more re-measure requests, this happened initially because of change of measuring equipment (laser) but that should have finished by now, what is the reason for the recent increase in re-measure requests?
- BFA Member – Dogs relax over time and will get lower measure, hence appeals for re-measure
- Andy Bawden – You shrink as you get older, I used to be 6ft now I’m only 5ft 11
- Go to vote.

N (Linked to A & AA)

Rule 5.6(d)

d) ~~Remove: Height Cards~~ ADD: Dog Height Master Sheet – 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 height must be agreed by at least four different Head Judges/Measuring Officials. 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 ~~Remove: a height card~~ ADD: an Official height on the Dog Height Master Sheet. All height dogs must hold ~~Remove: a height card~~ ADD: an official measure 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. ~~Remove When a Height Card is issued and recorded it must be available for inspection at each Tournament entered.~~ The Height ~~remove: Card~~ Administrator will produce an up-to-date list of all ~~Remove: issued~~ ADD: the official Heights ~~Remove: Cards~~ for each Tournament ~~Remove: so that it can~~ ADD: that must be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9. ADD: official Jump Heights ~~Remove: (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~~



AGM 2017 Summary

dog's measurement is considered to be incorrect. Before re-applying, an explanation must be sent to the Committee in writing, 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. **Remove (Handlers who are unable to produce their cards may have their dog's jump height contested.)** **ADD: Handlers whose dogs are not showing on the dog height master sheet may have their dog's jump height contested)**

Rational - Height cards are an additional and unnecessary cost to the BFA, not just for the cards but the envelopes and stamps. 2nd class postage is rising to 56p in March 2017 and with this price increase the postage costs to the BFA will increase. On frequent occasions the cards go missing and there is then the additional cost associated with the reissuing. The internet is readily available and therefore the dog height master sheet can be accessed by Tournament Organisers and individual members whenever needed. If necessary, the document can be downloaded prior to a tournament to be viewed offline. The dog height master sheet is sorted by dog number and therefore easy for any dogs to be found. By removing the actual card it would reduce costs to the BFA without any detriment to members or the organisation. It is very rare that the cards are requested to be produced at a tournament.

Proposed by Donna Culley BFA Number 4016

O

Rule 5.6(d)

5.6(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 height must be agreed by at least four different Head Judges/Measuring Officials. A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least **Remove:30** **ADD: 24** 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 Height Card Administrator 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, 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.

Rational - any breed of dog small enough to become eligible for an official height measure, will have finished growing to their full height before the 24 months. 12 months between 1st and last measure as the rule currently stand seem to be a long time to have a dog measured especially if it's border



AGM 2017 Summary

line, this will save time at dog measuring. I can provide sufficient evidence that eligible height dogs are fully grown by 24 at the latest if this is require.

Proposed by Judy Parker BFA Number 0473

Should changes to rule 5.6 b,c & d be pass in combination with the following rules relevant sections will change as follows:

5.6 d proposed by Donna Culley would read:

A dog must have three measures recorded at the same height, one of which must be its final measure, before its height will be recorded on the Master Sheet.

All height dogs must have a registered final measure 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. Entries on the Dog Height Master Sheet cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog.

The Height Card Administrator will produce an up-to-date list, the Dog Height Master Sheet, for each Tournament so that it can be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9.

5.6 d proposed by Judy Parker section would read:

A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least 24 months old at its final measurement.

5.12 (c) proposed by Donna Culley sections would read:

5.6 b) Height Cards - Requirements

All dogs jumping less than 12" or measuring less than 17" from the withers must be measured at least three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments or at any gathering / meeting / event agreed by the Committee or at any day of a flyball tournament.

5.6 c

Aggression during measuring will not be tolerated and Rule 5.19 will be observed.

A dog deemed 'NOT MEASURED' by the Head Judges/Measuring Officials will jump at the height of the smallest dog in its team (running, not standing by) if that dog measured less than 17" to between withers.

- Ellen Schofield – As an owner of Working Cocker Spaniels at the age of 24 months the dog can be one height but drop by 30 months, and it's been the same with all my Spaniels.
- Craig Burrows – Staffordshire Bull-Terriers haven't got the muscle mass at the age of 24 months but at 30 months they have and the dip in the withers disappears causing a higher measurement.
- Sam Bawden – A past committee took veterinary advice that at 30 months dogs will grow no further.
- Samantha Vosper – I am a veterinary nurse and I can say that dogs stop growing at 18 moths, the plates close by 18 months.



AGM 2017 Summary

- BFA Member – What if a dog is neutered / spayed early? Their growth plates take longer to close due to the lack of hormones.
- Samantha Vosper; in response – It is true that neutered / spayed dogs can take longer, however the plates will still have closed by 18 months. Basically the larger the dog the longer it takes, so a ST Bernard or a Great Dane for example could take up to 18 months naturally, whereas smaller dogs plates will close at a younger age, but if neutered / spayed early can take up to 18 months.
- Go to vote.

P

Rule 5.6 (g)viii

5.6 (g) The Division Judge

- Shall be positioned between the racing lanes in an area where they have a clear view of racing to start the heat.
- 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.
- During the heat he/she should be in a position to observe the handlers for any violations.
- If it is necessary to stop a heat, the Division Judge shall use a whistle.
- Stop the heat for interference in the ring.
- He/she may confer with the Line Judges and the Box Judges before determining a winner.
- If necessary a Division Judge shall reposition himself/herself in such a manner as not to distract the dogs competing
- Note: A loss for both teams shall be recorded in the following circumstances. ~~Remove: An NFC team running against:~~
 - ~~ADD: An NFC team running against~~ 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). ~~Remove: In this case only 3 legs shall be run.~~
 - ~~Remove: A team that breaks out~~ ~~ADD: A team that has already broken out 3 times racing against an NFC team~~
 - A team that breaks out (single leg) racing against an NFC team.
 - When both teams break out
 - When both teams choose not to rerun a dog in order to finish the race

~~ADD: In circumstances 1 and 2 only three legs will be run. Circumstances 3, 4 and 5 will count as one leg raced and may result in only three legs being run.~~

Rational: To include all reasons for a no time loss to be recorded. To clarify that a result of no time loss counts as a leg having been run.



AGM 2017 Summary

Proposed by The Committee

AMMENDMENT; Change 'leg' to 'heat' (for consistency with other rules).

- [Go to vote.](#)

Q (Linked to CC)

Rule 5.6 (h)ii.

Judging Procedures

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

- Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
- 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. **ADD and mark if the race was without faults.** 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 (e.g. 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)(viii))

Rational: The effect of this change will be to limit the award of points to those heats where all four dogs run cleanly, without fault.

At present teams are often asked to refrain from re-running a dog after an early cross or a false-start when the heat has been lost.

If the heat has already been lost, and the fault was an early cross or false start, the only benefit to be gained from re-running the dog would be to gain additional points. By introducing this change, this benefit would be removed and teams would be further discouraged from re-running a dog in these circumstances.

Proposed by Ray Lewis BFA number 2686

- Jeannette – How are the logistics of this going to work?
- Ray Lewis; in response – On the team sheet the ring party could mark with an 'X' if they have done a clear run.
- Leanne Hyde; in response – There is poor ring party out there and we are unlikely to be able to get them to do that.
- Ellen Schofield; in response - I don't think we should withhold a rule change because we don't think ring party can cope.
- [Go to vote.](#)

R



AGM 2017 Summary

Rule 5.8(e)

5.8 (e) Box dimensions

Boxes shall not exceed **REMOVE 24" ADD 30"** in width, **REMOVE 18" ADD 20"** in height or 30" in depth. The dimensions do not include any platform the box loader uses to hold the box in place.

Rational:

Our current box dimensions do not meet the influx of larger breeds entering the sport. We have a responsibility to train our dogs to safely turn on our boxes however this is a request near impossible for some breeds. Our current dimensions make it difficult for larger breeds such as Lurchers, Greyhounds, Labradors, Pointers etc to safely turn- although a lot of large dogs can turn safely (four paws) you will find them when reviewed in slow motion they are having to scrunch and compress their body in an unnatural manner to perform the task at hand. The amended dimensions will allow for further space for larger breeds, and most medium size breeds to take full advantage and alleviate some of the pressure when trying to turn on the box.

Proposed by Daniel Culley BFA Number 4017

- **Andy Bawden – Boxes in history have changed from a box where the dog jumps on a pedal and the ball is catapulted from the back, to the boomerang, etc. Training has also developed and dogs no longer pounce straight onto the box, but do a swimmers turn and we have dogs missing the box with their back feet.**
- ***Andy Bawden proceeds to stand up and mime a demonstration of what he was talking about.**
- **Sharon Allcorn – That was only a three footed turn Andy.***
- **Go to vote.**

S

Rule 5.9

5.9 Balls

Each team shall have its own supply of **REMOVE un-punctured, tennis balls REMOVE (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 tennis-type smaller approved balls may be used. ADD Approved Balls may be of any size, colour or design but must bounce and roll. See also 5.8D**

Rational: I saw many different types of balls used when I went to America and saw real advantages to dogs who can't catch or maybe dogs with a different preference. This would be beneficial for different breeds with varying jaw structures as it would allow us to use different sizes, textures and density to allow equal opportunities for all dogs. eg light mouthed dogs, small dogs, fussy dogs.

Proposed by Daniel Culley BFA Number 4017



AGM 2017 Summary

- BFA Member – If this passes then punctured tennis balls could be used.
- Andy Bawden – Who will approve the balls and how would they be approved?
- Samantha Vosper – Tennis balls do wear down teeth, also in the past a Belgium team competed at our show using durafoam balls approved by The Committee at the time.
- Bhavnesh Patel – Is the 2ft rule for boxes still going to apply?
- Vicki Dawe – Approval would be that it fires 2ft, bounces and rolls.
- Andy Bawden; in response – I still think we need to remove the word ‘approved’.
- Daniel Culley – I would like to make the following amendments to my proposal; to keep in the words “Un-punctured tennis balls”, to remove the word “approved”, and to add after the word roll, “subject to the size and comfort of the dog”.
- Ali Kirk – Is this a training issue that dogs are fumbling / dropping balls?
- Daniel Culley; in response – I don’t think so, I think it is more down to a dog’s disposition, it may prefer a sponge ball that it can grip easier.
- Ali Kirk – Is a fluffy rabbit ball okay?
- Daniel Culley; in response – A fluffy rabbit ball would be okay if it fired 2ft, bounced and rolled.
- Ellen Schofield – We already have softer tennis balls / small tennis balls, so I don’t see why this should be an issue.
- Craig Burrows; in response to Ali – Fluffy rabbit balls could be a distraction.
- Donna Culley; in response – If a particular ball was causing a distraction, the judge could ask for it to be removed.
- BFA Member – Could we have a specific selection?
- Daniel Culley; in response – No.
- Go to vote.

T (Linked to K & X)

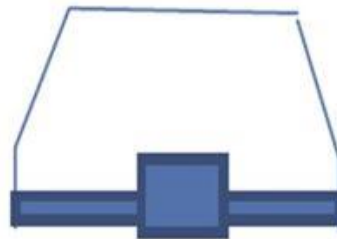
Rule 5.11

5.11 Barriers

The host team shall provide a solid barrier/backstop (Approx. 24" high) **Remove: not less than 7ft** **Add to a minimum of 5' where space is limited** 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.

REMOVE:

Backboards 2ft high approx.24ft in total length May be in sect
i.e. 3x 8ft or 6x 4ft.



Rational: Where venues are a little short of space in the back run area the distance from the back of the backboard to the front of the box can be reduced to 5ft.



AGM 2017 Summary

Proposed by BFA Committee

U

Rule 5.12 (c)

5.12 c.) Jumps

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 ~~REMOVE 14"~~ **ADD 12"**, this height to include any protective materials.

Rational: I propose that the maximum height of the jumps is reduced from 14" to 12" on the grounds of dog welfare and development of the sport. Reasoning for the proposal on the grounds of development of the sport.

Most large dogs that could comfortably jump 14" would have a jump arc much bigger than 10ft therefore between each jump they are having to compress their stride and arch their back to be able to land and collect to take off again for the next jump. You don't see this with the smaller dogs running over their own height. This is maths of jump height affecting the dogs jump angle affecting how far they jump and how much they have to then contort their body to jump the next jump.

Proposed by Daniel Culley BFA Number 4017

If rule change is passed in conjunction with 5.6 b, c & d (please see that section) also needing changed is 5.6 e

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 ~~Remove:14"~~ **Add: 12"** Adjusted to 1" increments to the lowest whole number ~~Remove: (e.g. 12 3/4" becomes 12")~~ **Add: (e.g. 9 3/4 " becomes 9")**

- Daniel Culley; further exp. – the arc of the dog jumping 14" requires too much compression of the dog's body between jumps.
- Samantha Vosper – If you're reducing maximum height for bigger dogs why are we not reducing minimum height for small dogs?
- Donna Culley -We proposed that before, but it did not get voted through.
- Andy Bawden – Bigger dogs are not actually jumping they are just picking their legs up and striding. I don't see how this is an issue.
- Ali Kirk – There are only a small number of teams who use 14" so why are we changing it? It devalues height dogs.
- BFA Member – The Kennel Club have changed the distance between jumps for larger dogs in agility.
- Daniel Culley – This is of no value to us as a team, but we don't like to see larger dogs hunching up.



AGM 2017 Summary

- Tony Cain – I have a 14” dog that has a problem clearing lower height.
- Sam Bawden – How many teams are running 14” out of choice? Where is the evidence / fact?
- Nicky James – Our team have lost 90% of our height dogs and we will have to run over 14” without choice and I would rather not.
- Jeannette – Just because people think it devalues height dogs doesn’t mean we have to send bigger dogs over 14” if it is uncomfortable for them.
- [Go to vote.](#)

V (Linked to L)

Rule 5.12 (c)

5.12 c.) Jumps

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.

[Add “For declared Veterans Teams, the jumps may set up to 4 inches lower, with a minimum of 7 inches.”](#)

Linked to proposal 5.2 j

Rational: In explanation I offer - As dogs get older, it is sometimes preferable to reduce the stress on their muscular-skeletal structures by restricting the height of the jumps we ask them to negotiate. By allowing a team to be declared as a Veteran Team, this provides more opportunity for older dogs to compete at a more suitable height.

A similar rule is included in the Belgian Flyball rules, and the NAFA rules also include a Veteran’s class.

Proposed by Ray Lewis BFA Number 2686

Should both rule changes pass rule will read:

5.12 c.) Jumps

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 12” this height to include any protective materials.

[“For declared Veterans Teams, the jumps may set up to 4 inches lower, with a minimum of 7 inches.”](#)

W (Linked to J)

Rule 5.13



AGM 2017 Summary

5.13(b) 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 [Add: or 'Crumb' 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.

Rational: Due to thickness of 'Crumb' matting and its use as anti-fatigue matting no under lay is required.

Proposed by BFA Committee

X (Linked to K & T)

5.13 Set Up

b) 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 Remove: not less than 7' Add: to a minimum of 5' where space is limited** from the front edge of the Flyball box.

Rational: Where venues are a little short of space in the back run area the distance from the back of the backboard to the front of the box can be reduced to 5ft.

Proposed by BFA Committee



AGM 2017 Summary

If both proposals should pass new rule will read as follows:

5.13 Set Up

b) 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 or 'Crumb' 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 7' to a minimum of 5' where space is limited from the front edge of the Flyball box.

Y

Rule 5.17(b)

5.17b:

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 **REMOVE race ADD 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.

Rational: I understand at the 2016 AGM the proposed change to rule 5.17b was going to be used on a trial period as it was to be monitored. As far I am aware this has not come to fruition and therefore this should be rescinded.

Equality for all BFA Members: Surely our sport should give a fair & equal environment for all dogs & handlers.

Dog welfare: I have seen no evidence of the rule having any benefit to the wellbeing of the start dog. I do not believe that the original Rule 5.17b in 2015 encouraged dogs to exceed their ability. As per existing rules of the BFA all dogs competing in a sanctioned tournament should only do so if they are able and fit enough. The nature of our sport is to run your dog in a manner which is deemed fun and responsible therefore I believe every member of the BFA should be entitled to decide whether or not their dog has the ability to be a start dog.

Racing times: After observing the new start rule over the previous 12 months I do not believe it has reduced racing times. There are many reasons that racing may be delayed, however in my opinion the primary cause is not due to the re running of start dogs. I also think that if you enter to compete



AGM 2017 Summary

at a tournament you should expect to be there all day, hence not sure why delayed racing is such an issue.

Sportsmanship: I believe the introduction of the amendment to Rule 5.17b last year has also introduced an aspect of unfair racing. Many teams feel they have to hold their start dogs back to ensure they do not infringe start rules due to the lack of ability to practice.

Proposed by Bhavnes Patel BFA Number 6325

- Committee; in response – Referring to minutes of the Face to Face meeting of September 2016: **False start rule-** As promised the committee reviewed the rule change 5.17 b), covering false starts. Since the implementation of the rule change, the committee have not received any negative report pertaining to this, but have received several in support of a positive effect. The committee therefore sees no reason to intervene with this rule change for dog welfare or otherwise.
- BFA Member – I can't remember any monitoring, where is the evidence? There should be stats.
- BFA Member -What about the petition, perhaps people did not feel they needed to say anything after they had put their name to this?
- Committee – We have not received anything negative since the implementation of the rule, on the contrary we observed and were given positive feedback both on Facebook and at competitions. We all play flyball and we judge and have not seen or heard any negatives. The British Record has been broken 5 times since the rule was brought in
- Craig Burrows – Yes the record has been broken more times this way than before. I was initially against it (per race) but I'm not any more.
- Andy Bawden – This will be voted on through an informed basis and peoples experiences.
- Helen Miller – I understand you can have a lights warm up.
- BFA Member – That is correct if you request it from the judge.
- **Go to vote.**

Z

Rule 5.20

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 **ADD: and it is strongly advised / recommended not to train with other dogs** 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.

ADD: A BFA member who has a dog that has been exposed to but is without symptoms must not attend a tournament and it is strongly advised / recommended not to train with other dogs for 14 days after their last exposure.

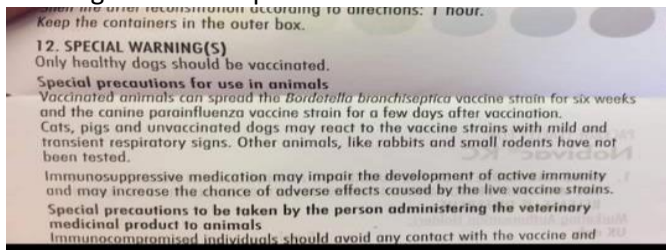
Note: Exposure is direct contact or spending time with an infected animal or the period of 14 days following vaccination (as per manufacturer's recommendations)



AGM 2017 Summary

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.

Rational: To clarify the meaning of exposure and instruct members on the correct action to take if their dog has been exposed or has an infectious or contagious disease.



Manufacturers' notes

Proposed by BFA Committee

- Samantha Vosper – I agree with this and that it is down to the owner's discretion. However why 14 days after vaccination? A vaccination is not contagious.
- Committee; in response – Through Veterinary advice it is to ensure that a dog is not carrying Kennel Cough before vaccination.
- Samantha Vosper; in response – It is usually a booster not a vaccination, therefore they wouldn't have contracted Kennel Cough. If you word it this way, you might discourage people from vaccinating.
- Committee; in response – What if it was the first vaccination or the dog had missed a booster? Three different vets advised that the best practice against Kennel Cough is vaccination. The vaccine strain is not contagious, however a dog could still pass on the virus caught prior to the vaccination. We are trying to minimise the spread of the disease throughout the association, however we know we cannot eliminate it.
- Shian Corley – The wording about 14 days following vaccination is misleading as it implies the KC vaccine may render them contagious. If you are worried about them carrying a field strain during this 14 days, that is no different from dogs which have never been vaccinated at all. Therefore you are discriminating against dogs which have been recently done.
- Daniel Culley – Can we consider adding that it is a Kennel Cough vaccination?
- Committee consulted with Samantha Vosper on re-wording the proposal;
ADD: A BFA member's dog that has been exposed to but is without symptoms must not attend a tournament and it is strongly advised / recommended not to train with other dogs for 14 days after their last exposure.
Note: Exposure is direct contact or spending time with an infected animal or the period of 14 days following vaccination (as per manufacturer's recommendations) – to avoid masking a contracted field strain.
- Go to vote.

AA (Linked to A & N)



AGM 2017 Summary

Rule 5.22

5.22 British record breaking times for both Open and Multi-breed Sanctioned Tournaments 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 ~~Remove: production of a height card.~~ ~~ADD: checking the current Dog Height Master List that is held by the Tournament organiser.~~ ~~Remove: If a height card is not available then refer to the current height card list, If Remove: this is not available~~ ~~ADD: the dog is not on the Dog Height Master List~~ then the dog shall be measured unless it has been measured that day and recorded 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.

Rational – To keep in line with the other proposed rule changes to 5.6d

Proposed by Donna Culley 4016

BB

Rule 6.1

6.1 Points

With effect from this amendment: each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time of under 30 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 25 points towards a Flyball title...\

~~6.1 REMOVE: 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 under 30 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 5 points; ADD: Points (date added later) each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time under 30 seconds each dog racing will receive 25 points towards a flyball title; 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



AGM 2017 Summary

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

Rational: Flyball is and should strive to remain a "sport for all" for both humans and dogs. For example we have tournaments split into divisions to reflect the dogs run and complete in differing amount of times. BUT when it comes to BFA Points and Titles the rules sadly discriminate (unintentionally, I'm sure) in favour of the faster (or in some cases, the shorter) dogs. Currently faster dogs (and their height dog team mates) who complete in under 22 seconds are awarded 25 points, whereas dogs who complete in 22-26 seconds receive only 10, or a paltry 5pts for 26 – 30 secs.

The result is that many dogs do not get the same recognition that the BFA Points system attempts to give, despite the fact that;

- 1) They run exactly the same distance,
- 2) They run over exactly the same jumps
- 3) They run by the same rules,
- 4) They compete at the same number of competitions
- 5) They (and their handlers) give the same 100% effort,

Dogs running in teams that regularly complete 22 seconds or more (a significant proportion of the flyball population) can take many years to reach the titles that other dogs are awarded in a fraction of the time..... for no apparent fair reason.

Isn't it about time we ensure that all dogs in flyball are equal?"

Proposed by Lincoln Brookes BFA Number 6725

- Jean Meaking – I think this will devalue my 20 years in flyball, I have slower dogs with few points, but it is / has been just as much fun running them.
- Jeff Hughes – Why should slower dogs be discriminated against?
- Ali Kirk – Flyball is a race. There are thresholds, to give 25 points to all dogs under 30 seconds would mean you would basically get points for turning up.
- Donna Culley – (Referring to treasurers report) We heard about the expenses of the awards, this would increase expenses massively.
- [Go to vote.](#)

CC (Linked to Q)

6.1 Points From 1st January 2007 each time a team races **ADD: without any faults** 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 **ADD: without any faults. REMOVE 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



AGM 2017 Summary

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.

Rational: The effect of this change will be to limit the award of points to those heats where all four dogs run cleanly, without fault.

At present teams are often asked to refrain from re-running a dog after an early cross or a false-start when the heat has been lost.

If the heat has already been lost, and the fault was an early cross or false start, the only benefit to be gained from re-running the dog would be to gain additional points. By introducing this change, this benefit would be removed and teams would be further discouraged from re-running a dog in these circumstances.

In order to effect this, an additional mark will need to be made by the ring party on the C2 Timesheet to indicate whether or not a team completed the heat without any faults.

Proposed by Ray Lewis BFA Number 2686

Should both proposals be passed the rule will read.

6.1 Points from (date added later), each time a team races without any faults in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time under 30 seconds each dog racing will receive 25 points towards a flyball title; 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 without any faults 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



AGM 2017 Summary

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.

DD

Rule 8.4

ADD: 8.4 Tony Hodge Award

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

Rational: To ensure the award is continually awarded annually after its introduction at the AGM of 2017.

Proposed by The Committee on behalf of Mrs Eileen Hodge

- Went straight to vote.