



# British Flyball Association

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**July 2026**

The official rules and regulations of the British Flyball Association, an unincorporated association of voluntary members within the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Channel Islands.

# Contents

CONSTITUTION	1
1. Name and Objective	1
2. Committee	1
3. Committee meetings and voting	2
4. Committee Members and other positions	2
5. Code of Conduct	3
6. Members	3
7. General Meetings	3
8. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)	5
9. Process for change to the Constitution	6
RULES OF FLYBALL RACING	7
Section A	7
A.1 Sanctioned Tournaments	7
1. Application Requirements	7
2. Tournament Organiser Responsibilities	8
3. Tournament Schedule/Entry	8
4. Tournament Seeding/Running Order	9
5. Tournament Format	10
6. Tournament Layout	11
7. Set Up	12
8. Tournament Assistance	12
9. Flyball Foundation Events & Ring Time Training	12
A.2 Rules for Competition	15
1. Amateur competition	15
2. Membership	15
3. Minimum age	15
4. Electronic Judging System (EJS)	15
5. Teams	15
6. Time sheets	16
7. Team Equipment	17
8. Reporting for races	18
9. Race results	18
10. Record times	18
A.3 Rules of Racing	19
1. Control of dogs	19
2. The Divisional Judge	19
3. The Start	19
4. The Run	19
5. Knocked down jumps/Broken boards	20

6.	Box Malfunction	20
7.	Out of bounds	20
8.	Interference/Distractions	20
9.	Box Loader	21
10.	The Finish	22
11.	Break outs	22
12.	Withdrawal From Competition (WFC)	23
<b>JUDGING AND RING PARTY</b>		<b>24</b>
Section B		24
B.1	Ring Party	24
B.2	Head Judge	24
B.3	Deputy Head Judge	25
B.4	Divisional Judge	26
B.5	Ring Party	28
B.6	Measuring Official	29
<b>MEASURING PROCESS</b>		<b>29</b>
Section C		29
C.1.	Dog master Height List requirements	29
C.2.	Measuring set up/environment	30
C.3.	Appeals	31
C.4.	Contesting a height	31
C.5.	Racing at incorrect height	31
<b>DOG WELFARE AND VETERINARY GUIDANCE</b>		<b>32</b>
Section D		32
D.1.	General dog welfare	32
D.2.	Lame dogs/Recovering from surgery	32
D.3.	Bitches in season	32
D.4.	Pregnant bitches and puppies	32
D.5.	Aggressive Dogs	33
D.6.	Infectious and contagious diseases	33
<b>POINTS AND AWARDS</b>		<b>34</b>
Section E		34
E.1.	Dog points and awards	34
E.2.	Loss of points	34
E.3.	Young Members Award Scheme	35
E.4.	Annual awards	35
<b>COMPLAINTS PROCESS</b>		<b>35</b>

# CONSTITUTION

## 1. Name and Objective

- 1.1 The objective of the British Flyball Association (“BFA”) is to further the sport of flyball by promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship, as detailed in its Code of Conduct.

## 2. Committee

- 2.1 The BFA is overseen by an elected selection of members (the “Committee”), which includes The Chairperson, The Treasurer and The Secretary. These roles are appointed by the Committee as a majority vote of the committee members at the first committee meeting following the AGM.

The responsibilities of these three roles are outlined in The Members Handbook - Role Descriptors for BFA Committee members and Officers of the Committee

- 2.2 The Committee comprises of no more than nine Committee Members, and as far as is reasonably possible, no less than six Committee Members. In the event that the Committee comprises of less than nine Committee Members, those Committee Members may co-opt any Adult Member of good conduct to become a Committee Member. All adult members of the association will be given the opportunity to apply for the role. Co-opted members must meet all the standards in section 4.1 (excluding part a).

If the committee believes it requires a particular skill set to fulfil its obligations to members they may add this as an additional requirement. The committee will select the successful candidate/s at a committee meeting by a majority vote of the committee members and they will hold office until the next AGM.

- 2.3 The Committee is responsible for the running of the Association within the existing rules, policies and procedures and the implementation of any changes following an AGM/EGM.
- 2.4 Any changes arising from rule 2.3 will take effect within a maximum of six months from the AGM/EGM. This timescale can be varied by the Committee for matters relating to dog welfare, legislative changes and health and safety.
- 2.5 The Committee will adhere to, enforce and implement the BFA’s Constitution, Code of Conduct, Rules of Racing, and all of the BFA’s published Policies, Procedures and Appendices.
- 2.6 The Committee is responsible for updating the Policies Procedures and Appendices between AGM’s. They will do so following a consultation process with the BFA Working Groups, Officials and registered Team Captain’s. This is to enable the Committee to take into account any changes in legislation, guidance in the Health and Safety of both humans and dogs and urgent matters that will not wait until the next AGM. They will inform the membership by issuing a new version of the affected Policy, Procedure or Appendix by updating the website, putting a notice on social media and emailing team captains.
- 2.7 When communicating with the membership, working parties or other professionals, the Committee will use the necessary digital media platforms to deliver their information.
- 2.8 The Committee will communicate all unrestricted minutes of meetings to the membership within a month of any meeting. In the case of an EGM all minutes should be shared within six weeks.

### 3. Committee meetings and voting

- 3.1 Committee Meetings will require not less than five Committee Members to be in attendance to be quorate. Committee Members will be given 72 hours notice of any meetings, or in the case of an emergency 24 hours notice. Attendance at any meeting can be in person or by way of a digital media platform.
- 3.2 For any vote of the Committee to be binding not less than five Committee Members must vote for the same outcome. If there are less than five votes for the same outcome, any non-attending Committee Members will be given the opportunity to vote in writing through the BFA Secretary.

### 4. Committee Members and other positions

4.1 Each Committee Member must:

- a. be elected on to the Committee through a majority vote unless an election is not necessary as the number of those seeking election on to the Committee does not exceed the number of vacant posts. In the event of a tie for the final Committee Member vacancy, a further vote will be conducted at the AGM and will only be voted upon by BFA members in attendance. If this vote is a tie, the Chairperson will have the casting vote.

4.2 The standard term a Committee Member may serve is 36 months. Should a Committee Member wish to remain on the Committee after 36 months they can be re-elected annually at an AGM.

4.3 The Committee may with due cause terminate the appointment of any Committee Member subject to rule 3.2

4.4 The Committee will appoint by quorum volunteer officers from the membership into the following roles. These officers are appointed at the discretion of the Committee and report to the Committee as and when required:

- |                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Records and Statistics Team         | • Webmaster                  |
| • Membership Secretary                | • Regional Representatives   |
| • Show Secretary                      | • Media Team                 |
| • Judges Board                        | • Awards Secretary           |
| • Height Card Administrator           | • Veterinary Team            |
| • Accessibility and safeguarding team | • Working Party Liaisons     |
| • Young Member Coaches                | • Training Team              |
| • Task Forces                         | • Rules Working Party        |
| • Constitutional Working Party        | • EFC Council Representative |
| • Champs Working Party                | • Complaints Officer(s)      |

The roles and responsibilities of the Officers will be outlined in The Members Handbook - Section titled - Role Descriptors for BFA Committee Members and Officers of the Committee.

4.5 Each committee member or volunteer officers must

- a. be an active and current member of the BFA and regularly attend BFA sanctioned tournaments within the preceding 12 months of their application.
- b. not have been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under BFA rules for a minimum of three years preceding their election;
- c. not be a Board Member/Committee Member of another UK flyball Association/League
- d. be independent of every other member of that specific group & committee members, be independent of other members of the committee:
- related by way of being their child or step-child, parent or step-parent, uncle/aunt or cousin to another Committee Member;

- the spouse, civil partner, partner or long-term girl/boyfriend of another Committee Member; and/or
  - a member of the same BFA registered club and/or team
- e. be a UK, Isle of Man, Channel Islands permanent resident.

4.6 The standard term a volunteer officer may serve is 36 months, should they wish to continue in the role they may apply to the committee for an extension.

## 5. Code of Conduct

- 5.1 All members of the British Flyball Association (BFA) are required to comply with our Code of Conduct.
- 5.2 The Code describes our expectations of your conduct and behaviour as a member of the BFA.
- 5.3 Any breach of Code of Conduct may result in Disciplinary proceedings as set out in the Disciplinary Policy.
- 5.4 The Code of Conduct can be found in The Members Handbook.

## 6. Members

Membership of the BFA will be open to anyone who has a love of dogs and wants to help the Association achieve its aims and objectives by participating in the Associations activities.

- 6.1 Any person over the age of 18 is eligible to become an adult member of the BFA (“Adult Member”).
- 6.2 Any person under the age of 18 is eligible to become a junior member of the BFA (“Junior Member”), but membership must be linked to an adult BFA member.
- 6.3 Membership of the BFA is at the discretion of the Committee and is dependent upon payment of an annual membership fee.
- 6.4 The Committee shall review membership fees annually and may increase these fees to reflect inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This adjustment shall be calculated using the CPI data released in January as the base reference for the increase. Notice of any such increase will be provided to members through the Membership renewal processes for that year. The current list of BFA fees are detailed in the BFA Members Handbook.
- 6.5 An Adult Member can:
- attend and race in BFA sanctioned events
  - propose changes to the constitution and rules of flyball;
  - attend the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting;
  - vote on BFA matters;
  - stand for election to become a Committee Member subject to rule 4.1.b.
- 6.6 A Junior Member can:
- attend and race in BFA sanctioned events
  - attend the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting but does not have voting rights
  - take part in Young Member Activities, Games, Points and Award Schemes
- 6.7 The Committee will carry out a consultation with all adult members where the increase to annual membership fee proposed is above the rate of inflation and/or in situations where financial expenditure, on fixed assets, costs or services above £5,000 is proposed, except for expenditure on the Associations Championship events.

## 7. General Meetings

- 7.1 The Committee must hold an Annual General Meeting once each calendar year and not more than 15 months since the previous Annual General Meeting. No Annual General Meeting can be held without the Committee giving all BFA members 45 days' written notice of the Meeting, its time, date and location (physical and/or digital). Notice can be given by electronic communication or by way of an announcement on the BFA's website.
- 7.2 At any Annual General Meeting, the Committee will:
- a. report on its activities;
  - b. provide a financial report, which will include a year end statement of accounts, an update on the association's asset register and any planned asset replacements for the following year.
  - c. announce the Committee Members and any appointments by the Committee for the forthcoming year;
  - d. provide the opportunity for Members to debate any proposed rule changes;
  - e. provide eligible Adult Members with a vote on any proposed rule change either at the Annual General Meeting and/or following the Annual General Meeting by post and/or a secure electronic voting system save for Adult Members who were not Adult Members at the time the vote was announced by the Committee; and
  - f. discuss any other business placed on the agenda by any eligible Adult Member.
- 7.3 i) Any adult member or group of members may place an item of business on the forthcoming AGM by submitting the same in writing to the BFA Secretary within not less than 30 days of the AGM.
- ii) Any adult member or group of members may propose a new rule or a change to an existing rule to be included on the agenda for the AGM by completing the online rule proposal form. Where the group is a formal BFA Group i.e.. the Committee, the Judges Board or a Working Party, all members of the group must agree to the proposal. If the full membership of the group does not agree to the proposal, those who wish to may proceed as a group of individual members.
- iii) Proposals must meet all the criteria in the form to progress to the AGM and proposals will be subject to a review by the rules working party..
- iv) After consultation with the working party any proposal which the BFA Committee considers to breach current legislation, fundamentally change the spirit and intent of the BFA constitution/rules or puts the BFA at financial risk will not be allowed to go forward to an AGM. In these circumstances the committee will publish a report to the membership outlining the proposal and the reasons for rejection.
- v) *Any person or group representative who has proposed a rule change must attend the Annual General Meeting in order to clarify the proposed rule change and/or comment on any suggested amendment(s). In the absence of any proposer at the Annual General Meeting the proposed rule change will be withdrawn, not be put to a vote and will not be implemented.*
- 7.4 Not less than 10 days before an Annual General Meeting, the Secretary will publish the agenda including any proposed rule changes for inspection and consideration of members and announce that each proposed rule change on the agenda will be subject to a vote. Such publication and announcement will be no less than by way of the BFA website.
- 7.5 Other than by the Secretary no Annual General Meeting will be recorded electronically by any person without the express permission of all those in attendance.
- 7.6 Where a proposal has been put forward at an AGM and it is rejected by the members, the same or a similar proposal will not be considered for a period of 2 years. The 2-year period runs from the end of voting ( A proposal rejected at the 2026 AGM cannot be proposed again until the 2029 AGM). The committee may overrule this if compelling new evidence which, affects dog/human safety or welfare is presented to them prior to an AGM.

## 8. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

8.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) is a meeting held by the Association to deliberate on urgent or serious matters that cannot be deferred until the next scheduled Annual General Meeting.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be called by:

- The Committee
- The Membership

The Committee, where appropriate, reserves the right to initiate either internal and/or external mediation to allow for disputes to be resolved, whilst at the same time helping to restore professional relationships. It is in the best interests of both parties and the Association as a whole, to seek resolution outside of an EGM wherever possible.

Both parties are therefore required to actively engage in mediation proceedings when initiated. Mediation processes will follow ACAS guidelines. The BFA Secretary will administer mediation processes, ensuring that any internal or external mediator appointed has relevant mediation qualifications and experience.

### 8.2 If the Committee calls an EGM

The Committee may at any time call an EGM by giving all BFA members 30 days' written notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting but not less than 30 days prior to any AGM.

### 8.3 If the Membership calls an EGM

For the membership to call an EGM there must be a minimum of 300 adult members in favour coming from no less than 10 primary teams. An EGM can be called at any time but not within a 30-day period of an AGM.

Those calling the EGM must provide the BFA Secretary with the purpose and Agenda for the meeting together with a list of the members' name, primary team, membership number and their signature.

To be quorate there must be at least 300 adult members in attendance. 40% of those in attendance must be from those calling the EGM.

8.4 The time, date and location will be arranged by the BFA Secretary regardless of whether the meeting is called by the Committee or the members.

The Treasurer will be responsible for the payments regardless of whether the meeting is called for by the Committee or members.

8.5 The BFA Secretary will ensure that the meeting is accessible and that all members can access it in person or by secure digital platform.

8.6 The BFA Secretary will secure an independent external moderator to chair the meeting and invite registration no less than 14 days prior to the EGM.

Attendees must pre-register stating whether their attendance is in person or by digital platform.

Registration will close 7 days before the EGM to allow for membership to be validated and for the BFA Secretary to confirm that the meeting is quorate (reference 8.3).

8.7 All business of the EGM will be limited to that which appeared on the agenda and purpose in the written notice calling the EGM.

8.8 All evidence to be considered during the EGM must be provided to all BFA members at least 48 hours prior to the meeting by the BFA Secretary. Evidence which has not been provided will not be considered.

8.9 An EGM can only be recorded by the BFA Secretary.

8.10 Voting at an EGM is restricted to attending registered BFA members, who were adult members on the date the BFA Secretary called the meeting.

- 8.11 Voting options will be provided by the party who called the EGM, however, these voting options can be amended during the EGM by the membership in attendance. The BFA Secretary will implement any amended change on the digital voting form.
- 8.12 If any change of the Committee is proposed because of the EGM, nominations for replacement Committee members can be taken from the floor from members in attendance who meet the criteria for Committee membership. Those nominated will be endorsed by a vote of those in attendance. The new members will join the Committee until the next AGM.

## **9. Process for change to the Constitution**

9.1 Any current adult BFA member may submit a proposal to change the constitution by completing the online proposal form.

9.2 Proposals will then be subjected to a review and consultation with an appointed Constitution Working Party and any other relevant or professional bodies. This is to ensure the proposal is fit for purpose and does not conflict with existing rules or the ethos of the Association.

9.3 Should the proposal be agreed it will be submitted to the membership and put to a vote at the next AGM

# RULES OF FLYBALL RACING

## Section A

### A.1 Sanctioned Tournaments

Tournament formats sanctioned by the BFA are open, multibreed, singles and pairs, Flyball Foundation and Ring time training. Singles and pairs racing is an additional sanctioned format where dogs compete on an individual basis or as a pair of dogs rather than in a 4-dog team like traditional BFA open or multibreed racing - where the Rules of Racing (Section A) refer to 'teams' this includes a dog entered in singles.

#### 1. Application Requirements

The BFA aims to provide structure and governance to flyball activities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. A BFA Registered Team wishing to host a Sanctioned Tournament (the Host Team) must submit an application using BFA Form C3 to the BFA Show Secretary, complete with a non-refundable deposit (per Sanctioned Tournament), as detailed on the C3 form, at least ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries. The closing date for entries of a Sanctioned Tournament must be at least 28 days before the date of the Tournament.

Tournament application venues must be-

- a) within 60 miles from the team captain's home address
- b) in excess of 60 miles between venues of any other tournament on the same dates

Anything outside the 60-mile limit from the Team Captains home address, will require further consideration by the Show Secretary/Committee and may be allowed where considered in the best interests of the membership.

The association will use the What3Words App & Google Maps to measure the 60-mile distances, via the shortest route possible.

Measurements shall be taken at the gate entrance to be used by competitors at the tournament and at the entrance to the team captain's residence.

The 60-mile distance between tournaments will not be applied where venue types differ, i.e. indoor v outdoor.

Late applications may be approved and each 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 change of venue, provided the new venue remains in excess of 60 miles from an existing Sanctioned Tournament taking place on the same date.

- 1.1 The application should state: date, time and place of the tournament; name, address and telephone number of the Tournament Organiser (and Tournament Secretary if different); entry fee; whether the entries are limited; the closing date for entries, and; if the tournament is to be run alongside another canine event.
- 1.2 A dog may not be entered in more than one open sanctioned tournament on the same weekend. A dog may be entered into different sanctioned formats at the same tournament on the same weekend, but not the same day (see rule A.2.5.2).
- 1.3 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).
- 1.4 Tournament organisers can book a maximum of 6 sanctioned 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.
- 1.5 Notice of cancelling a Sanctioned Tournament must be given by the Team Captain of the Host

Team in writing to the Show Secretary

- 1.6 The Tournament Organiser must declare on their application their intended maximum limit for entries (i.e. the maximum number of teams they are willing to accommodate). Tournament Organisers may request an extension to their tournament, regardless of surface, via the Show Secretary. Each request will be assessed individually and factors such as format, surface and proximity of other tournaments will be considered prior to approving an extension.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 The Tournament 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.

## **2. Tournament Organiser Responsibilities**

- 2.1 Tournament Organiser - The Tournament Organiser has the overall responsibility for the proper planning, management, conducting and reporting of the tournament. They 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.
- 2.2 Entries - The Tournament Organiser shall be responsible for entries and any questions the entrants might have.
- 2.3 Grounds - The Tournament 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, including the provision of adequate toilet facilities, chemical toilet disposal point and general waste disposal point on site.
- 2.4 Trophies - The Tournament Organiser is responsible for the provision of any trophies, rosettes and/or prizes at their show, and for arranging an appropriate presentation on conclusion of racing. Flyball is a community as well as a sport, and all members are strongly encouraged to attend tournament presentations to show their appreciation and support for their fellow competitors and the efforts of the Tournament Organiser.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 Indoor Tournament Organisers must provide weights (minimum of 15kg) to secure the flyball boxes, per racing lane, for use by all teams as required.

## **3. Tournament Schedule/Entry**

- 3.1 A Tournament schedule for all Sanctioned Tournaments should be submitted to the BFA Show Secretary for approval, prior to distribution, no later than 7 days prior to the schedule release date for the Tournament
- 3.2 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 giving the date on which the schedule will be available.
- 3.3 All entry forms must be submitted directly to the Tournament Organiser as detailed on the schedule. Entries are only valid on completion of the appropriate payment to the Tournament Organiser.
- 3.4 The Tournament Organiser shall gain automatic entry to their own tournament, this includes all BFA Committee teams for BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournaments (e.g. Indoor and Outdoor Championships), providing any entry criteria have been met.
- 3.5 Tournament Organisers should register all entries for a period of 72 hours after the schedule release split into two parts:

### *First 24 hours*

- a. If the tournament is oversubscribed after 24 hours a draw will be done on all entries

received at that point. The unsuccessful teams will be put on a reserve list.

- b. If the tournament is not oversubscribed at this time all entries received within the 24 hour period will have gained entry to the tournament

#### *Following 48 hours*

- a. If the tournament was oversubscribed after 24 hours then all entries during this time will be put on the reserve list.
- b. If the tournament was not oversubscribed after 24 hours. The Tournament Organiser will calculate the remaining availability and will do a draw of all entries received during this 48 hour period to achieve the tournament limit. Any unsuccessful teams will be put on a reserve list.

Entries should be collated at the 24 hour and 72 hour points. The Tournament Organiser has 24 hours from each point to publish the current entry list.

The Tournament Organiser has the right to ensure the show entries allow for adequate provision of the support needed for the tournament to function – including Head Judges, Judges, lights custodians and Measuring Officials.

Any teams that failed to gain entry via the entry draw for the previous tournament should gain automatic entry to the following tournament held by the same Tournament Organisers, at the same venue. This is limited to the next consecutive tournament, within three-months, and not any subsequent ones thereafter. (NB: the entry draw is done once the Tournament Organiser is oversubscribed, this may be at 24 hours or later, late entries will not automatically qualify for automatic entry at a subsequent tournament)

- 3.6 Tournament Organisers are encouraged to engage with appropriate sponsors for the provision of prizes but BFA flyball is an amateur sport and, as such, TOs are not to issue cash prizes at BFA sanctioned competitions without prior authorisation from the Committee. Flyball is a family sport and, as such, any sponsorship arrangements must comply with the BFA Code of Ethics.

## **4. Tournament Seeding/Running Order**

- 4.1 Running orders and tournament information must be posted online so they are available to all team members. 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.
- 4.2 Teams are to be placed in divisions based on current seed time; teams may declare a time for seeding purposes - otherwise the current BFA seeding will be used. There shall be no less than 5 teams and no more than 7 teams in each division, with the exception of BFA Committee organised events where alternative division sizes may be used.
- 4.3 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, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when the seed times shall be taken on the 21st 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, MUST be submitted by the Team Captain at least 14 days prior to the Tournament, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when no declared times shall be accepted (unless in exceptional circumstances and agreed by the Committee). If a declared time is not submitted then their entry will be void and they will not race. A declared time may be submitted - it must be at least ½ second faster or ½ second slower than the teams seeded time and will be subject to the Division break-out rule. Teams not on the seed list must submit a time and will be subject to the Division break-out rule. The BFA Committee may organise other sanctioned events throughout the year that will follow the process for a standard Tournament and not a Championships.
- 4.4 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. If a team fails to post

a time equal to or faster than its seed time during the ST it can request that its seed time be used in the following rounds of the competition. This request must be made to the Head Judge within 15 minutes of the end of the racing day. In the event that two teams gain the same fastest time, second fastest time will be used, should this also be the same, third, fourth etc will be used. A dog must remain in the same team for both ST and DE/RR even though the team may move divisions.

- 4.5 Only BFA Registered Teams and non-UK teams competing under the European Flyball Charter will be officially seeded.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 The Organiser and all in attendance at the tournament (including non-BFA members) must follow current BFA Rules and Policies, whilst within the tournament grounds.
- 4.8 The tournament grounds may include any areas designated by the tournament organiser. Team captains are responsible for any non-members whom they invite to the tournament.
- 4.9 Tournament Organisers are responsible for electronically submitting BFA Form C2 (Time Sheets) including those for any Foundation racing, and BFA Form C6 (Tournament Results) to the BFA Records and Statistics Team within 48 hours of the last day of the tournament. The form C6 is also to be sent to the BFA Treasurer within 48 hours. Advance results should be emailed as soon as practicable on conclusion of racing (but no later than 48 hours) so the seed list can be updated. Copies of the Forms C2 and C6 should be retained by the Tournament Organiser until such time as the results and points from the tournament are updated and available for viewing by the membership on the BFA website. BFA Form C9 (Jump Heights) are to be sent to the BFA Height Card Co-ordinator and any other reporting (as required) sent to the BFA Secretary electronically within 48 hours of the last day of the tournament. (subsequent rules in this section have been renumbered as 4.10 was deleted as part of this rule change)
- 4.10 A tournament sanctioned by the BFA must be overseen by a BFA approved Tournament Head Judge (who should not be from the host team); if the Tournament Organiser is unable to appoint a Head Judge they are to contact the BFA Judges Board who will make appropriate arrangements.

## **5. Tournament Format**

5.1 The Tournament format shall be round robin or double elimination. Other formats may be approved after consultation with the Show Secretary. The racing format must be clearly indicated in the tournament schedule.

### **5.2 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 (i.e. first team to lose 3 heats loses the race). Round Robin format can be run as block or staggered. The Tournament Head Judge reserves the right to reduce the number of heats per race as per rule B.2.2.2 and then each race shall be best 2 out of 3 format.

### **5.3 Double Elimination Competitions**

An alternative format of racing which can be used by Tournament Organisers, often preceded by Speed Trials. Copies of the format forms for double elimination may be obtained from the Records and Statistics Coordinator. 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. This may be adapted to include a single elimination final if the tournament organiser wishes. ALL variations in format shall be clearly marked on all tournament information (diary, schedule, running order etc).

5.4 Sanctioned classes are: open, multi breed, singles, pairs, flyball foundation and ring time training. All other activities held at a show such as fun events are unsanctioned.

### **Singles**

Singles racing consists of a single dog and handler, with a box loader and up to two assistants. The rules of racing shall be observed except that:

- a) Handlers may choose their desired jump height.
- b) Each dog will be given two races with three heats to set their best possible time, whenever possible dogs shall race dogs of similar speeds.
- c) Dogs will be ranked by fastest time.
- d) The fastest time for each dog will be recorded on the BFA master list which will be available to download from the BFA website.
- e) Dogs will not earn points for singles racing.

### **Pairs**

Pairs racing consists of two dogs and handlers, with a box loader and up to three assistants. The rules of racing shall be observed except that:

- a) Each pair will be given two races with three heats to set their best possible time, whenever possible pairs shall race pairs of similar speeds.
- b) Pairs will be ranked by fastest time
- c) The fastest time for each pair will be recorded on the BFA master list which will be available to download from the BFA website.
- d) Pairs will not earn points for pairs racing.

### **5.5 Duration of Racing**

The Organiser shall not plan on more than 78 races per ring in any one day without prior authorisation from the committee. Sanctioned racing shall take precedence over fun events at all times.

## **6. Tournament Layout**

- 6.1 The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 30' 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. 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 flyball box and in front of the backstops of 7' to a minimum of 5' where space is limited from the front edge of the flyball box.
- 6.2 Indoor venues - 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 4' 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' 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.
- 6.3 Outdoor venues - 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'.
- 6.4 The flyball ring should be clearly defined and identifiable, only flexible stakes can be used to hold up netting at the end of the run back area.
- 6.5 Where 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.

6.6 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.

## 7. Set Up

7.1 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. There shall be a tolerance of + or - ¼ inch. The distance between the box line and the start/finish line shall be not less than 51' and not more than 51' 1 inch (").

7.2 Backboards - The host team shall provide a solid backboard (Approx. 24" high) 7', to a minimum of 5' where space is limited, from the front edge of the flyball box, in a horseshoe shape so that the backboard is no further forward than the box line. The total length of the backboard should be 24' and can be in sections for ease of carrying/transporting.

7.3 The only equipment permitted within the backboard area during racing is the flyball box and any associated weights/fixation devices.

7.4 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 30", with posts neither more than 36" high or less than 24" high. The outside of the posts may be painted any colour, but the edges and the inside must be white. Logos and/or lettering shall be permitted but limited to 3" x 20". 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.

7.5 The Tournament Organiser should provide water at tournaments for drinking and cooling the dogs down

7.6 The maximum height for any Judges score stand to be set at 4'. This can be of any design but not exceeding 4' in height.

## 8. Tournament Assistance

8.1 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.

## 9. Flyball Foundation Events & Ring Time Training

Flyball Foundation Events and Ring-Time training are conducted under conditions sanctioned by the BFA and which are governed by the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Events.

The BFA standards for flyball must be met by all members taking part in flyball foundation events. Foundation Flyball is about developing the dog and handler to achieve the BFA standard safely.

**The BFA Standard.** The minimum standard required of dogs and handlers to be able to safely race or train under BFA sanctioned conditions is the BFA Standard which is defined as:

**Handler** – For both Flyball Foundation events and ring-time training, a handler must be able to safely release a dog into the racing lane and retrieve their dog under control.

**Dog** – To compete in a Flyball Foundation event a dog must also be able to go over 4 jumps and safely retrieve a ball from a flyball box/chute and return back over 4 jumps to their handler.

**Safe Flyball** - The over-riding principle is that dogs and handlers can compete or train safely. Should a judge have any safety concerns they are to consult with the HJ and Team Captain in the first instance. Dogs or handlers deemed unsafe may be withdrawn from racing or training. The HJ's decision is final.

**Flyball Box/Chute** - Any box used is to meet the specifications of the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing. A chute is defined as an adequately padded single-piece board that can either be self-supporting or placed in front of a Flyball box (a chute needs to be safe and fit-for-purpose, the HJ's decision on what is safe and fit-for-purpose is final).

### **9.1 Flyball Foundation Events.**

- a. Dogs must be **15** months or older at the time of the event
- b. Jumps are to be set at a minimum height of 6 inches and a maximum height of 8 inches. If all competing dogs are over the age of 18 months and this is verified in advance of the competition, use of higher jumps may be approved by the QJ.
- c. The use of flyball props are allowed but must be safe and fit for purpose, these can include striders, wings, & jump boards (the HJ's decision on what is safe and fit-for-purpose is final). Team members are allowed between the 4th jump and the box/chute but there should be no movement between the start gate and the 4th jump.
- d. The flyball box does not need to trigger but the dog is required to take a recognisable ball from a flyball box or a chute (not rolled or picked from the floor). The dog should be attempting to turn in a safe manner, not "stealing" the ball from the box or chute with its mouth.
  - e. Centre netting (or suitable barrier) is to be run down the centre of the racing lanes and in the run back area. Jumps are not to be netted, although wings are allowed.
- f. False starts – Not required in Foundation racing. Start light sequence should be used to start the race but racing continues if one or both sides false starts. If the dog runs clean this is not recorded as a fault.
- g. Dogs and handlers competing in the same Flyball Foundation team do not need to be from the same primary Team. A foundation racing team can be 1-4 dogs, a team does not need to be 4 dogs to compete
- h. Flyball Foundation teams shall race no more than 4 races of 3 heats in the event. Eligible dogs include young dogs, dogs training or returning from injury, or undergoing retraining
- i. Placings can be determined by the team that has achieved the highest percentage of clean runs. However, teams that start with less than 4 dogs will receive a penalty based on the number of dogs they started the competition with, 3 dogs will have a 5% reduction, 2 dogs a 10% reduction and 1 dog a 15% reduction.
- j. TOs are encouraged to supply all competitors with a suitable token of achievement
- k. Dogs that have been formally retired from competition are not eligible to take part in flyball foundation events

### **9.2 Dogs Returning to Flyball Foundation Activities After Competing in Open.**

Returning a dog to Flyball Foundation activity is often a sensible approach and for the long-term benefit of the dog concerned. Any dog can return to Flyball Foundation Events for the purpose of injury or re-training at the discretion of the handler/team captain, without having to inform the BFA Committee. A dog may also be instructed to return to Flyball Foundation by the BFA Committee.

When the Committee has directed the return to Flyball Foundation, the handler will require written permission from the Committee to entitle this dog to return to open racing. A returning dog may require assessment by a BFA HJ, Vet or BFA Committee member before final approval is given.

### **9.3 Ring-Time Training.**

Must be supervised by a BFA HJ or QJ, taking place throughout the day, within the BFA sanctioned ring. This time can either be used individually or as a team. The BFA Rules of Flyball Racing do not apply as it is non-competitive.

The following rules apply:

- a. Dogs must be 12 months or older at the time of the event
- b. If jumps are to be used, they are to be set at a minimum height of 6 inches and a maximum height of 8 inches. If all competing dogs are over the age of 18 months and this is verified in advance of the competition, use of higher jumps may be approved by the QJ.
- c. The use of flyball props is allowed but must be fit for purpose, these can include striders, wings & jump boards.
- d. Set time limits are to be determined by the TO prior to the event and training slots are to be annotated on the racing schedule. Timings are to be strictly adhered to and enforced by the QJ and TO so as not to interfere with sanctioned racing.
- e. Teams are not to bring any single dog out for more than 4 training sessions in one day.
- f. A single ring-time training slot will be no longer than a standard race (8 minutes, timed by the supervising judge, starting from the box being placed in position)
- g. Retired dogs can take part in ring time training for the purpose of being a stooge dog.

**Participants.** All people entering a BFA sanctioned ring need to be BFA members, or for the purposes of Foundation Flyball competitions or ring-time training, if not members, must be pre-registered with the BFA.

**9.4 Fun events.** Any other flyball related activity that is not governed by the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing e.g. Have-a-go, flyball runs without a box/chute, inter-team training events are classified as fun events. Retired dogs are eligible to do Fun Events

## **A.2 Rules for Competition**

### **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.

### **2. Membership**

2.1 Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of sanctioned competitions. Temporary membership may be offered to guests, following approval by the BFA Committee.

2.2 Alcohol is not permitted in the flyball ring during competitions. Smoking and vaping is not permitted within 15 feet of the flyball ring during competitions, or at presentation.

### **3. Minimum age**

3.1 Dogs are required to be over the age of 18 months to be allowed to compete at BFA sanctioned flyball events, even if running in a team that has Withdrawn From Competition (WFC).

### **4. Electronic Judging System (EJS)**

4.1 BFA approved timing equipment only may be used at sanctioned tournaments; they will display three lights and be set at a one second sequence. Any new lights must be approved, after consultation with the Committee. EJS may be supplemented by BFA approved computerised technology, where available to aid judges with decision making.

4.2 The Start Gates are to be set to a minimum of 4ft and a maximum of 5.6ft from the inside edge of foot base.

### **5. Teams**

5.1 All Teams will appoint a 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.

5.2 Dogs may not be entered for racing in more than one team at an open/multi-breed BFA Sanctioned Tournament. Dogs may not take part in Flyball Foundation or fun events on the same day as they are entered in open/multi-breed.

Please note teams registered as Open teams may only compete in Open competitions. Teams registered as Multi-breed teams may only compete in Multi-breed competitions. Use of any team for a class of racing other than for that which it is registered will result in the loss of all points, times and placing for the competition(s) where it has been used out of class.

5.3 A dog may change teams at any time to compete with another BFA registered primary team, but after this change it may not change teams again for a period of 6 months (e.g. a dog changes from Team A to race with Team B on 1st April YYYY so it will not be free to race with Team C until 1st October YYYY). The owner/handler must inform the membership secretary of any such change.

The only exceptions are:

- a. A dog prohibited from competing with an existing Team. Proof must be provided to the committee for consideration.
- b. The handler/dog has moved to another area and their previous Team accepts the transfer.
- c. Their previous Team has dissolved, and the Membership Secretary has been informed.
- d. 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.

All requests to move a dog from one primary team to another within 6 months shall be emailed to the BFA secretary with reasons for the request to move.

5.4 At a tournament, each team entered in open or multibreed shall consist of a minimum

of four dogs and a maximum of six dogs; a current BFA member responsible for each dog; and a current BFA member as box loader. The dogs must be eligible to run for that team. Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of two alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of injury. Singles is an entry for a single dog, pairs is a maximum of 2 dogs (no standby).

5.5 Overseas Guest Teams must only include non-UK resident dogs.

5.6 In multi-breed only competitions, teams must consist of all different breeds recognised by the BFA. Any new breed requests should be sent to the Membership secretary for approval along with any documentation.

5.7 In addition to the handlers/holders and the box-loader, a team may, at their discretion, be accompanied by team members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps, collect times, record changeovers or any other relevant jobs to the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team. A racing team may be assisted by up to five additional members and seven members during the warm up. Teams that require more than five assistants,

e.g. to facilitate a Disabled Handler or to supervise a young member under the age of 14 working towards their young members award, must notify the Head Judge and Divisional Judge prior to racing. Members may be asked to leave the ring by the Divisional or Head Judge if causing a distraction or in any way impeding racing or warm up.

If a handler wishes to use an additional team member as a runner during their heat of the race, the runner must not run further than the start line or this will be classed as a fault.

For a handler with a dog running in start position, the runner must run toward the lights on the outside of the dog. In the blue lane this will be on the left side of the dog and in the red lane on the right side of the dog.

For a handler with a dog running in any other position, the runner must run toward the lights on the right side of the dog.

If the runner is being used in the **blue** lane, once the runner reaches the lights, and the dog has passed them, they **must** cross the lane and either

- Stand out of the way of all dogs to the left
- Cross the lane to the left and run toward where the dog will be rewarded

If the runner is being used in the **red** lane, once the runner reaches the lights, and the dog has passed them, they can either

- Stop at the line and step out of the way to the right
- Cross the lane to the left and run toward where the dog will be rewarded

5.8 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.

5.9 Forfeiting teams may be declared WFC or be excluded from the tournament by the Head Judge/Tournament Organiser

## 6. Time sheets

6.1 The Time Sheet (BFA Form C2) must be completed and returned to the Tournament Organiser before the start of racing in the division in which the team is seeded.

6.2 Details on the C2 timesheet cannot be changed once the division, in which that team is racing, has begun. The Tournament Head Judge may approve an amendment to the C2 timesheet after racing has begun.

6.2.1 TC must first point out the error on C2 to DJ and DJ must validate that the change is a minor administrative error that doesn't affect or change the racing outcome. TC may then request Tournament HJ to approve the change.

6.2.2 Only the Tournament HJ may physically alter or amend any information shown on the C2 and must only change the information as requested by the TC.

6.2.3 TC should satisfy themselves that the information has been correctly amended by the HJ as no further changes will be allowed after racing has ended.

6.3 The team or divisional breakout shall be included on the C2 timesheet, if applicable.

6.4 The following information shall be recorded on the C2 timesheet, all information shall match the information held on the BFA website:

- Team's name and number (TRN)
- The captain's name and BFA number
- Each dog's name, BFA number, registered breed and height
- Each handler's name and BFA number (Handlers must be current BFA members and can be from any primary team)
- Box loader's name and BFA number (Boxloaders must be current BFA members and can be from any primary team)

6.5 It is the responsibility of the team captain, or a representative of the team captain, to ensure that all information on the C2 timesheet regarding their team is correct.

## 7. Team Equipment

### 7.1 Flyball Boxes

- a. Each team shall supply its own flyball box which must meet the following:
  - i. There must be no exposed sharp edges
  - ii. The landing area must be protected by a layer of padding which should be complete and in good condition. Whilst holes made by a dog's nails are to be expected, there should not be areas where the pedal is bald i.e. the plate is visible
  - iii. If the box has a fixed ball plate the gap between it and the pedal must be covered.
  - iv. The top of the box must be covered to enclose the box mechanisms. Where the design of existing boxes makes it impossible to do this the mechanism (including levers) must be covered with protective padding
  - v. There will be no addition, whether considered temporary or permanent, of any object attached to the front elevation of the box that could be considered a potential training aid or prop. This does not include a band painted on the front elevation, providing the surface is considered flat following application.
- 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 12" from the box cup in a forward direction.
- e. The landing area is the front elevation of the box, it includes the ball hole plate on fixed plate boxes. The landing area of the box shall not exceed 20" in height and 30" in width. Landing area height is the measurement from the highest point of the landing surface at a right angle to the floor. This height includes the base of the box and any anti-slip plates used. Landing area width is measured at its widest point
- f. The depth of the box shall not exceed 30". The depth is measured from the leading edge of the landing area to the rear edge of the box. For the box loader, the base of the box can extend beyond the main body of the box.
- g. The main body of the box must not be more than ¼" higher or wider than the landing area.

### 7.2 Balls

Each club shall provide its own supply of balls, these can be of any colour or size to suit the comfort and welfare of the dog. The balls can be of any material but must bounce and roll. They must also fire the required distance from the box as stated in rule 7.1.d

The balls must not contain any noise making device, ie: squeaker or bells. and must not be covered in any kind of fur real or faux EG: rabbit". Or other than the felt added at the time of manufacturing.

## **8. Reporting for races**

8.1 Practice Runs - Tournament Organisers shall designate a time for warm ups in the rings by informing the teams prior to racing. Once the teams have entered the ring in a timely manner and the box/boxes are in position, the Divisional Judge will signal the start of the practice runs using a whistle. Where count down timers are available, these will be started at this point. No other training shall be allowed in or near the ring.

8.2 If one or more team members is late for the start of a race (after warm up time has been completed), without prior notification to the Tournament Organiser or Divisional Judge, the Divisional Judge shall start the first heat. If the opposing team arrives during this, or any subsequent heat, they shall wait outside the ring until the end of the heat. Any remaining heats will be raced as usual. Each heat a team does not race shall be declared a loss.

8.3 Teams that win by forfeit must run but not necessarily complete, 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.

8.4 Forfeiting teams that do not show just cause, may be excluded from the Tournament by the Organiser and may be subject to further discipline.

## **9. 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.

## **10. Record times**

Only times recorded at a BFA sanctioned tournament using BFA sanctioned EJS will be officially recognised as a record-breaking time. If a team records what could be a BFA record the Divisional Judge is to immediately cease racing, ensure nothing in the racing lane is touched, including the EJS, and call the supervising Head Judge. The supervising Head Judge is, with one other independent member (another Head Judge, Committee Member or Qualified Judge, in that order of preference) to satisfy themselves that the record has been set in accordance with the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing. The following checks are mandated before a Head Judge can certify that a BFA record has been set: the lane measurements and layout are correct, the jump heights of all 4 jumps are set to the correct height as indicated by the C2, the flyball box positioning and functioning is correct (ALL holes are to be checked, each one 4 times), the alignment and placing of the EJS sensors. Once happy that the lane, jumps and box are correct the Head Judge may award the record and complete a C4 (Record Time Form). Additional checks will be undertaken by the Committee before a record is officially sanctioned by the BFA (the Committee will check; dog height in accordance with C9 or master height card list; age of competing dogs; all handlers are active BFA members; dogs are registered to a BFA member).

## **A.3 Rules of Racing**

### **1. 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.

### **2. The Divisional Judge**

2.1 After the warm up period and between heats when the Divisional Judge has shown their intention to begin racing they 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 Divisional Judge's request, the Divisional Judge will at first issue a warning to the team for time wasting. Should this offence be repeated, with the other team ready to race, the Divisional Judge will signal their intent and start the heat.

2.2 If during the warm up period or during the course of racing a dog is involved in a crash or collision the Divisional Judge must complete an incident form (to including the name & registered number of dog(s) involved, any witnesses, description of the accident & whether the dog continues to race or received any treatment (if known). This form will be forwarded onto the BFA Veterinary Adviser within 7 days of the conclusion of the show.

### **3. 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 and the dog must run again.

If a team wishes they can request a practice run on lights during the warm up period. They must make the request to the divisional judge prior to the start of the race.

### **4. The Run**

Each dog is to pass through the start/finish gate, hurdle the four jumps in succession, trigger the box with at least one front paw to release the ball, and return over all four jumps and EJS through the start/finish gate, 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 their 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. 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 6" and a maximum of 12", this height to include any protective materials. This rule applies equally to the pairs format but for dog welfare reasons jumps may be set at any height for dogs racing in singles format.

## **5. Knocked down jumps/Broken boards**

- 5.1 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 doing so does not interfere with, or guide the dog(s) in any way.
- 5.2 Broken Boards - The heat may be stopped for broken boards or knocked down jumps if, in the opinion of the Division Judge and ring party in the ring, 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.

## **6. Box Malfunction**

- 6.1 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 Divisional Judge has checked it. The Divisional Judge is to examine the box and if in their opinion, the box has malfunctioned, the heat shall be run again. If the box is found to be working, the heat shall be forfeited.
- 6.2 The team will be allowed 2 minutes to repair/adjust the box or they can arrange to borrow a replacement box from the pool of boxes that have been checked that morning. If a suitable replacement box is not available and the original box cannot be repaired/adjusted the heat and any remaining heats of the race are to be forfeited
- 6.3 If the box malfunctions a second time (or the replacement box malfunctions) in the same race the heat and all remaining heats in that race shall be forfeited.
- 6.4 If the box is repaired/adjusted following a box fault, the divisional judge shall check that any adjusted triggers fire a ball the required distance as per rule 7.1.d

## **7. Out of bounds**

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.

## **8. Interference/Distractions**

### **8.1 Interference -**

If a handler is prevented from releasing a dog, or a dog is prevented from completing its run as intended, whether during a race or during the warm-up period before a race, because a dog from the opposing team is in some way obstructing or delaying the release or the run, this shall be deemed an Interference. This shall apply in all bound areas of the ring, including the racing lanes and the run-back area. This shall apply regardless of any assumed or understood intention that may be attributed to the dog.

A dog chasing a loose ball shall only be deemed an Interference if it prevents or delays the other team from racing or warming up normally and as intended.

The Team whose dog causes an Interference shall forfeit the heat being run. Every case of Interference shall be recorded on the team's C2 Timesheet by the Divisional Judge. This record shall identify the dog and include a description of the incident.

If a second Interference is recorded for the same dog during a Sanctioned Tournament, the Divisional Judge shall direct the Team, for the remainder of the tournament, that that dog may only be released after the opposing team has completed its race.

At the Divisional Judge's discretion, a dog that interferes repeatedly may be excluded from racing and the Team be allowed to use a reserve if one is recorded on their Time Sheet.

## 8.2 Distractions –

Handlers and other team members may use toys, balls, treats and similar motivational items that do not conflict with any other rules to motivate their dogs.

Where toys, balls and similar motivational items are used, these shall not be thrown. If thrown, and this causes a distraction to a dog in the opposing team - this shall be deemed a Distraction.

Where food treats are used, these shall at all times be kept secure while in the ring. Dogs may be given food treats during warm up and racing either directly from the hand, or from a treat dispensing toy, bowl, bucket or other container-providing at all times that the treat is not dropped or placed directly onto the ground or floor. Furthermore, when such a container is open, it shall be guarded so that it is not accessible to other dogs. If food treats are dropped onto the ground or floor, or an open container is left unguarded so that another dog can access it, this shall be deemed a Distraction.

At the end of each heat, Team members shall pick up any loose balls. If loose balls are left on the ground or floor, this shall be deemed a Distraction.

No noise-making devices, such as whistles, squeakers or bells may be used. A flyball box must not be placed at the back of the run. If any of these are used, this shall be deemed a Distraction.

On the first Distraction the Division Judge shall issue a warning to the Team Captain. On subsequent Distractions at Division Judge's discretion, the team may forfeit the heat

## 8.3 Loose balls during a heat –

If, during the progress of a heat, a ball is dropped by a dog, not correctly caught by a dog, inadvertently dropped by the box-loader, or accidentally launched from the box, this is not a distraction.

A 'runner' or handler may retrieve a loose ball if so doing does not interfere with, or guide the dog(s) in any way.

However, as in all circumstances, the judge must halt the heat if there is a danger to the dogs' or handlers' safety.

## 9. Box Loader

During the warm up, the box loader must remain on the box whilst the dogs are turning on the box. Box loaders may use their hands to encourage the dogs in any way that they see fit. The box loader must remain in the upright position behind the box with hands behind their back during live racing of dogs (live racing is defined by the start of the light sequence until the divisional judge blows their whistle to signify the outcome of the heat), unless in the process of loading a ball into the box in between individual dog runs. The box loader may leave the box to retrieve balls if it is safe to do so. The box loader may offer verbal encouragement only, as long as such encouragement does not distract the opposing team. At the end of the warm up and at the end of each heat, the box loader can collect any loose balls and get a fresh supply of balls to load. If, in the Divisional Judge's opinion, a box loader has violated any of these rules, their team may forfeit the heat. If, in the opinion of the Divisional Judge, a box loader assists a dog, except where provided for in the rules, the dog shall run again.

## 10. The Finish

The first team to have all dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last dog 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 their discretion can stop a heat to award a win to a team if the Judge determines that the team has suffered Interference or Distraction from the opposing team. A loss for both teams may be recorded. BO times will not be used for team placings in the event of a tie.

In the event of a tie between two teams, the result of their race will determine places. In cases where more than two teams tie for a place the fastest times will be used to determine places. In cases where teams have the same fastest time the second fastest time will be used, should this also be the same the third, fourth etc fastest times will be used.

In the event of 2 BO's or a team going WFC, all earlier heats for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents, where the opponent has completed the heat. If a situation arises where two secondary teams from the same primary team are drawn to race each other and declare that they are unable to do so, a loss shall be recorded for both teams for that race. Both teams must still run four dogs each, though this can be separately and for a minimum of three heats. Teams that run less than four dogs in this scenario will be considered withdrawn from racing.

## 11. Break outs

With the exception of division 1, a team running more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  second faster than its declared submitted time will be declared the loser of that heat.

### Division Break-out

With the exception of division 1, a team running more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  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 'breakout' in a heat or one team 'breaks-out' and the other fails to finish, both will be declared losers. A team that 'breaks-out' twice in a tournament will be ineligible for any placement in that tournament. If the EJS fails, this rule will not apply.

Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets.

### **NOTE:**

This rule applies to all teams entered. The team may continue to race but all previous wins will convert to losses (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. BO times will not be used for team placings in the event of a tie. In the event of 2 break outs, all earlier heats for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents, where that opponent has completed the heat.

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 Divisional Judge or their ring party to be holding back on the start or crosses, the Divisional 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 provided they have 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 Divisional 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). Upon disqualification the team will lose all points, any wins will convert to losses on all racing paperwork and the team will therefore lose their placing for the day. Disqualified teams will no longer be permitted to race and their fastest time will NOT be recorded for seed lists. If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply.

## **12. Withdrawal From Competition (WFC)**

Following consultation with the Divisional Judge (DJ) a team may Withdraw From Competition (WFC) at any time. This means that the team will no longer compete in open racing and will not be required to race in any remaining open heats or alternatively allow for the use of training aids for the benefit and safety of a participating dog or dogs, in any remaining heats. If the withdrawal is due to concerns regarding the prevailing weather or ring conditions the Head Judge and Tournament Organiser should be consulted in the first instance, as additional mitigation measures may be instigated (i.e. change of lanes, reduced number of heats, lane covers). A team is deemed to be WFC as soon as they notify the divisional judge, or as soon as they are unable to run 4 dogs in a race. If a dog is injured and has to be withdrawn the team will become WFC and will remain WFC for the remainder of the competition, even if the dog returns to race later. Once notified of a WFC the DJ is to inform the Tournament Organiser and inform each of the other competing Team Captains, prior to any races they have with the WFC team.

A WFC team may use any appropriate training aids whilst racing WFC, unless they interfere with, or distract, the open racing team in the other lane (DJ's discretion). Team members for a WFC team may enter or be in the racing lane whilst racing as WFC, but only with prior agreement from the DJ and opposing team.

Once a team has gone WFC, all heats and races will be recorded as losses. No points, results or times will be gained for any races run under WFC conditions. A team cannot re-enter open competition once it has declared a Withdrawal From Competition. Any points and times set from fully completed races under the rules of open racing prior to WFC will be retained other than points only awarded to the winner of a heat. As a team declaring WFC during an ongoing competition will affect the fairness of the final Divisional result, all results (W or L) from a WFC team, withdrawing at any stage during the competition, will be voided and recorded as losses (this may result in other teams being awarded wins for races previously recorded as a loss and TOs should amend any paperwork accordingly – see rule A.3.10)

# JUDGING AND RING PARTY

## Section B

### B.1 Ring Party

Five judges shall officiate when two teams are running.

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 positioned so as to interfere with, or distract the dog. A fifth judge shall act as starter, Divisional Judge and referee.

The Divisional Judge should position themselves in the centre of the racing lanes during racing, and be visible and accessible during warm-up, unless their duties as the Divisional Judge require them to leave this position.

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). Two scribes may be used to assist the line judges.

### B.2 Head Judge

#### 1. Qualifying process

1.1 Qualified Judges desiring to be approved by the BFA as a Head Judge must apply to the BFA Judges' Board for their Log Book to be considered as a trainee Head Judge. All applicants wishing to become a Head Judge must be:

- a. an experienced Qualified Judge and have carried out a minimum of 15 divisional judging appointments as a Qualified Judge, preferably more, at sanctioned tournaments
- b. a competitor/dog handler with at least three years' experience in the BFA.
- c. in good standing with the BFA and a current member
- d. must be a Qualified Judge for at least 3 years (Log books will not be issued until applicants have been a Qualified Judge for 3 years).
- e. 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 Judges' Board when completed, with an application to be approved as a Head Judge.

1.2 To be approved as a Head Judge by the BFA, qualified judges must:

- a. Be in good standing with the BFA and a current member.
- b. 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.
- c. Have completed the requirements to be a Measuring Official.
- d. On three separate occasions act as "Head Judge" by shadowing the Tournament Head Judge, and be assessed on their knowledge of the role of a Tournament Head Judge, carrying out various tasks associated with the role.
- e. 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 Judges' Board who will forward the question paper to the Supervising Officer, who will return the paper when completed to the BFA Judges' Board. The Judges' Board 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 they have qualified as a Head Judge. If the Judges' Board rejects the applicant, they shall be notified and advised under what conditions they can re-apply.

## 2. Duties and responsibilities

- 2.1 Prior to the scheduled time for competition the Tournament Head Judge must inspect the ring. It should meet all the requirements of the regulations and be considered safe for competitors and dogs. 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.
- 2.2 Where reasonably practicable, Flyball boxes are to be presented at the ring prior to the start of the racing day at a time specified by the tournament organisers to be inspected by members nominated by the tournament organisers and/or head judge. Where this is not practicable teams must present their box for checking no less than 30 minutes before their first division begins racing. Teams must inform the tournament organisers in advance of a known late arrival to allow checks to be made by a judge, head judge or experienced BFA member nominated by the tournament organisers to ensure all boxes meet the specifications detailed in A3.7.1 If, in the opinion of the box checking persons, the box does not meet the specifications given the Head Judge will be called to check the measurements. If the Head Judge confirms that the box does not meet the specification the team will not be allowed to race on the box.
- 2.3 If the team does not have a replacement box they will be given the following options.
  - i) They can race on a box which has been borrowed from another team ( the box must have been checked).
  - ii) If the Head Judge and team captain agree that the box is safe, the team can continue to take part in the competition on their own box as a WFC team
- 2.4 If it is discovered at any time during the racing day that a team is racing with an unchecked flyball box, all races up to that point will be converted to losses and all points accrued will be lost. **The team may continue under the "withdrawn from competition status"**
- 2.5 For exceptional circumstances, where a team's box is travelling with a member on the day of a competition, if the team member is delayed due to circumstances which are unexpected and outside of the teams control for example a vehicle breakdown, the team must contact the HJ/TO as soon as possible and prior to the start of their first division to make arrangements for their box to be checked. If this occurs the Head Judge will complete an incident form giving the reasons for the exception.
- 2.6 The Tournament Head Judge should be available to support a Divisional Judge in reaching a decision where their original decision made during racing has been contested by a Team Captain.
- 2.7 In adverse weather conditions the Head Judge will use the Association's Adverse Weather Policy when making decisions to cancel, reduce, delay or suspend racing. This decision will be taken in consultation with the Tournament Organiser, however the Head Judges decision is final.

## B.3 Deputy Head Judge

### 1.1 Qualifying Process

The only requirement in becoming a Deputy Head Judge, is to be a Qualified Judge. However, a recently Qualified Judge (12 months/10 assignments) may not become a Deputy Head Judge until this probationary period has been completed. A Deputy Head Judge shall be chosen by the Tournament Organiser., for the upcoming tournament only. The Deputy Head Judge shall not be

from the same primary team as the Head Judge.

## 1.2 Duties and Responsibilities

The Deputy Head Judge shall be in consultation with the Head Judge/Tournament Organiser if required. They shall act as an impartial adjudicator if/when the Head Judge is unable to do so (due to either themselves, or their team, being involved in a decision being made).

## B.4 Divisional Judge

### 1. Qualifying process

1.1 The standard qualification process is:

1.1.1 Applications for the status of Qualified Judge are accepted from members who are over the age of 18 and have been in good standing with the BFA for the 36 months preceding their application. However, in exceptional circumstances, such as for growth areas (e.g. Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man etc), the Judges Board may entertain applications from newer adult members.

1.1.2 Once the application has been accepted, the candidate must pass a Novice Judge exam on the BFA Rules of Flyball Racing. Evidence of completion of the above criteria is to be recorded on the approved BFA Form.

1.1.3 The candidate is then issued with a Novice Judge log book to record Ring Party assignments. The Novice Judge must complete a minimum of 5 assignments as each of Line Judge, Box Judge and Scribe for a minimum of 12 races, or a whole division where the division consists of less than 12 races. Each assignment is assessed and signed off by the Divisional Judge (or Supervising Judge). Of the five assignments, only one assignment of any of Box Judge, Line Judge and Scribe may be signed off by a judge from the candidate's own team. Furthermore, at least two of each assignment shall be directly supervised by a Head Judge or Judges' Board Member. If at the end of this process the candidate is not yet considered to be ready to be a Provisional Judge, then further assignments may be required.

1.1.4 Once the Novice Judge log book is completed and has been approved by the Judges' Board. The candidate is issued with a Provisional Judge log book. They must complete at least 10 Divisional Judge Assignments as a Provisional Judge, supervised by a Qualified Judge or Head Judges. Each assignment must be assessed and a report completed by the Supervising Judge or Head Judge. There must be a minimum of 5 different judges providing reports, of which at least three must be a Head Judge. If at the end of this process the candidate is not yet considered to be ready to be a Qualified Judge status, then further provisional judging may be required.

1.1.5 Once the Provisional Judge's log book is completed and has been approved by the Judge's Board, the candidate has the status of a Qualified Judge.

1.2 There is also a special qualifying process for experienced judges from other flyball organisations or BFA judges whose status has lapsed, (whether in the UK or elsewhere) whose application is supported by evidence of judging experience and qualification. This process is:

1.2.1 The candidate sits the Novice Judges' exam, as described in 1.1.2 above. A successful outcome allows the candidate to act as a Novice Judge.

1.2.2 The candidate is supervised for one full division for each of the ring party duties, which are described within 1.1.3 above. A satisfactory outcome allows the candidate to act as a Provisional Judge.

1.2.3 The candidate is supervised for two full divisions, acting as a Provisional Judge, supervised by a Head Judge. A satisfactory outcome allows the candidate to be given the status of a Qualified Judge, upon the approval of the Judges' Board.

### 2. Duties and responsibilities

2.1 Shall be positioned between the racing lanes in an area where they have a clear view of racing to start the heat.

- 2.2 The Divisional Judge shall maintain a consistent sequence for electronic starting. When starting manually, the Divisional Judge shall maintain a consistent cadence of approximately 1-second intervals throughout the tournament and they should be in a position to assist the Line Judges in determining winners of close heats.
- 2.3 During the heat the Divisional Judge should be in a position to observe the handlers for any violations.
- 2.4 If it is necessary to stop a heat, the Divisional Judge shall use a whistle, either electronic or a referee's whistle. The Judge will also give clear hand signals by raising both arms to indicate the race has been stopped.
- 2.5 Stop the heat for interference in the ring.
- 2.6 The Divisional Judge may confer with the Line Judges and the Box Judges before determining a winner.
- 2.7 If necessary a Divisional Judge shall reposition themselves in such a manner as not to distract the dogs competing
- 2.8 A loss for both teams shall be recorded in the following circumstances.
  - a. A team that has already broken out 2 times racing against an WFC team.
  - b. A team that breaks out (single heat) racing against an WFC team.
  - c. When both teams break out.
  - d. When both teams choose not to rerun a dog in order to finish the race.
  - e. When neither team can complete in a reasonable time frame (DJ discretion).
  - f. In circumstances a and b only three heats will be run. Circumstances c, d and e will count as one heat raced and *may* result in only three heats being run.
- 2.9 When judging with approved electrical equipment accurate to within 100th of a second, ties should only be allowed when both electrical readouts are identical to 2 decimal places.
- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 The Divisional Judge's responsibility also extends to the competitors, to the host team, or organisation, to the spectators and sponsors. A Divisional Judge must be arbiter and diplomat. A Divisional Judge must leave competitors 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
- 2.12 The Divisional Judge should be able to explain any decision they have made during racing to the Team Captain(s); the Divisional Judge's decision though is final. Team Captains dissatisfied with the decision of a Division Judge during racing should raise the matter with the Head Judge as soon as practicable. The Head Judge's responsibility should be to support the Divisional Judge in reaching a decision.
- 2.13 Any unreasonable behaviour, by any member, that is in breach of the Code of Ethics 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 WFC. An incident report is to be submitted to the BFA Secretary within 14 days and will be kept on file.
- 2.14 Outside of the arena the Tournament Organiser or landowner may dismiss an offender from the venue
- 2.15 Judgement calls should be based on the experience, good character, and fairness of the Judge. The intelligent application of discretionary authority demands a Divisional Judge shall exercise common sense, fairness and initiative. Above all else, the safety and wellbeing of the competitors and their dogs should be foremost.
- 2.16 To retain their status, Head Judges and Qualified Judges must meet all of the following requirements:

- be a current BFA Member;
- have attended at least one Head Judges' and Qualified Judges' Seminar provided by the BFA in the last two years;
- have completed 3 divisional judging assignments per calendar year.
- and to have submitted a response to an online Judges' Survey Questionnaire published by the Judges Board. Judges Survey questionnaires will be published following new rule-changes. Responses must be submitted within the time-frame specified on the questionnaire. For a newly-qualified Judge, this requirement starts from the first Judges Survey Questionnaire published after Qualification.
- In addition, Head Judges must have completed at least TWO head judging assignments per calendar year.

## **B.5 Ring Party**

### **1. The Divisional Judge is assisted by ring party as follows:**

#### **1.1 Line judge (and scribe) Duties and Responsibilities**

- a. Line Judges (who may have scribes to assist them with their duties) shall:
- b. Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
- c. Using the BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2) record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied and if the heat was completed by 4 dogs without faults.
- d. 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.
- e. Should the EJS fail during racing and alternative means of timing the race are endorsed by the Head Judge, this is to be clearly marked on the C2, heat by heat, as these times will be disregarded for the purposes of fastest times and seeding times.
- f. Indicate with a signal for a false start.
- g. 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
- h. Scribes are responsible for recording all required data correctly on the C2 form. During racing they should also be watching the run-back area for dog interference.
- i. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run their dog
- j. Advise the Divisional Judge if a Team runs a 'break-out' time in a heat
- k. In the event of a close heat, the Divisional Judge shall consult with their ring party. If no clear winner is identified, then that race shall be declared a tie.
- l. Indicate to the Divisional Judge that the race should be stopped for safety reasons by standing up, raising both arms above the head, crossed at the wrists.

#### **1.2 Box Judge Duties and responsibilities**

- a. 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.
- b. If the box-loader claims that the box has malfunctioned, the Box Judge shall indicate this to the Line Judge and the Divisional 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 Divisional Judge.

- c. The Box Judges and Line Judges (and their assistants) shall remain stationary during each heat. If a ball goes around or bounces off a judge, it shall be deemed in play.
- d. 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.

## **B.6 Measuring Official**

### **1. Qualifying process**

1.1 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 the 18 months preceding their application. The Judges Board reserves the right to waive this time limit in exceptional circumstances, such as for the growth areas (e.g. Scotland, Wales, IOM) have competently carried out dog measuring including the setting up of the measuring equipment, 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.

Once the application form is completed this must be sent to the BFA Judges Board to be approved. Once approved, an exam is to be arranged and passed before the logbook will be issued.

1.2 Each applicant must have been approved by at least 3 Head Judges or Measuring Officials.

1.3 Evidence of completion of the above criteria is to be recorded on the approved BFA Form. Head Judges automatically qualify as Measuring Officials

1.4 Where Provisional Measuring Officials have completed the requirements for Ulna measuring, submitted their qualification records and been passed by the Judges Board, they will become qualified for this expertise of measuring. They will be allowed to Ulna measure at competitions, but will not be qualified to complete the Withers measurements as a qualified measurer. Withers measures can be logged as provisional measurements but they must be overseen and signed off by two qualified withers measuring officials until such time they have completed the qualification fully.

1.5 Any BFA member, who is a qualified ulna or withers measuring official with another flyball organisation, can become a qualified BFA measuring official following two supervised measuring sessions. A minimum of 5 dogs should be measured at each session and three different measuring officials must be involved, one of which is a Head Judge.

## **MEASURING PROCESS**

### **Section C**

#### **C.1. Dog master Height List requirements**

- 1.1 Any dog that is used to justify a jump height of less than the maximum for a team must either: have been measured at that same competition following the rules below and have an entry on that Tournament's BFA Form C.9; or already appear on the Dog Heights Master List.
- 1.2 A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least 24 months old at its final measurement.
- 1.3 A dog must have a minimum of three measures recorded at the same height, by the same method, one of which must be its final measure, with each measure being recorded at different BFA Sanctioned Tournaments or gatherings / meetings / events agreed by the Committee, before an Official height on the Dog Height Master Sheet can be recorded and a height card will be issued. One of these measures may be video recorded and then submitted to the Judges' Board, for future reference.
- 1.4 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. Measures done by a member of the dog's team shall not count towards an entry on the Master Height Sheet, but shall be valid for the day's racing only.
- 1.5 All height measurements must be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by both officials who have measured the dog(s). At all BFA Sanctioned Tournaments or gatherings/meetings/events arranged or approved by the Committee, all measures, taken by Head Judges or qualified

Measuring Officials, including test measures must be recorded. Measurements taken by Provisional Measuring Officials for the specific purposes of training and experience do not need to be recorded.

- 1.6 A copy of the completed C9 shall be made available for viewing by the tournament participants.
- 1.7 All height dogs must be measured at each sanctioned tournament attended until such time as they hold an official height on the Dog Height Master Sheet and within the dogs first 10 sanctioned tournaments. Failure to do so shall result in loss of times and points for the dog and team on the day.
- 1.8 Official heights cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. The BFA committee, on receipt of a complaint from a member, or concerns from Head Judge/Measuring Official/Height Co-ordinator regarding measuring, reserve the right to challenge a dog's height and request further information and a re-measure, if deemed appropriate. Only one challenge per dog.
- 1.9 The Height Card Administrator will produce an up-to-date list of all official heights for each Tournament that must be available online.

## C.2. Measuring set up/environment

The dog's height may be measured by one of two methods

### Method 1

- 2.1 All measuring shall be carried out using only BFA authorised equipment; laser device and measuring stick where the datum line is set at 24".
- 2.2 The recommended distance between dog being measured and the laser is 2m and should never be less than 1 m (manufacturer's recommended distance)
- 2.3 Only one handler per dog shall normally be allowed in the measuring area unless the Head Judges / Measuring Officials choose to allow otherwise
- 2.4 A dog will be measured from the ground to between its withers. Withers being the dip between the dog's shoulder blades.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 Jump height recorded in the C.9 is the height of the dog from the ground to between its withers less 6 inches
- 2.7 Any measurement deemed borderline, the lowest measurement will be recorded for the benefit of the dog.

### Method 2

- 2.8 Dogs will be measured from the point of the Elbow to the Accessory Carpal Bone (Pisiform), the bony protrusion just above the stop or carpal pad, when measuring the dogs foot must be bent at a 90 degree angle not out straight. The following chart will determine the jump height:

Jump Height (inch)	Ulna Length
6	Up to 4 inches
7	Over 4 inches to 4.5 inches
8	Over 4.5 inches to 5 inches
9	Over 5 inches and up to 5.5 inches

10	Over 5.5 inches and up to 6 inches
11	Over 6 inches and up to 6.5 inches
12	Over 6.5 inches

The measuring will use only BFA authorised equipment; ulna measure device.

Both legs shall be measured and the lowest measurement recorded as the official height.

2.9 Dogs should be standing during the process of the ulna measure

2.10 Aggression during measuring will not be tolerated and Rule D.5.1 will be observed.

2.11 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 18" to between withers.

### **C.3. Appeals**

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

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

3.3 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 remeasure will be videoed.

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

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

### **C.4. Contesting a height**

4.1 Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally before leaving the ring at the end of the race in question.

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

4.3 Handlers can refer to the Dog Height Master Sheet or refer to the C9 form if measured at the tournament.

4.4 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)

4.5 Handlers whose dogs are not showing on the dog height master sheet may have their dog's jump height contested

### **C.5. Racing at incorrect height**

5.1 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.

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

# **DOG WELFARE AND VETERINARY GUIDANCE**

## **Section D**

### **D.1. General dog welfare**

- 1.1 Owners have a “Duty of care” to the animals they keep under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, or any subsequent legislation regarding animal welfare. This legislation means that a person has to look after their animal’s needs, as well as ensure that it does not suffer.

This includes the need:

- 1.5.1 For a suitable environment (place to live)
- 1.5.2 For a suitable diet
- 1.5.3 To exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- 1.5.4 To be housed with, or apart from, other animals (as appropriate)
- 1.5.5 To be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease

- 1.2 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 (including racing rings, around the rings, camping, parking and exercise areas) 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.

### **D.2. Lamé dogs/Recovering from surgery**

- 2.1 Lamé Dogs must not take part or continue to take part in a tournament. 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.
- 2.2 Dogs recovering from surgery or requiring bandages or support braces to protect an injury may not take part in a tournament. Bandages do not include coats, sweaters or stop pad protectors. Protective leg wrapping with cohesive dressing may only be used as a preventative but may not be used to protect an existing injury.

### **D.3. Bitches in season**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The Mating of dogs at sanctioned tournaments, starter competitions or fun events is not allowed.

### **D.4. Pregnant bitches and puppies**

- 4.1 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 10 weeks after giving birth.
- 4.2 Bitches due to whelp within 7 days of a competition are not allowed at a sanctioned tournament, starters competition or fun event.
- 4.3 Litters of puppies may not be purchased or sold at a BFA tournament.
- 4.4 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.

## **D.5. Aggressive Dogs**

- 5.1 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.

## **D.6. Infectious and contagious diseases**

- 6.1 BFA members must not bring to a tournament any dog which has been diagnosed or exposed to any infectious or contagious disease either by direct contact (dog to dog) or by indirect contact (spending time in the same environment as an infected animal, sharing water bowls etc). Symptoms could include but are not exclusive to, coughing, sneezing, ocular or nasal discharge, vomiting, diarrhoea, pruritus (itching) and alopecia (hair loss). If you are in any doubt, seek your Veterinary Surgeons advice.

This includes dogs who have received their Kennel Cough vaccine in the last 14 days or dogs who have been in contact with a dog who has received their Kennel Cough vaccine in the last 14 days.

A BFA member who has a dog with an infectious or contagious disease is strongly advised 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 Veterinary Surgeon who has treated the illness.

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

Kennel Cough guidance should follow the process detailed in The Members Handbook. Any queries should be directed to the BFA secretary in the first instance.

- 6.2 The BFA Committee, also upon consultation with a Veterinary Surgeon, reserves the right to exclude dog/dogs from a tournament if it is deemed to present an increased risk of spreading infection throughout the association.

# POINTS AND AWARDS

## Section E

### E.1. Dog points and awards

- 1.1 Each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned flyball tournament each dog racing with that team can earn points towards a flyball title (See The Members Handbook, Section titled Dog Awards.). Each of the 4 dogs contributing to a clean heat (a heat without any faults) will be awarded 20 dog points. 5 points will be awarded for each heat which is won in accordance at the time of racing, as a result of rules A.3.11 and 12. An additional 5 points will not be awarded for heats won by the opposing team breaking out or opting to go WFC.
- 1.2 Any Team voluntarily Withdrawing from Competition' (WFC) during racing and rule A3.12 will apply
- 1.3 If a time is not recorded for any reason (e.g. EJS failure, interference etc) then points will be awarded if there were no faults prior to the race being ended.
- 1.4 All personnel on the team sheet (captain, handlers and box loader) must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be registered with the BFA and registered to an owner/handler who is a current BFA member. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points. NOTE: Flyball Foundation and 'fun' events will not be subject to points allocation.
- 1.5 It is the responsibility of Team Captains and Members to check points allocated to their Dogs in good time. The BFA will only accept queries relating to the issuance of dog points within 30 days of the points being published on the website.

### E.2. Loss of points

- 2.1 If the Team name and TRN are missing, points, placing and seed time will be lost.
- 2.2 If the Team Captain and/or Boxloader is not a current BFA member, points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team.
- 2.3 In a four dog team, if any dog or handler is not a current BFA member, points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team. For teams containing more than 4 dogs, (and Rule 2.2 is satisfied) the fastest time excluding the elapsed/non BFA member(s) will be recorded as the seed time, and points awarded accordingly. No points shall be awarded for the heats which include the non/elapsed BFA member(s). If all times are excluded this will result in loss of placing. For validation purposes, there shall be a minimum of 4 nominated dog handlers and a nominated boxloader – 5 separate current BFA members in total.
- 2.4 If an underaged dog has competed in a 4 dog team points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team. For teams containing more than 4 dogs, the fastest time excluding the underaged dog will be recorded as the seed time and points awarded accordingly. No points shall be awarded for the heats which include the underaged dog. If all times are excluded, this will result in loss of placing.
- 2.5 In a multi breed competition. if the dog's breed does not match the breed they were registered as, points and times will be lost for each heat where the team failed to field 4 different breeds. If all times are excluded, this will result in loss of placing.
- 2.6 If the team captain's name and BFA number is missing, points, placing and seed time will be lost.
- 2.7 If the box loader's name and BFA number is missing, points, placing and seed time will be lost.
- 2.8 If the handler's name and BFA number is missing, points, placing and seed time will be lost.
- 2.9 If the dog's name and BFA number is missing, points will be lost for that dog.
- 2.10 If it cannot be determined which dogs ran in a particular heat, the points for that heat are lost.
- 2.11 Where a dog and/or BFA member has a compound name, a partial match to the database shall be accepted.

### E.3. Young Members Award Scheme

- 3.1 The Young Members Award Scheme will reward all participants with a milestone award for members aged 4 to 18.
- 3.2 Points are earned in all aspects of Flyball including contribution to the team, ring party duties and racing; these young people may become the qualified judges of the future with an all-round in depth knowledge of the sport.
- 3.3 The awards take the names from previous successful juniors who have achieved 1st place in the original annual competition along with a precious metal or gemstone. No two awards will have the same surname. (See the Members Handbook - Section titled Young Members Award Scheme)
- 3.4 From 7000 points onwards, the Milestone awards will take the surname of the person reaching the required points first adding a precious gem of their choice (if the same person reaches a subsequent award first then a gem and name will be allocated by the Award Secretary).
- 3.5 Points are awarded for;
- judging half a division at a Sanctioned open, multibreed, singles or pairs Tournament (minimum 16 years of age) or half a division at a Starters Tournament.
  - Handling a dog at a Sanctioned open, multibreed, foundation, singles or pairs and foundation Tournament (for half a division or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format).
  - Box loading at a Sanctioned multibreed, foundation, singles or pairs and foundation Tournament (for half a division or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format).
  - Ring Party duties i.e. Line Judge, Scribe and Box Judge at a Sanctioned multibreed, foundation, singles or pairs and foundation Tournament (for half a division, or a minimum of 7 races in staggered format)
  - Ball collecting duties at a Sanctioned open, multibreed, foundation, singles or pairs and foundation Tournament (for half a division or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format). Points will be awarded for foundation, singles and pairs competitions held alongside a BFA sanctioned tournament but not for stand-alone foundation, singles and pairs competitions.
  - Team Paperwork, Watching team line/changeovers, foundation prop duties at a sanctioned open, multibreed, foundation, singles or pairs tournament (for half a division or a minimum of 2 races in a staggered format)
- 3.6 If a young member needs supervision from an adult to carry out these duties in the ring, the team can request an extra person under rule Teams A.2.5.7 but must notify the head judge and divisional judge prior to racing.

### E.4. Annual awards

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Flyball 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 Multi-breed or Limited Multi-breed competitions. This will be awarded to first place only.
- 4.3 Claire Gristwood Award** - Awarded to the Jack Russell Terrier or Parson Russell Terrier that has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Limited Open competitions.

## COMPLAINTS PROCESS

### Section F

The Association has Complaints and Disciplinary procedures. Members are referred to the Members Handbook where full details can be found in the section titled "Discussing and Resolving Issue."