



## **The British Flyball Association**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Wythall Community Hall, Birmingham**

**Apologies** – were received from Howard Campbell, David Flood, Sue Sharp, Dan Culley, Sue Allen, Ryan Mills, Kristian Allcorn, Rachel Brown, Terry Condra, Ellen Schofield, Dave Bergelin, Diane Halstead, Peter Roberts, Delia Roberts, Andy Bawden, Sue North and Rosemary Batten.

**Minutes of last AGM** – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – A copy is on the BFA website and a revised copy of the BFA Rules and Policies have been distributed to all Team Captains, Head Judges, Judges and Officers and also made available on the BFA website for interested parties.

#### **Concise reports for the year 2015/2016 by:**

##### **Chairperson's report: Sharon Allcorn**

- Thank you to everyone for attending. We have a full agenda but we will do our best to keep the meeting flowing. We will have a scheduled lunch break plus tea and coffee breaks. We will use the same format as last year as we have a lot of proposals – if you have already spoken on a proposal, we will not return to you if there are still other members who are waiting to speak. This is to enable all the opportunity to speak and to encourage varied discussion. Please may I remind you that expectations are that you will treat all other members with respect, tolerance and patience.
- As a committee we have had another busy year.
- Flyball is growing all over the UK with teams from Cornwall to The Shetlands, from Kent to Antrim.
- The UK record has been broken and is currently held by WOW. There are three teams who have run under 16 seconds and many running in 16 seconds. The racing at tournaments remains competitive, with lots of friendly banter thrown in for good measure. I think it's very easy to focus on the negative and not so much the positive – do I think the ethos/spirit of flyball has changed? No, I don't believe it has. My experience is that flyballers continue to race hard, race fairly and race in a sporting and friendly manner. Of course, there are times when not all of these elements are present but I think it's far less, than at times, we perceive it to be. Has it changed from years gone by – again I'm not sure it has. The same problems were around but social media wasn't so readily available and the BFA was much smaller, so we all didn't get to know about it within 10 minutes of it happening! Having some of my spectacular starts announced on FB isn't a good use of social media nor the unflattering photos where I appear to be running through treacle, yet at the time, I thought that I was running like the wind!

- The standard of judging is improving and we have a good infrastructure that provides support, guidance and direction for our judging officials. The concept of introducing a Judges Board was mine and is based on an existing model that is well established and proven. There is still a long way to go but progress has definitely been made.
- We have a strong team of regional reps who work tirelessly for the flyballers in their region and also work alongside each other in hosting ring party days.

The last Championships was the absolute biggest ever and was the closest to breaking even. Once again, it was oversubscribed and we did manage to eventually get all teams in that wished to race. However, we cannot continue to do this. We are now planning an indoor championship that we are hoping will take some of the pressure off the outdoor championship in regards to oversubscribed entries. This will be limited to 144 teams due to this being the first one. The introduction of the indoor championships gives those teams whose preference is to race solely indoors, the opportunity to race at a championship. Following feedback from the membership last year, we have proposed a criterion for entry. There have been some interesting discussions surrounding this on the BFA members only FB page and I am sure this will continue later when proposals are being debated.

Flyball is changing, it is no different to any other sport or organisations. It is often said that change is the only constant in life and it is inevitable and if you only look to the past or present, you may miss the future (JFK). Changes in our sport do not mean there is going to be a split, in fact historically; you are more likely to have a split if you do not provide choice for all. It's about giving everyone the choice to race how they prefer (as long as it's within the rules) it's about accepting others choices and respecting them, if it is not how you choose to race/train/play flyball, that's absolutely fine – but you have to allow others to have their choice.

The sport has room for all, breeds, speeds, formats and surfaces.

The most important thing is that we all play flyball in a sporting and respectful manner – one man's meat is another man's poison, just because it is not your preferred way to race, does not mean that is it fair to criticise – just race in your preferred way! However you choose, you will still experience exciting racing, having a fun time and making flyball memories to cherish.

### **Secretary's report: Ray Lewis**

As secretary of the British Flyball Association it is my duty to report to the AGM the activities of the Committee over the course of the last twelve months. The raw statistics are:

Formal Face to Face Committee meetings: 3

Quorate Discussions on Skype: 5

Committee Email threads: in excess of 140

Total number of Committee emails sent and received: in excess of 9800

The story behind these numbers is that a Committee of 9 individuals, from 9 teams, based in different parts of the UK have dedicated time and effort to discuss, debate, decide upon and deal with a dozens and dozens of diverse and different issues that all come under the heading "running the BFA".

Each of the 9 of us has different experiences in life, as well as flyball – and we all bring our own opinions, thoughts, ideas and expertise to the table.

As you can imagine we do not all agree on everything.

However, we were all nominated by our fellow members, who felt we had something to offer for the benefit of Flyball in the UK. By accepting the nomination, each of us has agreed to put the interests of Sport of Flyball and the Association ahead of the interests of our own teams, and our own dogs – and on occasions even our own families.

As a member of the Committee you are jointly responsible, not only for managing an association of 3000-odd members, with a budget to match (Val will of course give you full details on that in her treasurers' report) – but also for governing an International sport within the UK – and an evolving, growing sport at that.

I must thank my fellow committee members for their hard work and dedication to their role.

There have unfortunately been a small number of formal complaints, which have been dealt with confidentially in accordance with the rules.

Please note that the formal complaints are part of the disciplinary procedure and are only to be used as a last resort, when there is clear evidence of a case of misconduct or gross misconduct. The procedure is not there to air personal grievances.

Our Association would not run if it were not for the hard work of its officers, all of whom are volunteers.

Please show now your appreciation for the following people:

Pat Wadby, our amazing Membership Secretary;

Judy Parker, our remarkable Show Secretary;

Jeff Hughs, our magnificent Awards Co-ordinator;

Donna Culley, our splendid Height Card administrator;

Dave Long, our noteworthy lights co-ordinator;

and of course our dauntless Stats team: Ron and Vera Edge.

Although this is the first time I am addressing you as the BFA Secretary, I fear that it is also the last time. As you will have seen on the Agenda, I have chosen not to stand for re-election this year.

The association has developed immensely over the last six years, and is continuing to develop and improve. As much as I would love to offer my time and energy to towards with the planning and the steering of that development, I find no longer have the time-budget to permit it.

I have already thanked the rest of the committee for their hard work and dedication, throughout my year as Secretary, but I would also like to thank them for their patience and understanding over the last few months, when at times I was forced to focus on other matters.

I must also thank my Team-mates, Karen and Adrian – and indeed everyone at Delta for being so supportive. You have all been great!

### **Treasurers report: Val Currie**

It's pleasing to see that during last year we have been able to spend less than the previous year in a number of areas. However, we need to also be aware that some of those where spending was less last year, in order to complete ongoing work, extra expenses will occur this year. New lights sets have been ordered for example.

All the items shown in red on the accounts sheet are where we spent less last year than the previous year.

Committee expenses have risen due to, in some part, an amalgamation of expenses from other areas which actually come under Committee business. The Committee has also been having weekend Face to Face meetings in order to complete business instead of having to carry some over to either email or Skype which are not as user friendly. As Committee members are from various parts of the country this has meant we have had to have overnight stays in a budget hotel which also has a conference room.

The glass awards I'm pleased to be able to say will again be remaining at the same price as they have been for several years. It is interesting to note that there has only been a small increase in expenditure.

Our insurance would have remained the same had we not increased the entry to the Championships which resulted in an increase in the number of members being present to be covered.

It's difficult to show the balance of the unpaid cheques, membership fees and tournament fees due to the repayments very often being made by bank transfer. I can assure you that all these were re-paid.

Bank charges are those charged by the companies that handle the online membership payments.

On the income side Tournaments and the Championships brought in more income than the previous year.

The matter that I have been dreading has occurred and we have 'hit' the VAT thresh-hold. This means that we have to pay VAT on all our income. This includes membership fees, tournament racing fees etc etc. I did say to the Committee that I was not comfortable with having to deal with VAT but our bookkeepers have assured me that I will be able to do it and have provided me with a spreadsheet that does the VAT calculation for me and also does the 3 monthly VAT payment due which is a great comfort, so I'm prepared to 'give it a go'. I can assure you that if I can't cope I will step down from being treasurer. I will be visiting the bookkeepers more often and they will guide me through the 'maze'. The bookkeepers have also advised me to open another bank account into which I will transfer the VAT amounts payable to HMRC so that we always have the money available and what is in the original account is what we have available for our usual business. HMRC are difficult to contact, I have had to wait 15-20 minutes to speak to someone at which point they are actually very helpful. However, I asked a question and the operative went off to find the answer and I was

cut off so I had to start the process all over again and yes another 15+ minutes before I spoke to someone.

I am in the process of registering for VAT, again not an easy task – I'm waiting for a letter that will let me do the form online! I am also in the process of trying to get Flyball recognised as a sport and I am grateful to those members who gave me some assistance with this. If we are successful we won't have to pay VAT on Membership fees and entry fees to the Champs for a start. There are other exemptions that I think will turn up if we are successful. On the plus side we will, once registered be able to claim back our VAT payments from purchases. As this is new for us I can't say at present whether this will balance out but at the end of this year we will be able to see.

## **AGM Proposals**

Proposals are written in rule number order and each given an alphabetic title. text in **RED** is to be deleted from – and text in **BLUE** is to be added to the text in the existing Rules and Policies.

### **PROPOSAL A**

*(Proposed by Shian Corley BFA no 4344)*

Proposed Addition to Rule 1.15

Add: The Judges' Sub-Committee shall be composed of seven Head Judges and/or Judges elected by the membership. Elections shall be governed by the same rules which govern the Committee election process.

Rational: The reason for this rule change is to promote healthy debate and to ensure the flow of fresh ideas and energy in this important aspect of our Association.

#### **Comments for:**

- More people applied for the positions than are on there

#### **Comments against:**

- The Judges Board is working well and I see no reason to add another election
- We could end up with the wrong people on there
- Having a popularity contest is wrong

### **PROPOSAL B**

*(Proposed by Shian Corley BFA no 4344)*

Proposed Addition to Rule 1.15

Add: Current Members of the Committee may not be current Members of the Judges' Sub-Committee.

Rational: The purpose of this addition is to encourage openness and diversity of opinion.

## **Full Rule would read if both proposals are passed:**

### 1.15 Judges Sub-Committee

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

The Judges' Sub-Committee shall be composed of seven Head Judges and/or Judges elected by the membership. Elections shall be governed by the same rules which govern the Committee election process.

Current Members of the Committee may not be current Members of the Judges' Sub-Committee.

#### Comments for:

- People are doing double jobs

#### Comments against:

- There is a representation from all over the country on the JB
- Tony was not on the committee at the time and when he was elected to the committee the JB was still in its infancy, it was felt he should stay on rather than cause disruption.
- In reality you can have one job and then do a second one with no problem so why can't the committee?

## **PROPOSAL C**

*(Proposed by Donna Culley BFA no 4016)*

Proposal: new rule 1.19

Add: Member should only hold 1 position within the BFA.

i.e. you cannot be a committee member and the height card co-ordinator

Reason - I feel that it dilutes the position available for the rest of the membership who may want to apply for position, and could also cause conflict of interest. I also feel that the member should put 100% into that role and may not be able to do that when holding more than 1 position.

Comments for: The floor raised no points

#### Comments against:

- This would dilute the committee Jenni Wallace could not be Regional Rep coordinator for instance
- These are committee responsibilities, when people step down from these positions it goes back to the committee until a replacement can be found, this would mean they could not do that
- What is the actual definition for this, does it include officials such as Head Judges?

## **PROPOSAL D**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed addition to Rule 1.2

### 1.2 Code of Ethics

a) One of the objectives of the BFA is to promote co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs. Co-operation and good sportsmanship should not be recognised in passive observance, but in all BFA related communications as a way of life and in training and competition treating committee, members and guests fairly and with respect, promoting an environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment. BFA members shall at all times be courteous and friendly. At no time should they show displeasure with a dog, a judge, exhibitor, BFA representative, sponsor, host or spectator in or out of the ring. Never conduct yourself in a manner that would bring discredit to the sport of Flyball. As a participant whether it be exhibitor, trainer, judge, host team or BFA representative, you typify the sport of Flyball. Alcohol [ADD and smoking of tobacco products \(including electronic/vaping type cigarettes\)](#) is not permitted in the Flyball ring during competitions.

Explanation: With flyball being a family orientated sport and more children being involved it only seems right to keep smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes outside of the ring along with alcohol.

**The floor raised no points, and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

## **PROPOSAL E**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed change to Rule 1.3f)

1.3 f) The Committee may at its discretion amend the BFA Rules and Policies (except Sections 1, 2 and 3) Any such rule changes are to be published by the Committee and will be implemented on the first Monday in November each year, giving a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 28 days' notice to: i. All BFA registered Primary Team Captains/Managers.

ii. All BFA Head  
Judges

iii. All other BFA Officials

The only exception to the above timetable will be safety issues and those items voted upon and carried from the AGM which may include items from sections 1, 2 and 3, this can be implemented with immediate effect. This may be done at the discretion of the BFA Committee. NOTE- All rule changes will be published on the BFA website as soon as possible **REMOVE: and in the next Flyball Record.** [Add: and on BFA Members Page on Facebook.](#)

Explanation: Flyball Record is no longer produced.

**The floor raised no points, and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

## **PROPOSAL F**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed new rule 1.6 d)

1.6 Add d) Where appropriate administrative help may be provided by an individual appointed by the committee.

Explanation: Due to increased membership and workload

Comments for:

- As long as the administrator takes no part in meetings
- Other positions such as the Membership Secretary ask for help

## **PROPOSAL G**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed amendments to various rules within Section 3 – DISCIPLINE

### 3.1 Objective

a) The objective shall be for all members of the Association to be aware of the Association's Rules and Policies and to observe its Code of Ethics.

b) It is the Team Captain's responsibility to ensure that all team members are aware of and adhere at all times to the BFA Code of Ethics, as described in Section 1.2 of the Rules and Policies, in order not to bring the sport of Flyball into disrepute.

Remove: c) Discipline procedures should only be used as a last resort. An Investigating Officer should initially consider the settling of a dispute by means of Mediation or Arbitration.

Replace with: c) It is the Committee's responsibility to ensure that the Disciplinary process is conducted fairly, impartially, within the given timescale(s) (whenever possible) and in the strictest confidence.

### 3.2 Misconduct

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

### 3.3 Gross Misconduct

Gross Misconduct shall include, but are not limited to theft, fraud, disorderly and indecent conduct, physical assault or threatening physical violence on any person, drunk and disorderly conduct, the use of illegal drugs, deliberate damage to BFA Property or that of any other BFA member or any other person. All the above will apply at BFA Sanctioned Shows,



including outside racing times, and also at any other time when gross misconduct is deemed to have been committed by a BFA member.

### 3.4 Misconduct/Gross Misconduct Charge

a) Any current BFA member may report another member or group of members for misconduct/gross misconduct. Misconduct/Gross Misconduct charges should be forwarded to the BFA Secretary in writing in the first instance, within 14 days of the alleged incident. The BFA Secretary will pass the matter to the Committee. **Move to f): An administration fee of £50.00 should accompany each misconduct/gross misconduct charge. This fee will be forfeited if the misconduct/gross misconduct charge is not upheld or the fee returned if the charge could not be proceeded with due to the criteria not being fulfilled.**

Add: Every effort will be made to resolve the complaint within 3 months from the date the complaint was first accepted; however, in exceptional circumstances this may not be possible.

The Committee reserve the right to reject a complaint by a member(s) if it is believed to be broadly or substantively the same as a previous complaint or they believe the complaint to be vexatious or malicious.

Complainants should be aware that during any investigation, whilst evidence gathering is taking place, facts may arise that could affect the final outcome of the investigation. Complaints of a similar nature will only be considered on production of good, reasonable new or additional evidence.

b) The BFA Committee may prefer charges against any member or group of members within 6 months of any alleged incident of misconduct/gross misconduct. In this instance any administration fee will be waived.

c) In a case of Gross Misconduct the BFA Committee reserves the right to immediately suspend the membership of person(s) suspected of being responsible for a complaint deemed to be of this nature, pending further enquiries by an appointed impartial investigating officer wherever possible.

Add d) (i) All complaints should be dealt with in confidence unless agreed with the individual raising the complaint. Information supplied by other parties involved in the complaints procedure will also be dealt with sensitively and only disclosed on a need to know basis. Any unjustified disclosure regarding a complaint may be subject to investigation.

(ii) The investigating Officer should inform all parties at the outset of the procedure that the need may arise to disclose information to certain people, for example, in the course of reasonable attempts to resolve the complaint.

Add e) The appointed Investigating Officer will look to settle a dispute by means of Mediation or Arbitration or Discipline procedures.

Moved from a) to f) An administration fee of £50.00 should accompany each misconduct/gross misconduct charge. This fee will be forfeited if the misconduct/gross misconduct charge is not upheld or the fee returned if the charge could not be proceeded with due to the criteria not being fulfilled.

### 3.5 Disciplinary Procedure

a) Once the BFA Committee has received a complaint of misconduct/gross misconduct they shall carry out a preliminary investigation by appointing an impartial investigating officer wherever possible, who should make initial enquiries and report back to the BFA Committee within ~~Remove: three~~ Add: 5 days. ~~Remove: , (See reference Rule 3.1(C))~~ Add: The Committee reserves the right to establish and clarify the nature of the complaint being lodged before appointing an Investigating Officer. ~~Remove: and then gather evidence and statements in writing from the complainants, defendant members and all witnesses to the alleged incident and to ensure the relevant Tournament Organiser is aware of the said incident.~~ Replace with: The Investigating Officer will gather evidence and initial statements in writing from the complainants, defendant members and all witnesses to the alleged incident. The defendant member(s) will be given the opportunity to make oral representation(s) if they so wish and a written statement produced.

The Investigating Officers initial report should contain a recommendation for the Committee to consider whether more time is required to investigate further or to pursue mediation or whether the complaint should be dismissed.

~~Remove: b) The investigating officer will then report back to the BFA Committee within 6 weeks of his/her appointment having gathered the evidence to support the A Disciplinary Sub Committee will then be setup to decide if the complaint is deemed not appropriate/appropriate of further investigation, or whether arbitration and mediation can settle the dispute.~~

Add: b) The investigating officer within 6 weeks of his/her appointment having gathered all relevant information and mediation outcome if appropriate, will then report back to the BFA Committee.

~~c) Remove: The defendant member(s) will be given the opportunity to make oral representation(s) if they so wish.~~

Add: c) The Committee will consider if a DSC is required or whether further mediation or arbitration can settle the dispute or if the matter has satisfactorily been resolved.

d) Once set up the DSC will then consider the misconduct/gross misconduct charge(s) ~~Remove: and either uphold or dismiss them. If the DSC upholds the charges against a member or member(s) they~~ Add: and consider various sanction options available and where appropriate the DSC shall be empowered to suspend from membership any member or member(s) found guilty of misconduct/gross misconduct for an appropriate length of time. In considering the length of suspension, the DSC shall have regard to the member's record and in particular previous findings of misconduct/gross misconduct. The terms of the suspension shall be determined by the DSC, judged on the merits of each individual case.

e) The complainant(s) and defendant member(s) shall be informed within 14 days of the DSC arriving at a decision.

f) A report will be sent to the BFA Secretary detailing the DSC findings and recommendations. The findings will be posted in official BFA publications if the complaint is upheld, and if no appeal is received within 21 days.

### 3.6 Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC)

In the event of a charge of misconduct/gross misconduct the committee will appoint a Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC) to deliberate on the evidence relating to the matter.

The DSC shall comprise of at least three current BFA members, who may or may not be committee members, excluding the Chairperson and the Secretary.

### 3.7 Appeal

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

Move to c): b) The BFA Committee will consider the appeal.

Add: b) The complainant member(s) may appeal against the Investigating Officer's outcome when a complaint has not been upheld. The appeal should be in writing and sent to the BFA Secretary within 21 days of the date of the notification of the outcome.

Moved from b): c) The BFA Committee will consider the appeal.

### 3.8 Appeal Hearing

a) The committee shall review the DSC's investigations, reports and deliberations together with the appeal submission. After deliberation and by majority vote the Committee shall determine from the evidence available whether to ratify or overrule the DSC's decision, or amend the length/increase the length of suspension.

Move to c) to e): b) The BFA Secretary shall immediately notify the appellant(s) of the Committee's decision.

c) The BFA Committee will prepare a report of the proceedings for record purposes.

d) The findings will be posted in official BFA publications.

Add: b) The committee shall review the Investigating Officer's investigations, reports and deliberations together with the appeal submission. After deliberation and by majority vote the Committee shall determine from the evidence available whether to ratify or overrule the outcome.

c) The BFA Secretary shall immediately notify the appellant(s) of the Committee's decision.

d) The BFA Committee will prepare a report of the proceedings for record purposes.

e) The findings will be posted in official BFA publications.

f) A complaint or DSC findings will only be reviewed once and there will be no further appeal or review after this.

**Comments: When does the timeline start? Answer: On acceptance of complaint**

## **PROPOSAL H**

*(Proposal submitted by Shian Corley BFA no 4344)*

Proposed Addition to Rule 3.5 a)

3.5a) Once the BFA Committee has received a complaint of misconduct/gross misconduct they shall carry out a preliminary investigation by appointing an impartial investigating officer wherever possible, who should make initial enquires and report back to the BFA Committee within 3 days, (See reference Rule 3.1(c)) and then gather evidence and statements in writing from the complainants, defendants members and all witnesses to the alleged incident and to ensure the relevant Tournament Organiser is aware of the said incident.

Add: Either the Investigating Officer or, where applicable, the Disciplinary Sub-Committee must take account of the complainant's statement, all reports and all named witnesses before interviewing the defendant(s) and before making any recommendation to the Committee.

Rational: This addition is for the purpose of clarification, to make it easier to carry out the burden of the Investigating Officer/Disciplinary Sub-Committee duties with impartiality and fairness. This reason for this addition is to provide clearer guidance and to improve the flow of communication.

Comments:

- Surely the process should be the same for both?
- If you gather all complainants evidence first, your view could be swayed
- Different cases have different responses.

## **PROPOSAL I**

(Proposal submitted by Shian Corley BFA no 4344)

Proposed Addition to Rule 3.5 e)

3.5 e) The complainant(s) and the defendant member(s) shall be informed within 14 days of the DSC arriving at a decision.

Add: Whilst the investigation should remain confidential, the complainant should be kept informed of the process in order to demonstrate that the rules are being followed.

Rational: This addition is for the purpose of clarification, to make it easier to carry out the burden of the Investigating Officer/Disciplinary Sub-Committee duties with impartiality and fairness. The purpose of this rule change is to promote greater fairness.

**The floor raised no points and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

## **PROPOSAL J**

(Proposal submitted by Shian Corley BFA no 4344)

Proposed Addition to Rule 3.7 a)

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

Add: Either the complainant or the defendant member(s) may appeal.

Rational: After extensive discussions with a variety of BFA members, I feel this new rule would provide an additional safeguard for the membership, strengthen the effectiveness of our Committee and fill a gap in our existing rules.

**Comments:**

- **Appeal what and how many times?**

**PROPOSAL K**

*(Proposal submitted by Shian Corley BFA no 4344)*

Proposed new Rule 3.9

Add: 3.9 In the event of a Committee Member or Committee Members being the subject of a complaint of Misconduct or Gross Misconduct, an independent Investigating Officer should be appointed by unanimous agreement between the remaining Committee Members. If they cannot reach unanimous agreement within one week of the complaint being received, they should agree to appoint a Disciplinary Sub-Committee composed of independent persons consisting where possible of Former Committee Members, failing which Head Judges or Judges. A further week should be allowed for establishing the Disciplinary Sub-Committee. Once agreed, the Investigating Officer and/or Disciplinary Sub-Committee should proceed with their investigations as for ordinary member defendant(s). If the defendant(s) are found guilty of Misconduct or Gross Misconduct, the Investigating Officer and/or Disciplinary Sub-Committee should have the additional option of recommending suspension or removal of the defendant(s) from office. The processes of appeal should be as for ordinary member defendant(s), but must have regard for the principles of establishing impartial adjudication as outlined here.

Rational: This addition is for the purpose of clarification, to make it easier to carry out the burden of the Investigating Officer/Disciplinary Sub-Committee duties with impartiality and fairness.

**Comments:**

**Question: Would a committee member be suspended pending an investigation?**

**Response: In the case of Gross Misconduct they can be suspended but with misconduct they cannot. This applies to all BFA members**

**PROPOSAL L**

*(Proposal submitted by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed addition to rule 4.1d)

4.1d) The Organiser **Add: and all in attendance at the tournament (including non-BFA members)** must follow current BFA Rules and Policies, **add: whilst within the tournament grounds.**

The tournament grounds may include any areas designated by the tournament organiser. Teams captains are responsible for any non-members whom they invite to the tournament.

#### Comments for:

- Members families could misbehave and current rules do not cover that
- Members only in the area no public
- At Paws in the Park there is a flyball area
- Consider re wording as it covers a very wide area
- Handlers in starters should all be members

#### Comments against:

- Just because it is in the rules, doesn't mean we can throw a member of the public out.
- We train and hold competitions on council land, we could not stop a drunken rugby player for instance

### **PROPOSAL M**

*(Proposal submitted by the BFA committee)*

Proposed addition to Rule 4.1e)

4.1e) All **Remove: Seeding's** Add: **seedings** will be decided by a **Remove: Seeding's List** Add: **seed list** available from the BFA website. The times are to be those extracted from the latest available data on the 14th day before the Tournament date, **Add: with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championships) when the seed times shall be taken on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the tournament date.**

Explanation: This addition will allow the individual(s) producing the running order for the Championships to be able to start the running order earlier. Due to the large number of entries, this enables them to make any amendments required in a timely manner.

**The floor raised no points and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

### **PROPOSAL N**

*(Submitted by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed addition to rule 4.1j)

4.1j) The closing date for entries of an OPEN or LIMITED Tournament must be at least 28 days before the date of the Tournament. As soon as the Tournament is full all further applications may be placed on a reserve list and the Host Team must advise all Teams immediately of the status of their entry. All entries are to be taken strictly on date of receipt. If a tournament is oversubscribed a draw will be made of all entry forms received on the same day, (in particular, if the tournament is oversubscribed after the first available post for postal entries, electronic entries already received will not be given precedence over postal entries and will be included in any draw required). **Add: 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).** All teams on each entry form pulled out will be allocated a place until the tournament is full

(please contact the Show Secretary for clarification, if required.) At the closing date for entries the Tournament Organiser must appoint a Tournament Head Judge. If this is not possible they must contact the BFA Show Secretary immediately. Prize money for any one team may not exceed £100 per event per day. In addition, a host or sponsor may offer expense money provided the same is distributed fairly among all participating teams based on actual expense.

Explanation: Tournament organisers work hard to provide tournaments for other members so automatic entry should be a benefit of this.

**Comments for:**

- **This is showing transparency including the sentence about committee teams (they didn't have to put that)**
- **We need to allow those who make the effort to put on a show, to get into that show**

**Comments against:**

- **I am concerned that committee teams who only run indoors may want to run in the outdoor championships. ANSWER GIVEN: They would have to meet the entry criteria like everyone else**

## **PROPOSAL O**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed addition to rule 4.1K

4.1k) Running orders and tournament information should be emailed to teams and also posted on the discussion board on the BFA website so they are available to all team members. Seed times used must be shown with faster and slower declared times clearly marked.

Add: 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.

Explanation: Due to Championships taking longer than most tournaments to set up, this would assist in the Tournament Organiser having one less thing to be concerned with during the "setting-up" period.

**The floor raised no points and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

## **PROPOSAL P**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed new rule 4.1m)

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

To qualify for a Championship Teams shall have raced three times outdoors for an Outdoor Championship and three times indoors for an Indoor Championship within the six months

prior to the relevant tournament schedule being released. **Add: The committee will have a number of "Wild Cards" at their disposal, details of which will be published in the schedule.**

Explanation: This would ensure that only teams who have previously raced within the environment of the tournament they are entering, and have a seed time will gain entry. This will also ensure that the person doing the running order is not waiting for declared times or chasing teams for declared times. A Championship is for teams who have already competed, not those on their first time out.

**Comments:**

- **About time**
- **Does this mean just the primary teams? ANSWER: Each team, primary and secondary teams**
- **What about teams like the Isle of Man? ANSWER: Exceptions could be made for developmental areas**
- **There were teams entering and not getting in because of this**
- **People should be able to email the committee and explain why they can't reach the criteria and then the committee should be able to rule an exception**
- **We (Aces) run indoors and outdoors and would have to race 6 times but that's fine, if we do not meet the criteria, then so be it.**
- **I think we need to trust the committee to make a fair decision**
- **You will find that every team will be "special"**
- **Suggestion: an amendment such as "committee to have the right to have a number of wild card entries" reason: lots of competitions could be rained off causing teams to fall short of the entry criteria, they could be given wild card entry.**

## **PROPOSAL Q**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed addition to rule 4.4 Seeding

Teams should be seeded based on the information available from the BFA website. Seeding times for a tournament will be based on the fastest time recorded by a team during their last 3 sanctioned events and a seed list will be supplied from the latest available data on the 14th day before the tournament date, **Add: with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g.Championship) when the seed times shall be taken on the 21<sup>st</sup> 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," **Add: with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g.Championship) when no declared times shall be accepted.** If a declared time is not submitted then the last available recorded time will be used (even if this is over 4 months old), if there are no previous times recorded for a team then a time of 22.00 seconds will be used as a declared time. A declared time may be submitted - it must be at least ½ second faster or ½ second slower than the Team's seeded time and will be subject to the Team break-out rule. Teams not on the seed list must submit a time and will be subject to the team break-out rule.



Explanation: as previously mentioned for rule 4.1e and 4.1m

**The floor raised no points and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

## **PROPOSAL R**

*(Proposed independently by both Justin Shearing BFA No 4289 and Mark Peck BFA No 3350)*

Proposed amendment for rule 5.17b)

The Start – Dogs may start from a stationary or running start. When using a manual start, if any part of the dog's or handler's body is over the line before the race is started, it will be an infringement, to be called by the Line or Divisional Judge. When electronic starting lights are used, any part of the dog's or handler's body breaking the beam will cause an infringement to be called by the Line or Divisional Judge. The heat is to be restarted. If a second such infringement is called against the same team **Remove: (for that heat) Add: (for that race)** the dog must run again. If a second false start is called coincidental with the opposing team's first false start the heat is to be restarted.

From Justin Shearing:

In explanation I offer - There is no need for the start dog to have 2 goes at getting the lights right every single heat. There are 3 main reasons for this proposed change, fairness, dog welfare and time.

Fairness - Start dog should be allowed one false start per race as it is unusual for them to get the opportunity to practice the lights in warm up. All other dogs have the opportunity, should they wish to take it, to practice their cross in the allotted warm up time (but they don't get to practice during racing). There is no logic to allowing the start dog a practice go every single heat. It also introduces the opportunity for unsporting behaviour with teams deliberately getting false starts.

Dog Welfare - With the possibility of 2 re-runs every single heat before the race starts, the start dog has potentially 50% more runs to complete than any other dog in the team; worse case scenario, the current rules allow for up to 75 competitive runs for a start dog (based on 6 team division, not including warm up) just on false starts alone and before adding any additional re-runs for dropped ball or running out for example. For dogs in other positions the handler has the choice whether to re-run, a start dog has to re-run each time there is a false start, even if it was the other side's fault. This unnecessary additional running, especially when it is often out of the control of the dog's handler, is detrimental to dog welfare, especially during inclement/hot weather when racing outdoors; it is additional risk which is not justifiable for racing purposes.

Time - It takes an average of 25-30 seconds for a judge to restart a race after a false start (from first green light to second green light). Given the number of false starts typical of any given race this adds significant, unnecessary delay in the progress of racing and extends the time it takes to finish a tournament. This rule change would allow a maximum of 1 minute additional time per race rather than the current potential for 1 minute per heat (5 minutes per race). Reducing the number of allowable false starts would mean that racing timings are far more predictable for tournament organisers as this is the single biggest cause of unplanned delay in the flyball ring. This would also help prevent tournaments over-running on time and it would reduce the need for reducing warm up times which is often done when tournaments are over-running (and reducing warm up times is not conducive to dog

welfare). Unlike crossing on to a dog during racing, the lights are entirely predictable and it makes no sense that the start dog should be allowed to practice every single heat when other dogs are not.

### From Mark Peck

In explanation I offer - There are three key reasons to proposing this rule change:

1. Welfare of dogs: Under the present rules, there is the potential for a lights dog to have to run up to 15 times in a 5 heat race. Under the proposed rule change that would reduce to a maximum of 7 times in a 5 heat race. This would then bring the number of times a lights dog is expected to run close to comparable with the rest of the dogs in its team.
2. Equality for dogs and handlers: I have always struggled to understand, why a handler and dog releasing to a consistent lights sequence, should be given a second chance every heat. When a handler and dog releasing in to the inconsistencies of another dog turning off a box, juggling with a ball, or missing their stride are simply faulted for an early cross over and expected to run again.
3. Reducing racing time: It takes at least 3 to 30 seconds to stop a heat for a false start, catch and reset the dogs, make sure that box loaders and judges are ready and to restart. If this rule change reduces false start re-runs by just one per race, for 5 Divisions of 6 teams, the days racing will finish 45 minutes earlier

Proposed by Mark Peck BFA no 3350

### Comments against:

- People use up time to talk to judges e.t.c, if that was stopped it would save more time than removing false starts
- If your dog isn't fit enough to be start dog don't run it as start
- Would there be accusations of holding back because people will be afraid of getting an early start? ANSWER: If you were holding a start to avoid breaking out, that is 0.5 seconds and unlikely

Comments for: There were not many comments from the floor as this was proposed by two separate people who's explanations were fairly comprehensive.

### **PROPOSAL S**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed amendment to 5.17 I) (last paragraph)

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

Explanation - A disqualified team should actually lose everything gained.

**The floor raised no points and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

### **PROPOSAL T**

*(Proposed by Howard Campbell BFA No 0436*

Proposed new rule to 5.17 Rules of Racing.)

Add: 5.17 (p)

p) Withdraw a team from Racing – Team captains have the right to withdraw their team(s) from racing for a lame dog or prevailing weather conditions not conducive to the running of a particular dog(s) in that team.

As regards the prevailing weather conditions the Tournament Organiser and Tournament Head Judge shall be consulted in the first instance.

Team captains shall also notify the Tournament Organiser and the Divisional Judge of their intention to withdraw and for what reason, either before or during the Division in which their team is seeded.

Once withdrawn from racing, if the team returns later in the day, all remaining races will be recorded as losses and No Time recorded on the C2 form.

Points, placing and times are kept up to the point of withdrawal, as long as the team has not introduced training aids or declared themselves NFC and has followed the above process.

Explanation:

At a recent Judges seminar this withdrawing of a team or dog(s) from a race was discussed at some length and the conclusion being that Judges felt that if this was the case for whatever reason, a return to the ring for subsequent races would result in no wins and no times, as the team would then have gained an unfair advantage over teams that had competed in more races in the Division.

**The floor raised no points and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

### **PROPOSAL U**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed amendment to rule 5.2d)

5.2d) A dog may change teams at any time to compete with another Team, but after this change it may not change teams again for a period of 6 months. The 6 months period shall be taken from the date the dog first races with their new team **Add: (e.g. a dog races with Team A on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 so it is free to race with Team B on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016).** The owner/handler must inform the membership secretary of any such change.

Explanation: To add clarity to a time defined period

**The floor raised no points and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

## **PROPOSAL V**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed amendment to rule 5.22 Record Times

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

Explanation - To check height card list available first before measuring a dog unnecessarily.

**The floor raised no points and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

## **PROPOSAL W**

*(Proposed by the Judge's Board)*

Proposed amendment to Rule 5.4

5.4 Judges and Judges Qualifications

c) Provisional Judges judging BFA sanctioned Flyball competitions shall be supervised, at all times, by a Qualified or Head Judge. Minimum age for divisional judging is **REMOVE 14 ADD 16**, individuals under the age of **REMOVE 16 ADD 18** must be supervised from within the ring.

Explanation: As the sport becomes more competitive then this change will safeguard and protect our junior members. We must remember that our junior members are the future of the sport and they should be protected from harm/potential harm. As judges we are often open to criticism from disgruntled members and we should not expect children to have to deal with difficult situations, and instead we should be developing their confidence to prepare them for judging once an adult.

### **Comments for:**

- **In the heat of the moment people can shout at whoever is in the middle. This is safeguarding children so they are not discouraged**
- **Children should not have to put up with people who are abusive**

### **Comments against:**

- **As a parent of a 14-year-old who is a trainee judge, could we not have a mediation point where disgruntled racers go to the supervising judge?**

- No judge should have to put up with abuse whatever their age

This will affect the young people's award scheme (this was noted and will be looked into)

## **PROPOSAL X**

*(Proposed by Donna Culley BFA no 4016)*

Proposed Amendment to 5.6d)

5.6d) Height Cards – All dogs must be measured at three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments; a gathering/meeting/event agreed by the Committee or at any day of a flyball tournament, the dog's height having been agreed by two Measuring Officials on each occasion. The height must be agreed by at least four different Head Judges/Measuring Officials. A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least 30 months old at the final measurement. The final measurement is to be one of the required numbers of measurements in order to be issued with a height card. All height dogs must hold a height card by 36 months of age; if the above criteria cannot be met by 36 months of age then it must be met within the dog's first 10 sanctioned tournaments. Failure to do so shall result in a loss of points for the dog and team on the day. When a Height Card is issued and recorded it must be available for inspection at each Tournament entered. The Height Card Administrator will produce an up-to-date list of all issued Height Cards for each tournament so that it can be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9. Jump Height Cards cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. However in some circumstances an **Remove: Owner can re-apply if the dog's measurement is considered to be incorrect. Before re-applying, an explanation must be sent to the Committee in writing, meeting the criteria set out above in this Rule. Once the Committee have agreed, arrangements will be made for two Head Judges, selected by the Committee, who have not previously measured the dog and do not belong to the applicant's own Team, to re-measure the dog to confirm the height. Handler's who are unable to produce their cards may have their dog's jump height contested. Add: owner can re-apply if the dog's measurement is considered to be incorrect. The height must be agreed 4 times by 4 different head judge/measuring officials. The height card co-ordinator will inform the committee of the new height and issue the height card.**

Reason - I don't think that a dogs height and welfare should be decided by that one final measure and it's not always easy to find 2 head judges/measuring official to do that final measure and not always a quick process. As it's a re-measure I suggest they have 4 measures instead of the normal 3 so still the same amount of measure as above but with not relying on the 4th measure to be the dogs final height.

### **Comments:**

- As an even number you could get two measurements at one height and two at another and therefore no conclusion
- There are no criteria, there could be confusion as it could go on and on
- The last sentence to be removed is actually part of the "Rules of Racing" and should NOT be removed ANSWER: proposer not here to make amendment

## **PROPOSAL Y**

*(Submitted by Donna Culley BFA no 4016)*

Proposed amendment to rule 5.7

### 5.7 Teams and Time Sheets

At a tournament each team shall consist of a minimum of 4 dogs and a maximum of 6 dogs; a BFA member responsible for each dog and a BFA member as box-loaders. The dog's must be eligible to run with that team. The dog's and responsible members shall be declared on the C2 Timesheet prior to the start of racing of the Division. When a team reports for racing only those dogs declared shall enter the ring, each accompanied by a BFA member to hand or to hold the dog. In addition to the handlers/holders and The box-loader a team may at their discretion be accompanied by **Remove: one or two runners who are BFA Add: team** members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps, **collect times, record changeovers and any other relevant jobs to the team**, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team. **Add: Members of the team who do not have a job may be asked to leave the ring by the Judge.** (See also 5.2(b) Teams and 5.7(d))

Reason - I feel that the number of team members allowed in the ring in the current rule is out dated for fly all now as teams now use camera on the lines, have runners etc. I think the judge should Be able to use the discretion in the ring of what they feel is a sensible number.

#### Comments for:

- **As long as those people are active, collecting balls, doing the line, doing times e.t.c members "spectating" inside the ring is not acceptable**
- **The judge has enough to deal with without lots of people in the ring**

#### Comments against:

- **As a judge I would see teams having far too many people in the ring, judges normally allow one or two extra. Can we set a number? ANSWER: proposer not here to make amendment**
- **It says "Team members", does this mean only your own team? That other teams cannot help you? Or that you cannot help other teams?**
- **Space is often restricted indoors there could be an issue of dog safety if too many were allowed in the ring.**  
**The original rule was brought in because of intimidation, to opposition and to judges**

## **PROPOSAL Z**

*(Proposed by the BFA Committee)*

Proposed amendment to 5.7c)

The Time Sheet (BFA Form C.2) be completed and returned for checking before the division, in which the team is running, starts and shall include the team name and registration number, the team captain's name **REMOVE, address and telephone number ADD and BFA**

**Number**, each dog's name, BFA number, breed, and jump height, together with each handlers name and BFA number. It shall also record the relevant teams 'break-out' time (if applicable). Forfeiting teams may be declared NFC or be excluded from the tournament by the Head Judge/Tournament Organiser.

Explanation - New C2 form has been revised and will be uploaded following the AGM.

**The floor raised no points and so the vote proceeded without discussion**

## 2015 Annual Awards for Presentation at 2016 AGM

### 1 Flyball Open Team of the Year

Place	Team Name	Fastest Time	Dogs BFA No	Dogs Name
1	WOW Wonderdogs	<b>15.74</b>	2476C	The Pig
	Dore House Sheffield		4932C	Aqua
	17.10.2015		4017G	Rio
			4016E	Splash

The ones highlighted in red are the dogs that actually ran in the leg of the fastest time

#### Owners

*Katie Bunday  
Yvonne Gray  
Dan Culley  
Donna Culley*

2	Mansfield Marnicks	<b>15.79</b>	4120B	Bear
	Scarborough		3744C	Lycan
	26.07.2015		3500B	Pluto
			2611E	Stryder
			6243B	Flame

*Mary Rogers  
Nick Wales  
Morgan Pearce  
Kathryn Ridley  
Emma Mason*

3	Supersonic Saltires	<b>15.96</b>	6711A	Kai
	Sutton Fields		5449B	Indie
	16.05.2015		5408C	Mac
			7902A	Sparky

*Samuel Loughran  
Claire Kennedy  
Lee Murray  
Ryan Wood*

### 2 Multibreed Team of the Year

Place	Team Name	Fastest Time	Dogs BFA No	Dogs Name
1	Mansfield Remix	<b>17.12</b>	3500A	Thunder
	Drax		3887B	Sonny
	31.08.2015		2190C	Fat Head
			2611E	Stryder
			3744C	Lycan

*Morgan Pearce  
Ben Robinson  
Craig Burrows  
Kathryn Ridley  
Nick Wales*



3 Claire Gristwood Trophy  
(JRT of the Year - Open Points)

Place	Dogs BFA No	Dogs Name	Flyball Team	Sum Of FB Points
1	4061B	Stella	Commandos	8110

*Garry Minnikin*