



**British Flyball Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 25th April 2020
Via Zoom Webinar due to COVID-19 restrictions.**

1. Chairperson's opening speech - David Murdoch

Good morning everyone and welcome to our first online AGM hosted with the help of Zoom. Before I start I would like to thank our Webmaster Ali Kirk for helping us set this up and ensuring we can still have a BFA AGM this year. Your hard work and commitment is appreciated by me and the rest of the Committee.

I hope you all managed to get onto the meeting safely and have all downloaded the "Zoom Guide" that Ali and Katie prepped for you, so you know how to interact with us properly today.

I would ask you to familiarise yourself with the app whilst we go through our initial introductions and speeches so you understand how you can contribute to discussions later. Please note the Chat function where you can interact with Committee Panellists informally. (This is not the format to ask questions about proposals.) Q and A is the official location for questions and queries to the proposers and Committee. We will try to respond to all points raised but please bear with us if this is sometimes delayed dependant on volume of traffic. You should also note the Poll function which will allow us to publish amendments to proposals that can be voted on by you at the time.

Finally, please be aware that there will be no formal voting today. These will all take place online after the AGM and following any amendments. Can I ask that you all stay in line with the Social Media Policy, give us all a little understanding and patience as this is our first time! And most of all let's have a good positive and constructive day.

2. Apologies – Rachel Short (secretary) advised of one apology received from Terry Condra, though this was later rescinded as Mr Condra has since been able to attend the AGM via Zoom and was present.

3. Minutes of last AGM – 6th April 2019 - the minutes were signed and agreed.

4. Concise reports for the year 2019/2020 by:

BFA Officials

Chairperson – David Murdoch

Well this was not what I expected for my first AGM speech as chair I think you can all agree that we are in exceedingly difficult and testing times. I do hope you are all keeping safe and well and looking forward to the Flyball season resuming in some way as soon as we are able to lift restrictions hopefully later this year.

Before I go on to discuss our accomplishments this year as a Committee and Association, I thought I would just pause to tell you all a little bit about my experience this year as Chair. It began last April with the retirement of Sharon Allcorn (AKA Mother Goose) who after 10 Years' service hung up her racing colours and handed over the Dog lead for me run the next leg. I am not going to lie, although I was confident that I could do the job and had spent 3 years working in the Committee I think you will agree that these were massively big shoes to fill! Many a night I spent worrying about whether I could live up to the expectations of the membership, did enough people know who I was as I'm not in a fast team, could I lead a very strong team of 8 independent, intelligent and passionate committee members and would I let everyone down if I wasn't strong enough as a leader? Add into that the fact that we had moved both Champs to new venues I was a nervous wreck! I know I am not starting in the most fun way here, but I promise it does get more positive.

I guess I am giving you a little insight into me as a person and the self-imposed pressure and personal stress I put on myself to always do a good job and be the best I can possibly be. I am sure you have seen me pacing around at Champs ensuring everything is running smoothly! Growing grey hairs daily! So how did I deal with this pressure and ensure we delivered a good year as a new Committee without Sharon and put on two of the best Champs ever? Simple I did not deal with it alone, we did it together as a team. The fear I had of dealing with the pressure of the Association and its expectations slowly evaporated over the year as the Committee rose to the challenge, I'm not saying there wasn't ups and downs of course not but gradually the pressure lifted and I relaxed into the role as Chair. I received some very good advice not so long ago stating that I didn't need to put pressure on myself to lead the team, there is already a team of 8 leaders around you, just relax, be yourself, stop worrying and most of all enjoy the ride. How true this was and how that sound advice settled my concerns and evaporated my stress.

I guess what I am saying is that what drew me to Committee life in the first place was the Community and Family aspect of the BFA. What had sustained me and motivated me in the past was very evident in the Committee too. And that is what it is all about, the support, nourishment and help you receive as a member of a family. Your worries are shared and to that effect halved.

I joined the Committee to give back and contribute to the family's growth and success after all the support and help I had received competing as a family member alongside my Flyball siblings. I had grown and developed under their parentage and this has continued to this day now as I sit before you as Chair. We truly are one big BFA Flyball family and that will nourish and provide for us through these tough times until we can see each other again and reunite as a Family unit.

To that effect I would like to thank Justin, Katie, Rachel, Alicia, Craig, Jeannette, Jenni, and Will for all your advice, support, hard work, wrist slapping, camaraderie, and considerable achievements this year. We have settled into a solid unit and have much to look forward to in providing for the BFA family going forward.

So notable achievements this year, I am sure we will hear these a few times today but it's worth noting the considerable work we have carried out this year.

Outdoor Champs – Held at Driffield in Yorkshire, Biggest Flyball event in the world in 2019. Including the introduction of training seminars, other dog activities which will grow and develop in future years.

Indoor Champs – Held at 3 Counties in Worcestershire, numbers grown from previous years and had the introduction of the new APES system which we will see more of in the coming months.

Introduction of the Young Members Scheme at both Champs to offer activities and fun to our younger members. The team will be working on a Summer Camp (Once able to) and an exciting Badge Collection Scheme to be released once ready. More to come in the next few months.

We have formed a new Stats Team and Vet Team with the ethos that due to the demands and growth of the association a team-based role will be able to share the workload more effectively and efficiently.

The Committee lead by Jeannette and Will for this project have formed a partnership with 2 universities for academic studies and will carry out further research into the relationship between the Flyball Box and the impact its design has on a box turn. They will be assisted by the Box Working Group team. This is in its infancy at this stage, but updates will follow.

The Committee have begun research into the production of BFA branded EJS light Systems. We are currently in the design stage but with the end goal of stopping reliance on 3rd party manufacturers for our light systems going forward.

The development and introduction of the BFA Foundation, this will link into the new starters format, integrate with the training videos recently launched and be a working forum alongside the BFA trainers. More development and news will follow.

We announced but had to delay the recent first Regional Flyball event in Bath. This is now scheduled for next year and the intention is to move these around the UK going forward. We are already looking at Scotland for 2022. More to follow.

There are also other ventures in TV land being discussed as well as the partnership with Goodwoof Show which should be rescheduled for next May where the BFA will host a Crufts style invitational tournament to an audience of thousands. Exciting times ahead!

Before we continue a notable other mention should go to the Media Team for the excellent content they are producing (often with short notice from us) in order to keep you informed and entertained. I am sure you will agree that the work they are doing is fantastic and is aiding in the growth and success of the BFA.

I am proud to have been involved in these accomplishments this year and I am sure you will agree that the BFA is still at the forefront of Flyball globally. Leading with high standards, promoting safe technically correct racing, with investment and research into the best equipment ensuring a bright future for the sport we all love. With the cherry on top of a fantastic membership of brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers who continue to contribute to OUR FAMILY with passionate, support and most of all a keen sense of fun.

To that effect let us all have a productive, informative and fun day, thank you.

Secretary – Rachel Short

The BFA has had another busy year, with many tournaments hosted, including two new Champs venues.

First of all a massive thank you to all BFA Officials from the committee, and on behalf of the membership, for all the hard work you do, without you all the association would not function as effectively as it does.

2019 saw 2 BFA members elected onto the committee. Alicia Marsland and Jeannette Shelley joined in April 2019 and have settled well into their committee roles.

Our Membership Secretary, Jane James, took over from Pat last April and has been working hard registering new members and teams, answering all of your queries, updating your details and more recently, co-ordinating all of your membership renewals.

The Judges Board of Alison, Andrew, Andy, Chris, Jason, Jenny, Sharon & Val continually looked to improve judging standards by issuing guidance and holding several judging seminars to encourage interaction and involvement of BFA Judges, including provisional judges. Alison Moyes and Andrew Short have made the decision to leave their posts on the Judges Board and so we thank them for their contribution and hard work and will soon be advertising for new Judges Board members so if

you would like any further information about joining the team then please speak to one of them today or email for further information.

Height Co-ordinator – Kate Sermon has done a fantastic job this year, keeping the master list bang up to date and ensuring handlers receive height cards for their dogs as soon as possible.

Stats Officer – Emma Foxton has done a fabulous job as stats officer but has since left her role and we now have a new stats team in place. Four BFA members, Kim Sermon, Caz Higginson, Helen Seddon & Debbie Speed, are now doing a great job at keeping us up to date with results and points. They are currently having a bit of a lull and we can only hope we can give them some work to do again soon.

Awards Officer – Jeff Hughes continues to co-ordinate the certificates and awards in a timely manner throughout the year so we can celebrate our dogs achievements. He has ensured the seamless transition to the new glass awards.

Regional representatives have been continuing their work across the country including supporting teams and organising ring party training. Chloe Allcorn has decided to leave her role as RR. Adele, Amy, Helen, Jackie, Joanna, Lucy H, Lucy M, Maria C, Maria W & Paul are still available for help and support and continue to monitor the BFA enquiries emails.

Vicky Fraser continues to support the BFA committee in her role as Veterinary advisor we have now extended this to a Veterinary team and Vicky has been joined by Jane Connolly, Sam Fullagar & Nikita McNiff.

Dave Long has recently retired from his role as lights co-ordinator and this role is currently being covered by Craig Burrows whilst we look at integrating the role in to the Show Secretary role. Also, many thanks to all the lights custodians for BFA and private sets, without you we couldn't have the amazing racing we see week in, week out.

Kerena Marchant, continues to assist the committee with accessibility options. Last year we challenged her with two new Champs venues.

Webmaster – Ali Kirk ensuring that we are providing a website fit for purpose. He has worked very hard over recent weeks to come up with a solution for us to still hold this AGM and make BFA history in the process.

Our media team is doing a fabulous job of promoting the BFA and also keeping you entertained during lockdown. Keep watching for more fun activities in the coming weeks. Many thanks to Adele Carey, Tracy Muir, Ellie Rivington, Tye Shelley & Helen Ward.

Show Secretary – Maria Casley for keeping on top of requests and applications from Tournament Organisers. Another BFA official who continues to work during lockdown as members are planning ahead for 2021 tournaments to make up for those we are currently having to cancel.

The newly formed Young Members Team who have made the association more interesting, and are continuing to think of great ideas, to encourage our young members. The hunt for glitter balls went down a storm and the kids (and secretly the adults) loved it. Watch out for more to come in 2020.

Thank you to Moe Hendry, Shannon Mills, Ellen Barraclough, Jackie Bradburn, Paul Horton, Sally Cliffe & Jeff Hughes for putting in the hard work for the future generation.

Also, a huge thank you to all the Head Judges, Judges, Measuring Officials and Tournament Organisers, without whom we would not be able to enjoy this fabulous sport with our human and canine friends.

Our current membership stands at just under 2500 members

In April 2020 Aces broke the BFA record with a time of 14.77 seconds at Newark Showground.

British Flyball Champs 2019 saw the committee host 2 Championships over 10 days starting with the Outdoor Champs at Driffield Showground for the first time then moving 178 miles south to Three Counties Showground, another new venue, for the Indoor event.

Outdoor Champions 2019 are Wicked who won Division 1 with a fastest time of 16.07

Indoor Champions 2019 are Commandos who won Division 1 with a fastest time of 15.84

We also provided several workshops for members and have got some exciting plans for 2020.

Since last year's AGM we have had weekly/fortnightly Skype meetings, held 4 Face to Face meetings and planned, planned and planned some more.

2020 has already seen some new challenges for us all with the coronavirus pandemic. Cancelled tournaments, no regular training, no face to face contact with family and friends outside of our homes. As a committee we have had to make decisions which have not been easy, despite us knowing that they are in the best interests of the membership and wider community. We

appreciate all the support you are giving us and your fellow BFA members at this time. We have heard stories of members who are many miles apart checking up on each other daily and we thank every one of you. We pass on our thanks to all the keyworkers who are keeping Britain safe and functioning as much as it can in these unprecedented times. As a committee of 9 we have 4 NHS workers and we ask that you continue to STAY AT HOME, PROTECT THE NHS, SAVE LIVES and we will, as the Queen said, meet again.

Treasurer – Katie Burns

I will try to keep this as brief as I can as I'm used to people turning off when I start talking about databases and spreadsheets.

This has been my second year as treasurer and this year I've had the additional challenge of the making tax digital initiative and having to start using accounting software in order to calculate and submit our VAT returns.

There is a summary chart and I will quickly run through the content. It is worth noting that all the figures are excluding VAT.

Membership – the figure on the chart from 2018 is slightly misleading as we brought forward the renewal date for 2019 it actually includes two lots of renewal figures.

The full membership figure for 2018 was £37,000 and the 2019 figure was slightly higher at £37,552. This is the highest amount for a number of years and in 2019 we finished the year with just below 3000 members.

Tournament registration and Racing fees – tournament registrations are lower than 2018 and also lower than previous years. Due to this we are trying to encourage more teams to host by offering BFA equipment to hire for teams that don't have their own.

Lights – the income from the hire of the lights is similar to 2018 and higher than 2017. Maintenance costs for the lights were similar for 2019 as it was in 2018.

Champs – For the champs I will discuss the figures for both champs combined as some of the costs cover both champs and it's hard to split everything between the two events.

Overall income has dropped from £48,766 in 2018 to £38,787.92, however the Committee worked hard to keep the expenditure down and this has resulted in a drop from £81,082 to £49,182. This still resulted in the champs making a loss overall, however this was a lot less than 2018.

The reduction in expenditure is largely through changing the venues. The costs at Catton had been gradually increasing and having to build the show completely there proved to be very costly in particular the big marquee.

Association expenses - has increased this is due to a number of purchases and general expenditure. This tends to be the heading I use for anything that doesn't have its own category so it's a little like a miscellaneous folder. Included under this heading is AGM voting, the storage containers for equipment, tuff spun, 25 th anniversary badges, regional reps demo packs and APES.

Committee expenses – these have reduced overall by over a £1,000 and this covers 6 face to face weekends (2018 figure was for five meetings). The majority of the committee meetings are done online and we normally have a weekly skype or zoom and no costs are incurred for these.

Awards – over the last few years the overall costs of the awards for both certificates and the glass awards has been increasing steadily. During 2019 we did a full review of awards and as such made the move towards a new style of award as well as changing our certificate supplier. Due to this our awards costs have reduced for the year, BFA merchandise – the merchandise has been added to the list as this has been a new thing for 2019. Expenditure has slightly outweighed the income overall but we still have some stock remaining and some has been used as prizes.

Other things to note, the insurance costs were increased due to an increased level of cover and website costs increased due to changing to a new company who hosts the website.

There were some costs for the launch of the Young Members Scheme which went down so well at both champs and finally we managed to go the whole year with no complaints so no income or expenditure from those.

5. Rule proposals

Constitution

Proposal 1

5.3 – Submitted by the BFA Committee
Impact on Proposal 34 relating to Appendix 1 to be considered.

5.3 The Committee will appoint, either from its Officers or the BFA membership, the following who will report to the Committee as and when required and whose appointment the Committee can terminate, with due cause:

- Records and Statistics **REMOVE: Coordinator** **ADD: Team**
- Webmaster
- Membership Secretary
- **REMOVE: Regional Representative Coordinator and** Regional Representatives
- **REMOVE: Tournament** **ADD: Show** Secretary
- Media Team
- **REMOVE: Lights Coordinator**
- Judges Board
- Awards Secretary
- Height Card Administrator
- Veterinary **REMOVE: Advisor** **ADD: Team**
- Accessibility Advisor

Explanation: Tidy up of official roles to reflect recent re-organisation (the relevant appendix will be updated accordingly).

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

Rules of Flyball Racing

A1 Sanctioned Tournaments

Proposal 2

A.1.1.4 – Submitted by the BFA Committee

A.1.1.4 **REMOVE:** When two one-day sanctioned tournaments are held at the same venue on the same weekend, teams and dogs may only enter Saturday OR Sunday, regardless of whether the tournament organisers are different on each day. This must be stated on the Tournament Schedule. The only exception to this is where the Committee are approached and approve tournaments being hosted in areas of growth (e.g. Isle of Man, Ireland, etc.)

ADD: A dog may not be entered in more than one open sanctioned tournament on the same weekend. A dog may be entered into an open sanctioned tournament and a sanctioned multibreed tournament on the same weekend, but not the same day (see rule A.2.5.2).

Explanation: Current rule allows dogs to be raced at 2 sanctioned tournaments on the same weekend as long as they are not at the same venue. This means a dog could race in 3 sanctioned competitions in one weekend (open at venue A Saturday, open at venue B Sunday, multibreed at either venue A or B Bank-Holiday Monday). This change prevents excessive competition but allows for the continued entry for multibreed on the limited occasions that multibreed competitions are put on.

Discussion: one question about why not reduce to once per weekend on BFAMO discussion thread and this would make people choose between open and multibreed. If starters and pairs is voted in as sanctioned it would need discussing how this would also fit into this rule. No comments made at AGM

Proposal 3

A.1.2.4 - Submitted by the BFA Committee

A.1.2.4 Trophies - The Tournament Organiser is responsible for **REMOVE: acquiring trophies, rosettes and if applicable cash prizes, setting up the trophy table and putting together a list of trophies, prizes and presentations** ADD: 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.

Explanation: A rule instructing TOs to set up tables and make lists seems excessively directive. A simplified rule, making it clear that a presentation is to be arranged and adding a little about sporting ethos and the spirit of flyball.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

Proposal 4

A.1.3.1 - Submitted by the BFA Committee

A.1.3.1 A Tournament schedule for all Open or Limited Sanctioned Tournaments should be submitted **REMOVE: in word format** to the BFA Show Secretary for approval, prior to distribution, no later than 7 days prior to the schedule release of the Tournament.

Explanation: There is no logic or requirement to the direction that the schedule must be in Word format.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

Proposal 5

A.1.3.2 - Submitted by the BFA Committee

A.1.3.2 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 **REMOVE: on the Web-board** giving the date on which the schedule will be available. **REMOVE (ONLY IF A.1.3.5 Committee Proposal is approved): This must be after the last post collection for that day to give all teams an equal chance to enter. Tournament Organisers may choose to permit electronic entries provided they do not disadvantage postal entries in the process. In particular this means that any electronic entries which arrive before the first postal entries will be treated as if they had arrived at the same time as the postal entries.**

New Rule reads: 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.

Explanation: Direction to use 'web-board' is unclear. If it is referring to the Forum this is an outdated tool with limited utility. Instruction to simply 'post' should be clear enough. It is in the TO's interest to ensure their show is adequately advertised, so specific direction on where and how to post is probably unnecessary. The reference to postal entries is extremely dated. This current rule makes receiving tournament entries and providing feedback to teams an inefficient process. Removal does not stop people entering by post should they wish, but it is unclear why anyone would need to do this anyway.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

Proposal 6

A.1.3.3 – Submitted by the BFA Committee

A.1.3.3 **REMOVE: All Entry Forms must be submitted direct to the BFA Registered Host Team of a BFA Sanctioned Tournament entries should include an accompanying cheque, or where the Tournament Organiser has allowed payment by direct bank transfer, this must made within the time limit specified on the entry form. N.B. All queries should be directed to the Tournament Organiser in the first instance** **ADD: 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.**

Explanation: Cheque is an extremely outdated mode of payment and does not need to be specifically referenced. Removal does not prevent payment by cheque but this simply updates the rule to state that entry is not confirmed until payment is made. This will also allow TOs to replace teams that have not paid with those on the reserve list as required to ensure they have sufficient funds coming in in good time so they can put on the show without taking personal financial risk.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

Proposal 7

A.1.3.5 – Submitted by the BFA Committee

Impact of Proposal 8 – A.1.3.5 proposed by Dave Anderson should also be considered

A.1.3.5 REMOVE: 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. If a tournament is over-subscribed 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: 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.

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.

Explanation: ‘Day’ of receipt, rather than time of receipt allows a 24hr period to accommodate shift workers responsible for their team entries. If someone still wishes to enter by post, there is no reason why they couldn’t e-mail, message, or phone the TO to make them aware of their entry so it can be considered in advance of the postal service delivering the message. The current rules about a draw could mean that a TO does not have sufficient MOs, DJs, HJ, lights custodian to properly run the show. It takes a lot of administrative effort to put on a sanctioned show and a TO should be allowed to ensure they are adequately supported. As a secondary consequence, this might also encourage more people to volunteer to support the running of the sport, as we are often short of measuring officials and judges, and sometimes light custodians have to drive along way to provide lights for shows they aren’t even racing at as we are short of lights custodians as well.

Discussion: comments on BFAMO surrounding proposal 8 as well and what if not enough officials after first 24 hours and oversubscribed. Advised to contact Judges Board as currently. No comments at AGM.

Proposal 8

A.1.3.5 – Submitted by Dave Anderson (BFA Number 5034)

Impact of Proposal 7 – A.1.3.5 proposed by BFA Committee should also be considered

A.1.3.5 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. If a tournament is over-subscribed 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: Any teams that failed to enter via the entry draw for the previous tournament should gain automatic entry in the following tournament held by the same tournament organiser at the same venue. This is limited to the next consecutive tournament and not any subsequent ones thereafter.**

Explanation: At small tournaments, particularly in winter, it is very often the same teams which support the tournament it seems very unfair that the same team could continually be excluded just because they are unlucky in the draw. If this change is made it will at least give teams a fair share.

If Proposals 7 and 8 are both successful then rule A.1.3.5 will read as follows:

A.1.3.5 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 with 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.*

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 Judge's, Judges, lights custodians and Measuring Officials.

Any teams that failed to enter via the entry draw for the previous tournament should gain automatic entry in the following tournament held by the same tournament organiser at the same venue. This is limited to the next consecutive tournament and not any subsequent ones thereafter.

Discussion: Discussion on BFAMO surrounded concerns about a time limit and how long a team could hold their 'wild card' for, especially those teams who only host one tournament a year. Also that the guaranteed entries at next show may not provide enough officials to run the show, only really works for teams who host a series of tournaments such as Scorton, Newark, Maidstone. Mentioned about BFA support for teams who are potential hosts (equipment etc).

At AGM – Dave Anderson had already considered an amendment following the points raised on BFAMO, regarding a time limit. On the day questions submitted around time limit, teams being limited to number of teams entered, considerations about whether just to apply in winter season. Points clarified included those around it must be the same TO and venue. Valid point made about this only being for teams who were included in the first draw (so if proposal 7 is passed they must have entered in time to be included in the draw, not enter late and then get automatic entry).

Also discussed if proposal 7 passed would need to consider ensuring all officials available to run tournament.

Amended proposal: add in time limit of 3 months

A.1.3.5 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. If a tournament is over-subscribed 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: Any teams that failed to gain entry via the entry draw for the previous tournament should gain automatic entry in the following tournament held by the same tournament organiser at the same venue. This is limited to the next consecutive tournament, within three months, and not any subsequent ones thereafter.**

Vote on day for amendment Yes 97%, No 3%

Proposal 9

A.1.3.6 – Submitted by BFA Committee

A.1.3.6 **REMOVE: 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. ADD: 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.**

Explanation: The draw is covered in Rule 3.5. The Head Judge part is a repeat of Rule 4.11 (and the Show Secretary does not appoint, the Judges Board does), so these have been deleted. The £100 cash limit makes no sense, and the rest of it has no relevance; the new wording makes it clear that this is an amateur sport. It reflects that the BFA support clubs getting prizes to attract people to their show, but large sums of cash would change the nature of the sport and whilst sponsors are encouraged we need a line when it comes to decency (tobacco, gambling, sex industry) as we like to encourage and protect the younger members

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM.

Proposal 10

A.1.4.2 – Submitted by BFA Committee

A.1.4.2 **REMOVE: Divisions - If the host Team elects to offer divisions, teams should be placed in each division based on times. Teams may submit times for seeding purposes ADD: 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.

Explanation: Change of wording to make it clearer. Tournament Organisers can't offer anything else other than divisions for open racing.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

Proposal 11

A.1.4.9 and A.1.4.10 – Submitted by BFA Committee

A.1.4.9 **REMOVE:** If the Records and Statistics Coordinator is present at the Tournament, the original Time Sheets (BFA Form C.2), and Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) should be handed to them at the time. If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser. Advance Results should be emailed as soon as possible after the tournament ends so that the seed list can be updated. Otherwise, following the Tournament, the Organiser must post the original Time Sheets and Tournament Results form to the Records and Statistics Coordinator within 2 days to ensure that the latter is in receipt of the same within 7 days after the Tournament. Jump Height form(s) (BFA Form C.9) to be forwarded to the Height Card Co-ordinator via either post or email. Any protests and or reports should be forwarded to the BFA Secretary within 7 days. **ADD:** Tournament Organisers are responsible for electronically submitting BFA Form C2 (Time Sheets) and BFA Form C6 (Tournament Results) to the BFA Records and Statistics Team within 48hrs of the last day of the tournament. The Form C6 is also to be sent to the BFA Treasurer within 48 hrs. Advance results should be e-mailed as soon as practicable on conclusion of racing (but no later than 48hrs) 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 Coordinator and any other reporting (as required) sent to the BFA Secretary electronically within 48hrs of the last day of the tournament.

DELETE IN TOTAL: A.1.4.10 The Records and Statistics Co-ordinator will advise the Treasurer if the Organiser has failed to meet the 7-day deadline. The Organiser is to forward a copy of Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) together with payment for the Race Registration fees of * per team per class for all teams entered, including those running Not for Competition (NFC), to the Treasurer by the same 7 day deadline. After the 7 days the Treasurer shall assess the Organiser's liability for a £25 late penalty. * Current fees will be shown on C.6 form.

Explanation: There is no need for 2 separate rules for these issues, so they have been combined. They are both out of date with regards to how these forms are being handled and the process could be a lot more efficient. Photocopying and posting hard copies of these forms is inefficient, introduces more effort than is required and induces unnecessary delay. There is no reason why these forms cannot be photographed or scanned on the day of the tournament and e-mailed to the relevant officials so that processing can start to take place immediately. Late payments are rare and the £25 late fee somewhat draconian, the Committee will by default take responsibility for addressing any future late payments.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread.

At AGM discussion about whether a time limit need to be set for retaining hard copy, discussed as once scanned and all data inputted the TO would be aware that paperwork received. Anything

illegible and a better copy can be requested from TO. Mention about TC address so would need to be appropriately destroyed but this is no longer on C2. TO should be informed when paperwork received was suggested. Signatures been on C2s so need destroying – this doesn't need to be a rule as anyone handling paperwork with sensitive info should destroy appropriately. Discussion about removing signatures from C2 as concerns around security – agreed to remove from C2 but no rule required to do so. (was originally suggested due to numerous queries re: point etc)
Concern about having to take photos of over 100 C2s – advised can scan in a batch or take photos.

Proposal 12

A.1.4.11 – Submitted by BFA Committee

A.1.4.11 **REMOVE:** The Tournament sanctioned by the BFA must use a BFA approved Tournament Head Judge, who should be a current member of either the BFA or other International Flyball body recognised by the BFA. The Tournament Head Judge should not be a member of the Host Team. The BFA will assist the Tournament Organiser by either training or making available a Tournament Head Judge. **ADD:** A tournament sanctioned by the BFA must be overseen by a BFA approved 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.

Explanation: A simple re-wording and clearer direction on what a Tournament Organiser should do in the event of any difficulty appointing a Head Judge.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread

At AGM – question regarding why HJ from host team can't be used. Discussion that Judges Board may consider this but also need to consider needing second opinion, tournament host team are often busy and need other perspective.

Proposal 13

A.1.5.4, A.2.5.2, E4 – Submitted by Reece Marsland (BFA Number 3940)

A.1.5.4 **REMOVE:** Other classes offered may include Multi-breed, Veterans, Novice etc. and various 'Fun Classes'.

ADD: Sanctioned classes are:

Open

Multi-Breed

Singles

Pairs

Other Unsanctioned classes may include:

various 'Fun Classes'

Starters

Intermediates

etc.

A.2.5.2 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 **ADD: singles, pairs**, starters, intermediate 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.

INSERT (and renumber subsequent sections): A.2.5.9

No points will be gained toward certificate Awards for singles and pairs. Singles is run over the height selected by the handler. Pairs is run over the jump height of the smallest dog. The tournament organiser should decide a sensible format based on the tournament schedule.

Some possible formats include:

- Divisions of 4 dogs, best of 3 heats, most race wins sets placing
- Divisions of 3 dogs, run all 3 heats, most heat wins sets placing
- Divisions of 6 dogs, 3 races of 3 heats, fastest time sets divisional placing

POINTS AND AWARDS

E.4. Annual awards

INSERT: 4.4 Breed specific singles awards - Awarded to the dog in each breed category that has run the fastest time from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Singles competitions. This will be awarded to first place only.

4.5 Pairs awards - Awarded to the team that has run the fastest time from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Pairs competitions. This will be awarded up to third place.

Explanation: To add singles and pairs as officially supported formats by the BFA. Singles and Pairs would open up some exciting opportunities and achievements for members:

- Pairs + Singles naturally require fewer team members and dogs to compete and therefore reduce the barrier to people playing flyball;
- With the proposed number of heats it's possible you could run in either of the formats purely in the morning or afternoon - again reducing the barrier to people playing flyball - entire days aren't always possible for some people;
- Identifying the best in class of each breed and celebrate them at the end of each year with an award like we do for the top open and multi-breed teams. E.g.: Bob- Fastest Cocker Spaniel - 2019 Season - 4.29.
- Similar to the points awards, a badge will be displayed on the dogs profile on the BFA website showing the achievement. E.G: 1st Labrador 2019 Season, 3rd Pairs 2019 Season etc.
- A different league table for people to compete in regularly rather than just open; and
- Tournament organisers can offer the format to supplement open/multi-breed racing helping to recoup the costs of hosting and help keep tournaments viable with lower entries.

Discussion: comments made on BFAMO revolved around it being introduced as a sanctioned format, if it was an appendix most of these problems would not occur. Concerns over managing the amount of racing a dog does over a weekend. Concerns about extending the racing day and a TOs capacity to host different formats, but the idea is it fits into spare capacity, but if it's sanctioned a TO has to schedule it in before taking entries to their show. Problems with hosting and maintaining an up to date seed list, not just managing this but how relevant the times would be if people aren't doing singles and pairs every weekend. Fees would need to be determined,

how much it costs to race this format and how TO needs to pay BFA. There are significant costs and admin around providing awards for all breeds, there are over 250 breeds recognised by the BFA so potentially 250 additional awards to be paid for, organised and presented each year, this would be a significant cost. Singles height being selected by handler was raised as a concern for a lot of people for both fairness and dog welfare and it is difficult to reconcile both fairness and of safety on this one. Having it as a sanctioned format is the biggest issue raised which can be overcome by submitting it as an appendix and class it as a fun event, which achieves everything Reece actually wants but without committing to all the awards and seed list maintenance

At AGM – initial concern regarding conflict with rule regarding only racing once in a weekend. Proposer looking for guidance from committee about tournament fees. Clarification that award would not be physical but a note on dog's profile. Similar discussion to that on BFAMO including how it would fit into racing day, would only being able to race on one day in a weekend affect uptake etc, choosing height for singles and discussion around dog welfare, don't need to have a full team to enter a tournament as can do singles/pairs instead. Possibly look at crossbreeds and splitting them up slightly into height categories. Concern about finishing late but other rules limit races per ring per day so this is covered if singles and pairs become sanctioned.

After long discussion and consideration of several amendments with Reece listening to discussion points from attending membership he agreed to below amendment to include singles and pairs as a sanctioned racing option and plan that if proposal carried then committee and proposer to look at appendix with guidance and rules to ensure clear to all and maintaining intention of proposal.

A.1.5.4 REMOVE: Other classes offered may include Multi-breed, Veterans, Novice etc. and various 'Fun Classes'.

ADD: Sanctioned classes are:

Open

Multi-Breed

Singles

Pairs

Other Unsanctioned classes may include:

various 'Fun Classes'

Starters

Intermediates

etc.

Rest of proposal removed and agreement for appendix to state details of implementation – to be discussed if proposal accepted.

Amended proposal: Vote on day for amendment Yes 82%, No 18%

Proposal 14

A.1.5.5 – Submitted by BFA Committee

DELETE IN FULL: A.1.5.5 Tournament Duration Guidelines

a. A 12-team round robin with 2 divisions would require 5 hours, but each team would only race 5 times.

b. A 12-team double elimination would require 3 hours and 50 minutes. Some teams would only race twice, while others would race 5 or 6 times.

Explanation: There is no requirement in the rules for a description of how long a 12 team round robin or double elimination might take.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

Proposal 15

A.1.5.6 – Submitted by BFA Committee

A.1.5.6 Duration of Racing

The Organiser shall not **REMOVE: expect** **ADD: plan on** more than 78 races per ring in any one day **REMOVE: , including starters/intermediates, regardless of format** **ADD: without prior authorisation from the Committee**. Sanctioned racing shall take precedence over fun events at all times.

Explanation: Makes it clear what the race limit is in order to control the length of the racing day but also provides clarification on what a Tournament Organiser should do if they think they might need to breach the 78 race limit.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

A2 Rules for Competition

Proposal 16

A.2.2 – Submitted by BFA Committee

Impact of Proposal 17 – A.2.2 proposed by Reece Marsland should also be considered

A.2.2 Membership

Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of open and multi-breed competitions.

REMOVE: Alcohol is not permitted in the flyball ring during competitions. Smoking of tobacco products (including electronic/vaping type cigarettes) is not permitted within 15 feet of the flyball ring during competitions.

Temporary membership may be offered to guests, following approval by the BFA Committee.

INSERT New rule A.2.12 Alcohol is not permitted in the flyball ring during competitions. Smoking of tobacco products (including electronic/vaping type cigarettes) is not permitted within 15 feet of the flyball ring during competitions.

Explanation: Having alcohol and tobacco restrictions under a section titled membership does not make sense. This proposal simply separates the alcohol and tobacco issue from the membership rule, making it easier to find and reference.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread.

At AGM discussion around vaping and not all vapes are tobacco products, suggestions that vaping should not be allowed at all and some members suggested no vaping at presentation as well. The committee agreed with this and amended the proposal accordingly

A.2.2 Membership

Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of open and multi-breed competitions.

REMOVE: Alcohol is not permitted in the flyball ring during competitions. Smoking of tobacco products (including electronic/vaping type cigarettes) is not permitted within 15 feet of the flyball ring during competitions.

Temporary membership may be offered to guests, following approval by the BFA Committee.

INSERT New rule A.2.12 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.**

Amended proposal: Vote on day for amendment Yes 97%, No 3%

Proposal 17

A.2.2 – Submitted by Reece Marsland (BFA Number 3940)

Impact of Proposal 16 – A.2.2 proposed by BFA Committee should also be considered

A.2.2 Membership

Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of **REMOVE: open and multi-breed** **ADD: official** competitions.

Alcohol is not permitted in the flyball ring during competitions. Smoking of tobacco products (including electronic/vaping type cigarettes) is not permitted within 15 feet of the flyball ring during competitions.

Temporary membership may be offered to guests, following approval by the BFA Committee.

Explanation: Clean up existing rule as we offer multiple competition types.

If Proposals 16 and 17 are both voted in then rule A.2.2 will read as follows:

A.2.2 Membership

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.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and only comment at AGM was around wording being sanctioned instead of official. Amendment made.

A.2.2 Membership

Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of **REMOVE: open and multi-breed** **ADD: sanctioned** competitions.

Amended proposal: Vote on day for amendment Yes 99%, No 1%

Proposal 18

A.2.3.1 – Submitted by BFA Committee

To be read in conjunction with Proposal 30 on rules A.3.12 and A.3.13 proposed by BFA Committee

A.2.3.1 **REMOVE:** Dogs under the age of 18 months will not be allowed to compete at sanctioned Flyball events even if running in a team stated Not for Competition (NFC) **ADD:** 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).

Explanation: Change of reference based on combining the rules for withdrawal from racing and going NFC.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

Proposal 19

A.2.3.2 – Submitted by BFA Committee

DELETE IN FULL: A.2.3.2 If a Starters Competition is run, dogs entered must be a minimum of 12 months old.

Explanation: There's a separate starters Appendix which covers the rules for starters racing so this is a duplicate rule.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread and no comments made at AGM

Proposal 20

A.2.7.1 – Submitted by Dave Anderson (BFA Number 5034) on behalf of the box working group

A.2.7.1 Flyball Boxes

a. Each team shall supply its own Flyball box, which **REMOVE:** should be safe and fit for the purpose intended **ADD:** 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 either covered or small enough to not allow a dog to trap a toe
- 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 mechanisms 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 24" from the box cup in a forward direction.

e. **REMOVE: Boxes shall not exceed 30" in width, 20" in height or 30" in depth. The dimensions do not include any platform the box loader uses to hold the box in place.** ADD: The landing area is the front elevation of the box, it includes the ball hole plate on fixed plate boxes. The landing area of any box should 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. **REMOVE: Boxes should be constructed with the comfort and wellbeing of the dog in mind. Sharp edges should be avoided and adequate padding and protection should be used.** ADD: 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 by a further 6" to a maximum of 36".

ADD: g. The main body of the box must not be more than ¼" higher or wider than the landing area.

Explanation: At present rule A.7.1 uses the subjective terms safe and fit for the purpose intended in section a. The proposed changes start to address some specific issues which will improve the safety of our boxes and reduce the risk of injury to our dogs.

The additions to section e are to clarify which parts of the box are to be included in the measuring of the box and it adds a tolerance into the sizes. As the rule stood there was no guidance for head judges on where the measure was to be taken from and there was no Existing Rule.

Discussion: On BFAMO thread and at AGM very similar. Concerns re: limitation in depth of base of box, ?tipping/stability. Discussion around protection around levers on top of boxes, such as Miller/Belgian. Visual training aids (e.g. paint on front of box) are acceptable, tape was discussed but can get slippery if outside and gets wet. QJ or HJ still have ability to address concerns about safety. Clarified that these rules do not stop judges using their discretion if any concerns about safety/dog welfare. Ribbed matting around holes mentioned but as yet there is no specific definition of what padding must be used. Agreement to include levers in part iv, and also to remove restriction on base plate as mentioned in f. Comments that much clearer guidance on box requirements. CAD drawing has been changed to reflect change to no restriction on base plate. Judges Board will be able to offer guidance to judges if needed. Acknowledgement and thanks to Ged from Geordies for providing the CAD drawings.

A.2.7.1 Flyball Boxes

a. Each team shall supply its own Flyball box, which **REMOVE: should be safe and fit for the purpose intended** ADD: 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 either covered or small enough to not allow a dog to trap a toe

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 mechanisms (**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 24" from the box cup in a forward direction.

e. **REMOVE:** Boxes shall not exceed 30" in width, 20" in height or 30" in depth. The dimensions do not include any platform the box loader uses to hold the box in place. **ADD:** The landing area is the front elevation of the box, it includes the ball hole plate on fixed plate boxes. The landing area of any box should 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. **REMOVE:** Boxes should be constructed with the comfort and wellbeing of the dog in mind. Sharp edges should be avoided and adequate padding and protection should be used. **ADD:** 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.**

ADD: g. The main body of the box must not be more than ¼" higher or wider than the landing area.

Amended proposal: Vote on day for amendment Yes 97%, No 3%

Proposal 21

A.2.7.2 – Submitted by Reece Marsland (BFA Number 3940)

A.2.7.2 Balls

Each team shall have its own supply of **REMOVE:** un-punctured, tennis balls (any colour – that should easily be distinguishable when being carried by a dog, to a judge officiating a race) Subject to the size and comfort of the dog, other tennis-type smaller approved balls may be used **ADD:** balls that bounce and roll. The balls can be any colour that can easily be distinguishable when being carried by a dog, to a judge officiating a race. Balls must not contain any noise making items such as a squeaker. The ball must travel 24" when fired by the box..

Explanation: Allowing different ball types: Reducing the training barrier for some breeds - e.g. a rabbit ball, rubber ball. As long as it fires the same distance then why does it matter as long as it's safe to use (Head Judge decision - they already have this issue to watch out for - in current rules we could use small balls for large breeds which is obviously a choking hazard).

Discussion on BFAMO: Safety of any non standard ball was raised and whose responsibility it was to determine whether a ball is actually safe or not remains unanswered. How would testing of balls take place, a lot of time pressure on HJ before racing takes place. Distraction was by far the biggest issue of concern and came it time and again, especially if rabbit balls or fur balls were used, encouraging other dogs to chase and crate issues at both box end and in run back area.

People were worried that racing conditions would start to diverge as all dogs not racing using roughly the same balls. Possible amendment is that any non standard ball requires approval by JB prior to use in Competition.

Discussion at AGM: similar discussion to that above regarding concerns about use of certain balls (rabbit balls and possibility of interference, hard rubber balls and safety issues) but at present these could be used as a reward by handlers and no restriction on this. Discussion about differences in distance fired, rolled, bounced and this will increase if more different types of balls introduced. Already some differences with low pressure tennis balls and mini tennis balls. Consideration given to whether all types of balls needed checking in box etc by HJ prior to racing. Reece happy to amend proposal to give power to Committee/Judges Board to approve balls in advance. Balls would need to be approved with some planning, teams cannot be expected to turn up to a tournament with a different ball and expect to use it, a request should be made to the committee

A.2.7.2 Balls

Each team shall have its own supply of **REMOVE: un-punctured, tennis balls (any colour – that should easily be distinguishable when being carried by a dog, to a judge officiating a race)** Subject to the size and comfort of the dog, other tennis-type smaller approved balls may be used **ADD: committee approved** balls that bounce and roll. The balls can be any colour that can easily be distinguishable when being carried by a dog, to a judge officiating a race. Balls must not contain any noise making items such as a squeaker. The ball must travel 24” when fired by the box.

Amended proposal: Vote on day for amendment Yes 77%, No 23%

Proposal 22

A.2.10 – Submitted by BFA Committee

A.2.10 Record Times

REMOVE: British record breaking times for both Open and Multi-breed Sanctioned Tournaments must be recorded on the appropriate form and verified by a BFA Head judge and a committee member or their representative, (i.e. the tournament organiser or another head judge), if a committee member is not present. The following must be checked and verified: Lane length, jump height, and placement, box function and placement, function and alignment of timing equipment. The measurement of the height dog must be verified by checking the current Dog Height Master List that is held by the Tournament organiser if the dog is not on the Dog Height Master List then the dog shall be measured unless it has been measured that day and recorded on Jump height form C9. Times recorded at a BFA sanctioned tournament on approved BFA timing equipment will be recognised as a record breaking time.

ADD: 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) is 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).

Purpose: Current rule is out-of-date with regard to height measurements. The current rule also means that should a dog accidentally knock a jump out of position, or over, the record would not be valid. It also places too much pressure on the Head Judge at the time the record is set, with the amendment placing some onus on the Committee to conduct the extra checks and validate the record. The proposed amendment more accurately reflects that immediate checks which should be required to provisionally award a new record, with final validation by the Committee after membership records had been checked.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread.

At AGM questions asked why committee member preferred to QJ to be second check for record times. Discussed that committee members all host at least two tournaments annually (Champs) so have experience of hosting and ring set up etc, also ordinarily more experienced than some QJs. Committee members are very familiar with the rules due to their ongoing review of them.

A3 Rules of Racing

Proposal 23

A.3.5.2 – Submitted by BFA Judges Board

A.3.5.2 Broken Boards – **REMOVE:** The heat shall not be stopped for broken boards, unless, in the opinion of the Division Judge the dog(s) may be subject to injury. If the Division Judge stops the heat to prevent a possible injury, it is to be restarted. **ADD:** The heat may be stopped for broken boards or knocked down jumps if, in the opinion of the Divisional Judge, the dog(s) may be subject to injury. If the Divisional Judge stops the heat to prevent a possible injury, the heat is to be restarted.

Explanation: To clarify that the heat should be restarted where there is any chance of injury to the dog, including from knocked down jumps.

Discussion: discussion on BFAMO was around whether a race should be stopped regardless but Judges Board feel this should be judges discretion. If 4th dog returning then no need to stop race for knocked down jump. Comment made about top slat bowing out and judge can't always see – in this case ring party should be alerting judge.

Proposal 24

A.3.8.1 – Submitted by Kim Sermon (BFA Number 2306)

A.3.8.1 Interference

Interference - Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dog from running/completing it's race. This includes interference in the racing lane, in all bound areas and in the area where dogs are waiting to run. A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference if it does not impede the opposing team from racing. The

team causing an interference will forfeit the heat. **REMOVE: The interference** **ADD: Any interference, including during warm up**, will be noted against the offending dogs' details on the C2 form by the divisional judge, including a description of the incident. If a dog interferes with the opposing team more than twice during a Sanctioned Tournament the team must not run that dog until the opposing team have fully completed their heat. This will apply for the remainder of the Tournament. If a dog continually interferes with opposing Teams, it is at the Divisional Judge's discretion that it may be excluded from racing and the Team be allowed to use a reserve if one is recorded on their Time Sheet.

Explanation: Interference during warm up should be treated as seriously as the racing. Dogs should be under control at all times in the sanctioned ring. I believe after seeing several incidences over the last year that a dog who is repeatedly interfering in warm ups have then gone on to interfere in the race. A dog interfering in warm up is no less dangerous than a dog interfering in a race.

Discussion: All comments had been in support of this proposal on BFAMO discussion . At AGM comments made about ring party needing to change as QJ and ring party will need to be watching all warm-up, need to ensure ring party in ring before warm-up starts. Teams who are being exuberant with a tuggy in one lane may cause a distraction to opposition team. Clarification that intent of dog is to be recorded. C2 will have key to new categorisation of interference (this had been discussed within the committee and at judges seminars but not implemented before lockdown) Intention is for any instances to be documented in main box on C2. Comments made that warm up can be confusing for teams with dogs/handlers entering the ring from all different directions and dogs grouped in box area

Proposal 25

A.3.8.2 – Submitted by Janet Anderson (BFA Number 5035)

A.3.8.2 Distraction

Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means including throwing any object for their dogs (e.g. toys, treats or motivators). The first offence of distraction shall receive a warning - a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat at the Divisional Judge's discretion. Team members are required to pick up any loose balls at the end of each heat. **ADD: Treats must be kept in a closed container in the ring and must be given, not dropped, beyond the 50ft line in the run back area. The Divisional Judge has the discretion to indicate a suitable area less than 50ft from the start/finish gate in the event of a short run back area.**

Explanation: Incidents of treats being dropped in the arena both at the box end during warm ups and in the racing lane is increasing. I have even seen handlers throwing treats on the ground at the end of the run. This is a distraction to both scent driven dogs and other dogs that are rewarded by the giving of the treat. One team or handler's carelessness can have an impact on a team using that lane later in the day, not just on their direct opponents in a race, so the distraction rule in its current form does not help this situation as we have no way of knowing which team was responsible. Limiting the areas in which treats can be given to a dog whilst in the arena should hopefully reduce instances of treats left in the lane or run back.

Discussion on BFAMO was most commented upon proposal – general consensus that ca20reless

use of treats is an issue. Concerns of people using treats in warm up at box and issues with safety is unable to do so, mobility issues of members not being able to get back to 50 foot line. May reduce control of dog if too far from dog. Would need to be adjusted for those with mobility issues.

AGM discussion – proposer had already considered an amendment to change closed container to secure container and given, not dropped, beyond the judges stand or at the side of the ring in the run back. Further discussion around where judges stand goes as no specific distance in rules and teams could move this forward so changed to 25 foot. Questions around whether treats can be used at box to reward in warm up from several members. Discussion about forfeit of legs and ring party needing to be alert to use of treats as often not discovered until next race, as per Euros the forfeit would be the next leg the team would be due to race, so whether current race or next one. One of the main problems is treats being dropped as handlers runs down jumps. One amendment made but still unclear to may so after proposal 33 the second amendment (below) was put to present membership which included use of treats in box area as long as given to dog by hand and not dropped.

Amendment by proposer:

A.3.8.2 Distraction

Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means including throwing any object for their dogs (e.g. toys, treats or motivators). The first offence of distraction shall receive a warning - a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat at the Divisional Judge's discretion. Team members are required to pick up any loose balls at the end of each heat. ADD: Treats must be kept in a secure container in the ring. Dogs may be treated at the box during warm up from your hand, not dropped. During racing treats shall only be given behind the 25 foot mark in the run back area, from your hand not dropped on the floor. If using treats and they are dropped on the floor before the 25 foot mark, including the box area and racing lane, the team shall be given a warning. Further offences from the same team and the team shall forfeit the next heat(s).

Amended proposal: Vote on day for amendment Yes 92%, No 8%

Proposal 26

A.3.9 – Submitted by Sian Turner-Gilbert (BFA Number 9581)

A.3.9 **Boxloader** – REMOVE: Except during the warm up, to load the box, to retrieve a loose ball or get a fresh supply of balls to load, ADD: During the warm up, the box loader must remain on the box, but 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. ADD: 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 offer verbal encouragement only, as long as such encouragement does not distract the opposing team. REMOVE: the boxloader is to remain in position until the divisional judge determines the outcome of the heat. ADD: 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.

Explanation: There is ambiguity in the wording, understanding and interpretation of the rule. When the boxloader is not on the box when the dog hits/turns on it, there is an increased risk of injury due to the movement of the box. I have known of multiple dogs that have sustained injuries to their shoulders and/or groins due to hitting/turning on the box without a boxloader on it. I have also seen boxloaders come off the box during racing to collect balls whilst a dog has hit/turned on it.

Discussion: no comments had been made on BFAMO discussion thread.

At AGM: Comments about if boxloader runs out of balls are they able to get more during heat. Can loose balls be retrieved during a heat? See that proposal is about safety and that boxloader should be on box when dog turning on box. Discussion with proposer about amendments to allow loose balls to be retrieved if safe to do so.

Amendment agreed by proposer:

A.3.9 Boxloader – REMOVE: Except during the warm up, to load the box, to retrieve a loose ball or get a fresh supply of balls to load, **ADD:** During the warm up, the box loader must remain on the box whilst dogs are turning on the box. Boxloaders 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. **ADD:** 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 boxloader 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. **REMOVE:** the boxloader is to remain in position until the divisional judge determines the outcome of the heat. **ADD:** 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.

Amended proposal: Vote on day for amendment Yes 95%, No 5%

Proposal 27

A.3.10 – Submitted by Rachel Short (BFA Number 3267) and Craig Burrows (BFA Number 2190)

The impact of Proposals 28, 29 and 30 relating to rules A.3.10 and A.3.13 should also be considered.

A.3.10 The Finish – The first team to have all four dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last of the four dogs reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat. A Heat may be won due to default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing. A Judge at his discretion can stop a race to allocate a win to a team that has not completed a heat. A loss for both teams may be recorded. BO times will not be used for team placing's in the event of a tie. In the event of 3 BO's all earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents. **ADD:** 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 3 heats. Teams that run less than four dogs in this scenario will be considered withdrawn from racing.

Explanation: Flyball is a race and teams should race wherever possible. Teams should not be able to decide the winner of a race as this could affect the result of a division. This should not happen in any division and certainly not at a Championship.

Discussion: Discussion on BFAMO thread around whether it is fair for teams to take a loss-loss when they can't race each other due to dog welfare etc. Current rule actually means that if one team didn't race they have withdrawn from racing. This has been Judges Board guidance for last 3 years. Recent polls on judges page had judges in favour of 42 to 1 of this proposal. Concerns that it reduces a team's chance of winning the division are not proven as teams can win a division with 4 wins if they have beaten every other team in the division. If teams unable to race each other consider contacting TO prior to tournament and asking not to be in same division. Teams shouldn't be able to decide who wins and ultimately affect the outcome of a division. Discussion about what would happen in DE and the current rule would mean a team would have to withdraw if doesn't race, giving, in essence, two teams a straight win with no race to progress. Reminder that this is a binary choice between this proposal and the current rule which is that if a team does not race when scheduled to do so they have withdrawn from racing.

At AGM: similar discussions. Mention of if green dog in team and had to hold back this would mean a team is choosing a winner. Usually teams who put a green dog in are more concerned about the dog doing it correctly than winning so a different scenario, also both teams are in the ring so racing each other. Comparisons made to races against empty lanes and NFC as these aren't races but these are not under the control of an individual team. A member clarified that against NFC/empty the lane the difference is that the team "racing" turns up for its race so can win. A team which does not enter the ring cannot win. DE questions raised again and discussed that if the rule was passed then this would be discussed by the committee prior to any DE competitions so a plan is decided upon in advance. At this years Championships in top 3 divisions of both there were no situations where teams could not race each other. Discussion about whether the previous suggestion of each team running 3 heats separately and deciding a winner based on times etc would be considered by the proposers but dismissed because as soon as one team has entered the ring the other has withdrawn by not being present. Present members were advised that this has been proposed as it has been guidance and generally followed for last 3 years.

Proposal 28

A.3.10, A.3.11 and A.3.12 – Submitted by BFA Judges Board

The impact of Proposals 27, 29 and 30 relating to rules A.3.10, A.3.11 and A.3.12 should also be considered.

A.3.10 The Finish - The first team to have all four dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last of the four dogs reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat. A Heat may be won due to default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing. A Judge at his discretion can stop a race to allocate a win to a team that has not completed a heat. A loss for both teams may be recorded. BO times will not be used for team placing's in the event of a tie. In the event of 3 BO's **REMOVE: all earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents** **ADD: or a team going NFC, 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.**

A.3.11 Break outs - With the exception of division 1, a team running more than ½ second faster than its declared submitted time will be declared the loser of that heat.

Division Break-out – with the exception of division 1, a team running more than ½ second faster than the time of the top team in a division (whether seeded time or declared time) shall be the loser of that heat. If both teams ‘breakout’ in a heat or one team ‘breaks-out’ and the other fail to finish, both will be declared losers. A team that ‘breaks-out’ three times in a tournament will be ineligible for any placement in that tournament. If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply. Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets. 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 3 break outs, all earlier **REMOVE: races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents** **ADD 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. **REMOVE: NOTE: This rule applies to all teams entered. Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets.**

A.3.12 NFC – Not for competition

If a team introduces training aids (e.g. jump wings) during the course of a heat, they shall be declared ‘not for competition’ – NFC. Team members may, in consultation with the Divisional Judge and having declared themselves as NFC, be allowed in the racing lane to assist with training aids or become static training aids, however the opposing racing team can object to the Divisional Judge if they consider this to be too much of a distraction. NFC team members will refrain from running or walking up and down the racing lane during a race. The NFC team will continue to run but all their races will be recorded as lost. All earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents **ADD: where that opponent has completed the heat.** Their Time Sheet will be noted accordingly.

Purpose: The current rules appear to contradict each other in places and cause confusion amongst Judges and competitors regarding when a loss-loss result is appropriate. Furthermore, some competitors feel that teams can gain an advantage when racing a team that has gone NFC or a team that has already broken out 3 times as there is no current requirement for all four dogs to complete in order to win a leg against such teams (compared to those who had to race

them earlier in the day before they were NFC or before they broke out 3 times). The new rule therefore brings in the requirement of completing a leg in order to win a race, including on a look back at prior races. Teams therefore need to get into the mentality of completing at least one leg per race in case the result of that race is overturned later in the day.

Wording of note on break out rule is duplicated unnecessarily so the duplicate has been removed.

Discussion: Comments on BFAMO thread questioned whether this would encourage teams to re-run early fault lights to get a time. Concern about fairness should a team go NFC after already racing some teams and those teams did not have the advantage of knowing they would need a time for one leg, thus encouraging teams to run faults just in case they need a time.

AGM: Stems from queries to Judges Board about when a loss-loss should be awarded, when a NT win can be awarded etc. Some confliction in the rules so this is to clarify when a team can win against. Clarification that a team must get a time to be awarded a win against an NFC or withdrawn team (this would also include an AVG 5 INT as team not given opportunity to complete due to interference). No other questions.

Proposal 29

A.3.10, A.3.11, B.3.2.8 – Submitted by BFA Committee

The impact of Proposals 27 and 28 relating to rules A.3.10 and A.3.11 should also be considered.

A.3.10 The Finish - The first team to have all four dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last of the four dogs reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat. A Heat may be won due to default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing. A Judge at his discretion can stop a race to allocate a win to a team that has not completed a heat. A loss for both teams may be recorded. BO times will not be used for team placing's in the event of a tie. In the event of **REMOVE: 3 ADD: 2** BO's all earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents.

A.3.11 Break outs - With the exception of division 1, a team running more than **REMOVE: ½ ADD: 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 **REMOVE: ½ ADD: 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 fail to finish, both will be declared losers. A team that 'breaks-out' **REMOVE: three times ADD: twice** in a tournament will be ineligible for any placement in that tournament. If the **REMOVE: electronic system ADD: 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 **REMOVE: 3 ADD: 2** break outs, all earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents.

Flyball is a sport of racing where good sportsmanship is paramount. It is unsporting for a team to deliberately hold back (either on starts or crosses) in order to gain points or division placing. Where a team is seen by the 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. **REMOVE: NOTE: This rule applies to all teams entered. Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets.**

B.3.2.8 A loss for both teams shall be recorded in the following circumstances.

- a. An NFC team running against a team presenting with less than 4 dogs (i.e. due to injury or other exceptional circumstances)
- b. A team that has already broken out **REMOVE: 3 ADD: 2** times racing against an NFC team
- c. A team that breaks out (single heat) racing against an NFC team.
- d. When both teams break out
- e. When both teams choose not to rerun a dog in order to finish the race
- f. In circumstances a and b only three heats will be run. Circumstances c, d and e will count as one leg raced and may result in only three heats being run

Explanation: It is recognised that early in the season teams are bedding in and dogs improving and teams breaking out is to be expected. However, it is still very clear that many teams are still trying to play the system and gain as much advantage as they can to win a rosette which is both unfair and introduces ill feeling into our sport which we don't want. This kind of 'management' is inconsistent with the BFA ethos. It is still far too easy to manage a 3 Strikes and you're out rule for BOs, reducing to 2 will help this. With over 450 different teams competing last year the racing is much closer than it ever has been and the 1/2 second stretch on BO is allowing far too much leeway for teams to win divisions without racing. With current technology, and common practices of tracking dog performance there is no reason why club captains should be getting their team times so badly wrong on a regular basis. Anyone unsure on how to manage team or declared times can get advice from more experienced flyballers, RRs or the Committee.

It should be noted that over half the teams at the 2019 British Champs that won their division did so after having broken out or having gone significantly faster than their seed time and only being within a very small margin of BO. This is not fair on the other competitors and is not what the BFA is about.

EJS is for consistency of language when referring to the timing system.

Discussion: BFAMO - questions about inconsistency in racing conditions outdoors, is there a statistical way to work out break out times so fair across the board but vary across divisions, change would have greater impact on slower divs where dogs tend to vary more in time. Discussed this could be monitored and amended as necessary. Can look at statistical analysis in due course.

AGM: Example given of a relative percentage of breakout of 2% (16 secs =0.32, 20 secs = 0.4, 25 secs = 0.5). Can monitor this year and look at adjustment next year to a relative breakout.

Question asking if we were aware of how many teams would have broken out at Champs based on this proposal – approx. 50% of teams broke out or ran within <10% of break out concerns about 0.25 second being inappropriate for teams running >20 seconds. Asked if declared time was being changed to 0.25 of a second but that would be a different proposal. Question posed about whether this could be 2 proposals to split the changes – this was discussed within the committee and decided that both aspects needed changing to have an impact. Again, comment made about different racing conditions dependent on weather etc but teams who regularly race outdoors don't have huge variances on seed times.

Proposal 30

A.3.12 and A.3.13 – Submitted by BFA Committee

The impact on Proposals 27 and 28 in relation to rules A.3.10 and A.3.12 should also be considered and all references in rules to NFC be amended to WFC should this proposal be successful.

DELETE IN FULL: A.3.12 NFC – Not for competition

If a team introduces training aids (e.g. jump wings) during the course of a heat, they shall be declared 'not for competition' – NFC. Team members may, in consultation with the Divisional Judge and having declared themselves as NFC, be allowed in the racing lane to assist with training aids or become static training aids, however the opposing racing team can object to the Divisional Judge if they consider this to be too much of a distraction. NFC team members will refrain from running or walking up and down the racing lane during a race. The NFC team will continue to run but all their races will be recorded as lost. All earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents. Their Time Sheet will be noted accordingly.

DELETE IN FULL: A.3.13 Withdrawal from racing

13.1 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.

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

13.3 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.

13.4 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.

13.5 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.

ADD: A.3.12 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). 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 an 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. 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).

Explanation: Current rule for NFC states that in order to go NFC a team is actually required to introduce a training aid whilst the dogs are running. Which is just a little bonkers. It is also unclear why it is, after going NFC, that a team loses all points and times set that were legitimately earned prior to going NFC. Rule 12 and 13 are effectively about the same thing, withdrawal from open racing so this proposal combines the 2 rules. The proposed amendment makes it clearer how a withdrawal is managed by the team, the judge and the Tournament Organiser.

Discussion: No comments made on BFAMO

AGM: Question about whether this proposal allows training aids in open racing but clarified that this is not the case. Question about if a team withdraws due to injury but had completed some races do they lose all races? Clarified that withdrawn teams keep all points, wins, times etc up to point of withdrawal

B Judging and Ring Party

Proposal 31

B.3.1.1 – Submitted by BFA Judges Board

B.3. Divisional Judge

1. Qualifying process

1.1 To become a Qualified Judge, individuals must:

- a. Be 18 Years of age
- b. Must be in good standing with the BFA for a minimum of 36 months.
- c. 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.
- d. Have completed a minimum of 5 assignments as Line Judge, Box Judge and Scribe for a minimum of 12 races **ADD: or a whole division, where the division consists of less than 12 races.** Only one assignment of Box Judge, Line Judge and Scribe can be signed off by a judge from your own team. At least 2 of each assignment shall be directly supervised by a Head Judge or Judges' Board Member. If a candidate is considered "Not Ready" for "Provisional Judge" status, further ring party assignments can be requested.
- e. Completed at least 10 Division Judge Assignments as a Provisional Judge and have a report completed by a supervising judge or Head Judge (at least 3 by a Head Judge), with a minimum of 5 different judges providing reports. If a candidate is considered "Not Ready" for "Qualified Judge" status, further provisional judging assignments can be requested.

Explanation: Currently a provisional judge could complete a ring party assignment for the whole of a 5 team division but it would not count for their logbook as the division is only 10 races long.

Discussion: No comments made on BFAMO or at AGM

C Measuring Process

Proposal 32

C.1.5 and C.2.1 – Submitted by Maxine Hurlstone (BFA Number 7443)

C.1.5 Height measurements **ADD: along with the dog's name, breed, primary team name, BFA number and the dog's microchip number** are to be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by both officials who have measured the dog(s).

C.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" **ADD: and a microchip scanner.**

Explanation: Currently heights cards are issued but there is nothing linking the card, or the BFA number to the individual dog. If a dog seemed to be running at a lower height it could not be proved the dog is the dog named on the C2 or the C9. All dogs now need to be microchipped by law so all BFA dogs will have microchip numbers. The scanners simply display the microchip number/code and no personal data so this does not affect data protection laws. Scanners can be bought for £43.00. Each lights set includes the lights and measuring equipment so would need to include a scanner there is currently 5 BFA sets and 8 private sets so the cost of adding scanners would be £344.00.

The C9 form would need to be adjusted to include a space for microchip numbers as would the data base and the height card master sheet.

BFAMO discussion about implementation cost, privacy and data protection, increasing length of measuring process and changing forms. Does the benefit justify the cost and effort of implementation?

AGM – currently no way of linking actual dog to their height card. £344 to buy all halo scanners (£43 each). Petlog & Identichip confirmed to proposer that no details would be given based on microchip number, owners name and dogs name, they would . Proposer had already consider the introduction of a new form which was held by the HJ only so not publicly available. No need for height cards to be altered as records can be crosschecked if needed.

What if a dog has 2 microchips? – would need to scan and record both numbers.

Is there a problem with dog substitution at measuring, is there evidence that this is an issue? Proposer feels there is a problem in that dogs are not directly linked to their BFA number and this would fill that gap.

Discussion around who would keep scanners and suggested that this would be with lights/measuring equipment

Concerns about being able to change ownership of a dog if microchip number, name and breed known (specifically in relation to Petlog) so data collection would have to be kept very securely.

Queries about what happens if people don't consent to providing their dog's microchip number – as reassurance given that information won't be public but if made part of measuring process and not followed then the dog wouldn't be able to be a height dog. Need to be careful we adhere to GDPR as although dog information is not covered under GDPR a microchip number links to owner's information. If height queried and dog not linked to microchip number then process for querying a height would need to be followed. Process explained.

What if chip can't be found? Would dog not be able to race? Dogs would still be able to race but record made that chip unable to be scanned.

Would this apply to all dogs on a C2 to prove they are the dogs racing if concerns about incorrect dogs being presented for measuring? Possibly a thought for future.

Comment that dog information not covered under data protection.

Discussion about refusing consent for microchip details to be logged, why refuse when used by agility etc?

All dogs who already have a height card would need to be scanned, but not remeasured.

If a dog who already has a height card and has been racing and their owner refuses to provide chip details what will happen? Can dog not race?

Concern about how long a microchip number is and possibility of human error – suggestions to minimise would be double check by owner. There are scanners available which can be linked directly to a computer so number can be exported automatically. Future possibilities of linking everything to height database etc.

Amendment to proposal due to comments made regarding privacy of data.

C.1.5 Height measurements ADD: along with the dog's name, breed, primary team name and BFA number are to be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by both officials who have measured the dog(s). In addition to the above information, the dog's microchip number shall also be recorded on BFA form C.10 and signed by both officials who have measured the dog(s).

C.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" ADD: and a microchip scanner.

Amended proposal: Vote on day for amendment Yes 66%, No 34%

NB: if this proposal is voted in, form C.10 subject to change after checking of historical forms

E Points and Awards

Proposal 33

E.1.1 – Submitted by Trudy Boakes (BFA Number 3208)

E.1. Dog points and awards

1.1 Each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned flyball tournament with a recorded time, each dog that contributed to the time will earn points towards a flyball title (Appendix 2). The teams must actually **REMOVE: compete ADD: complete**. The amount of points awarded will depend on the time gained, as follows:

- Under 18 seconds = 30 points
- Under 21 seconds = 25 points
- Under 24 seconds = 20 points
- Under 27 seconds = 15 points
- Under 30 seconds = 10 points

ADD: - 30 seconds and above = 5 points when the heat is run by 4 dogs without fault

All team handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered, and registered to an owner/handler who is a current BFA member. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points.

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

Explanation: I believe that there should be a reward for all dogs who successfully complete a run regardless of how long it takes. We have a team who run slower times and it is a bit soul destroying for them when they run without fault all day and only earn a handful of points as a lot of times they run over 30 seconds. At one show they raced all day and gained a third place in their division but were only awarded 5 points for their whole days racing. Every handler puts in the same amount of effort and costs to attend shows and yet those with slower dogs are not getting the same recognition.

Discussion: BFAMO - raised issues regarding accurate completion of C2 to record clean runs. Suggestion that all points should be for clean runs, but this is not covered in this proposal AGM - Many questions to proposer about whether she would change to include points only allocated for clean legs throughout the points system, another suggestion about any team that runs over 30 secs regardless of re-runs to complete, adding 35 points for teams running under 16 seconds. Concerns about whether documenting clean legs would be done for those legs necessary - suggestion that ALL clean legs marked regardless of time then it becomes common place. Proposer very keen at the moment to award the slower dogs who run clean but happy for other potential proposers to submit their proposals next year.

NB: It has been pointed out that throughout the rules the terms "heat" and "leg" are used interchangeably. For consistency we will change all references of "leg" to "heat".

6. Any other business

A) Notification of changes to Starters racing structure/guidelines

During the break at the AGM a video was shown highlighting the changes to starters/flyball foundations. This is available to view on the BFA public facebook page

BFA STARTERS RULE EXPLANATION

There has been much discussion regarding starters competitions and how members would like to be able to train and condition flyball dogs prior to being eligible and/or ready to race in open competition. Prior to putting forward any recommendations for the BFA rules an online survey was conducted to gather the opinions of the membership regarding how young or inexperienced dogs should be introduced to competitive flyball. The survey identified that the current rules for starters do not meet the requirements of the membership. There is notable support for the concept of starters caveated by a very clear demand for more control over this type of flyball. The survey results showed that there was demand for 3 separate levels of starter flyball; sanctioned starters competitions, governed by BFA rules and supervised by a BFA QJ; supervised training in a BFA competition ring; and 'fun' events, which would be unsanctioned.

The survey was available online for a 2-week period from 2-16 Feb and 295 completed surveys were received. This constitutes circa 13% of the active membership and is in-line with the normal participation levels in the on-line voting for the BFA AGM. The survey results show that just over 70% of the membership think that the BFA need to re-structure the current starters system. The current starters system received an approval rating of just 5.6 out of 10, with only 21% of the membership rating it as 8 out of 10 or higher. 17% rated it as 3 or lower and 61% rated it between 4 & 7 out of 10. These results provide a clear mandate for change and a revision of Appendix 8.

There was a complete 50/50 split on the idea of starters being competitive vice non-competitive and there was a far higher approval rating for the current 'intermediates' system

of 7 out of 10 vice the 5.6 for traditional starters. To meet all members' needs, there needs to be a balance between the ability to compete in a non-open setting vice the ability to effectively train/condition dogs in a BFA ring setting. There was only a very small demand for starters as a 'fun' event.

Standards. It is clear that there is concern among the membership about governance, the standards of behaviour and levels of training for both dogs and handlers in the starters setting, and that better discipline and safety needs to be enforced as much as possible. 88% of members wanted starters to be supervised by a Qualified Judge. 83% of members agreed that other than Section A Rules of Flyball Racing, the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing should apply in all other respects. 81% of members said they were happy to share a ring with another team of inexperienced dogs, but interestingly, only 40% would be happy to do so under the current rules due to lack of control and governance.

Reasons for Starters. The survey allowed members to determine their top 3 priorities for wanting to participate in starters events, with a free text option as well. The top 3 selected answers were:

- a. 90% of responders indicated that their top priority was to be able to train dogs (with the use of props) in a full ring setting under race conditions; this was split 50/50 between people who wanted this to be competitive and those who preferred non-competitive.
- b. The second highest selected response, with just over 50%, was the chance to assess whether dogs were ready for open competition and be able to identify and work on any potential issues.
- c. The third most selected response, selected by 43%, was the chance to condition and socialise dogs in an unfamiliar environment, in a ring setting, noise, smells, other dogs, regardless of whether it was competitive or not.

Of secondary importance to members was the ability to introduce new handlers or potential members to flyball (23%), have a netted training area (19%), and access to the EJS (15%). Other positively selected responses, were the possibility of recognition or reward for new dogs and handlers (7%), and access to training advice from other members (4%).

Priorities Whilst Participating in Starters. The survey allowed members to determine their top 3 priorities when in the ring with starter dogs. The top 3 selected answers were:

- a. 66% of responders indicated that their top priority was that the dogs in the ring had a good recall and that handlers were in control of the dog.
- b. The second highest selected response, with 60% was that dogs would stay in lane and not deliberately interfere (chase).
- c. The third most selected response, with 53%, was that dogs are not aggressive.

Of secondary importance was that new handlers were learning to handle dogs safely (47%), dogs are able to use a flyball box safely (43%), and that there is an opportunity to race competitively against other dogs/teams (19%).

What this shows is a very clear demand for a basic standard of training and control that needs to be established before dogs are allowed to be in close proximity with other inexperienced dogs. In the same way that clubs take responsibility for preparing dogs for open through use of the starters system, they need to go back a stage further and prepare dogs and handlers for starters competitions as well. There is clear feedback that the membership do not want starters as a free-for-all no rules apply dog party, and that currently starters can be detrimental to the development of a good well-trained flyball dog. It is clear that the majority of members think dogs should have a good recall, be able to go over 4 jumps and retrieve a ball safely from a flyball box/chute as basic conditions of being able to 'compete' in starters. Not taking a ball from a box or chute, is just a game of fetch, and netting in jumps at a competition is not going to teach a dog to run in during open competition. It is recognised that this would be a shift in approach to the foundation level of

flyball and there may be some training education required which the BFA can help with should club captains or club trainers wish to understand the concepts better. The BFA Trainers will provide some foundation training videos to highlight the basic training techniques and standards required of an inexperienced dog starting its flyball journey. It is accepted that some dogs currently competing in starters will need to go back a step to training, but these dogs and their handlers should still be allowed access to a BFA ring to aid their flyball development. Which is why 3 options would be available. 2 of which would be under BFA governance, one that allows dogs to compete in a flyball race (using props) in a ring setting, and training in a ring-setting. A third option of 'fun' flyball for dogs (retired, or not yet trained) who can't independently use jumps and a box/chute would also be available. Netting was a minor contentious issue with a notable minority seeing it as a priority, but the majority not considering it necessary, especially if a minimum expected standard is applied to dogs 'competing' in starters. The practice of fully netting in all jumps in each racing lane adds an unnecessary safety risk to handlers and has little to no real training value. The presence of a barrier to contain an inexperienced, confused or distracted dog though does have value. The presence of a barrier to prevent accidental interference and distraction would also mitigate the reduction in training value for any other dogs distracted or interfered with and provide reassurance for inexperienced handlers.

New handlers learning to handle safely was reported as being a notable priority for members. Currently most starters competitions are run separately or after a sanctioned competition, under the new proposal starters competitions would, where possible, be run on the same schedule as sanctioned events so that inexperienced handlers are provided with the opportunity to watch open flyball racing and learn ring-craft and ring safety from more experienced handlers and get a better feel for the flyball experience.

Format. There was a clear demand for both 'competitive' starters and the opportunity to train in a ring setting. Whether competitive or training, there was a relatively even split for whether this should be through 2 sessions in the day, one AM one PM (53%) and 4 shorter sessions, 2 in the AM and 2 PM (43%), the preference for anything else was statistically insignificant. Noting that fit, experienced dogs competing in open racing would normally race 5 times in a day, the preference for 4 or less for starters makes sense, given that most dogs will be younger, inexperienced, older, requiring re-training or returning from injury.

Time. Current Rule 5.6 provides for a maximum of 78 races per ring per day. At circa 7.5-8 minutes on average for a flyball race, this generates around 10 hours of flyball in a racing day (or, neatly, five 6-team divisions of open racing). This is an accepted norm and is reasonable noting that not all participants camp, allowing sufficient travel time for day-trippers, and a HJ should not be expected to supervise flyball activities for greater than 10 hours in one day. With the potential introduction of other kinds of racing, the rules could be clarified to make it clear that TOs should not plan to exceed 10 hours of flyball racing in a single day (0830-1830). This would also allow TOs to make an easy calculation of what residual capacity for other events they may have once their open entries have been received. If they have sufficient time for a full division (i.e they only have 4 full open divisions in a ring on any day), they could put on a competitive division of foundation level flyball or package up the residual time as training slots and make the ring available for set periods of time for teams to train in the ring. This would be allocated in the schedule the same as a race and time slot monitored by the QJ or TOs so it doesn't overrun. Any 'fun' events the TO wishes to put on would have to take place outside of BFA sanctioned racing timings; before or after sanctioned racing including presentations has completed.

Safety & Dog Welfare. Although not a specific part of the survey, free text responses made it clear that safety and dog welfare should be a priority. Dogs in starters competition should not ordinarily be allowed to run at full height (many will be under-age, retired or returning from injury). Jump heights should therefore be set at a maximum of 10" or the height of the smallest dog running, unless the age of all dogs is verified in advance and approved by the

QJ. The main concerns with starters highlighted in the survey responses was the uncontrolled and chaotic nature of these events, the higher incidence of dog aggression experienced vice open racing, the high levels of interference which was damaging to other dogs' progression and is unsafe for both dogs and handlers, and the amount of time starters competitions take to run. It is considered that this proposal, if accepted, would resolve these concerns and thereby increase participation rates in foundation level events; increasing demand should in itself drive provision which should see more foundation level events being put on.

Other Considerations. There was some feedback regarding the requirement to go back a step with a dog's flyball progression when they have entered open too early or experienced an unintended event which results in additional training requirements, or rehabilitation from injury. The current rules are unclear and confusing, suggesting a dog cannot compete in a starters event if it has more than 200 points, unless the event was classed as 'intermediate' whereby the TO could allow a dog to compete after already earning up to 1000 points in open. Most dogs will only compete in foundation level events prior to competing in open but should there be a requirement for a dog to go back a step there needs to be clear rules about how this is handled, and the decision should not be the TO's. It is considered that there is no good reason why a dog should flip-flop between open and foundation flyball, but going back is not the issue, it is the reintegration into open racing which requires managing. The BFA Committee should be notified in writing though with the reason why a dog that has been raced in open is going back a stage, but the dog should not be allowed to compete in open competition again without the written approval of the BFA Committee. The Committee need to assure themselves, for the benefit of the dog concerned, and the safety of other dogs/handlers, that the reason for removal in the first place is no longer valid.

The term 'starters' does now appear to have some ingrained negative connotations, and there is a lack of clarity, both in the rules, and in the understanding of the membership, what 'intermediates' is. This is why this revision of the rules includes new terminology which better reflects what the BFA is trying to achieve with this type of flyball event. TOs would be able to offer Flyball Foundation options, such as Foundation Racing, Foundation Ring-Time, or a Fun event.

APPENDIX 8

BFA RULES FOR FLYBALL FOUNDATION EVENTS

Flyball is a competitive dog sport which places certain demands on both the dog and handler, requiring them both to be able to meet certain standards of technical ability and knowledge of the rules in order to play the sport of flyball in a safe manner without risk of injury or damage to themselves or other canine or human competitors. Achieving the level of training required to do this is often beyond the means of a flyball club to do in club training sessions alone, and this is why the BFA provides opportunities for handlers and dogs to develop their flyball skills in preparation for open racing through a range of Flyball Foundation activities.

There are 3 pillars of BFA Flyball Foundations, these are:

Flyball Foundation Competitions – Dogs competing in a BFA sanctioned ring where training props are allowed (competitive racing).

Ring-Time Training – Dogs training in a BFA sanctioned ring in a non-competitive setting (timed sessions).

Fun Events – Any other flyball related activity that is not governed by the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing (have-a-go, flyball runs without a box/chute).

Flyball Foundation competitions and Ring-Time training events are conducted under conditions sanctioned by the BFA and governed by the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing (with specific exceptions, see below). In order to ensure dog and handler safety, to be eligible for Flyball Foundation competitions or to take part in Ring-Time training

sessions, Club Captains are to ensure that dogs and handlers have met the BFA Standard for flyball.

The BFA Standard. The minimum standard required of dogs and handlers to be able to safely compete 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/chute¹ 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 supervising judge have any safety concerns they are to consult with the HJ and Club Captain in the first instance. Dogs or handlers deemed unsafe may be withdrawn from racing or training. The HJ's decision is final.

FUN EVENTS

Dogs who have not yet achieved the basic BFA Standard for safe flyball can hone their skills in other fun events. Fun events are not governed by the BFA and the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing do not apply and can be conducted at any time or place other than in a flyball ring sanctioned by the BFA for competition or training. Rules, conditions and eligibility for fun events are at the discretion of the organiser. Fun events are to be held separately from BFA sanctioned events and they are not to interfere with the running or timings of any BFA sanctioned event.

¹ Any Flyball 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).

FLYBALL FOUNDATION COMPETITIONS & RING-TIME TRAINING

Flyball Foundation activities are essential to the development of good flyball dogs and handlers that can conduct themselves in a flyball ring in a safe manner. Flyball Foundation competitions and ring-time training are to only take place in a BFA sanctioned ring, and they are to be supervised by a BFA Qualified Judge (or HJ). The BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing apply to all Flyball Foundation competitions and ring-time training with the following exceptions:

Flyball Foundation Competitions. This is competitive racing with the use of props allowed:

- a. Dogs must be 12 months or older at the time of competition.
- b. Jumps are to be set at a maximum height of 10 inches or the height of the smallest dog competing, whichever is the lower; 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. Standard flyball props are allowed; including the use of striders, a chute instead of a flyball box, wings, jump boards (all props need to be safe and fit-for-purpose). Any unusual or novel props need to be approved by the QJ prior to use.
- 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).
- e. Team members are allowed in the racing lane (such as a runner, or to place/remove striders) but only with the prior approval of the other competing team and the QJ.
- f. Centre-netting (or suitable barrier) is to be run down the centre of the racing lanes and in the run-back area to limit unintentional interference and/or distractions (loose balls). Jumps are not to be netted, although wings are allowed.
- g. Dogs and handlers are to be able to meet the BFA standard. Failure to do so will result in their removal from the competition by the QJ.
- h. Dogs and handlers competing in the same Flyball Foundation team do not need to be from the same primary club.
- i. Flyball Foundation teams shall race no more than 4 times in any competition (most dogs in Flyball Foundations will be too young or too old for open, returning from injury or requiring re-training).
- j. Flyball Foundation races are 3 legs, run all 3; the winner of a Flyball Foundation competition is determined by the team that has completed the most clean runs (no faults) during the competition. Ties will be determined on fastest time.
- k. TOs are encouraged to supply all competitors with a suitable token of achievement.

Ring-Time Training. An allocated period of time in a BFA sanctioned ring setting to individually or team train dogs in the foundation level aspects of flyball. The BFA Rules of Flyball Racing do not apply as it is non-competitive, but ring-time training is to be supervised by a BFA QJ (or HJ). The following rules apply:

- a. Standard flyball props are allowed; including the use of striders, a chute instead of a flyball box, wings, jump boards (all props need to be safe and fit-for-purpose). Any unusual or novel props need to be approved by the QJ prior to use.
- b. If jumps are to be used they are to be set at a maximum height of 10 inches or the height of the smallest dog training, whichever is the lower; if all training dogs are over the age of 18 months and this is verified in advance, use of higher jumps may be approved by the QJ.
- c. Team members are allowed in the racing lane (such as a runner, or to place/remove striders), but the QJ retains the right to pause any activity that is distracting to any other team in the ring at the time.

- 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 box lift on conclusion of previous race).

Dogs Returning to Flyball Foundation Activities After Competing in Open. There may be occasions when a dog has transitioned from Flyball Foundations to open competition but needs to take a step back, either through injury or for re-training (other reasons may apply). This could be at the discretion of the handler or Club Captain, or at the direction of the BFA Committee. Returning a dog to Flyball Foundation activity is often a sensible approach and for the long-term benefit of the dog concerned. A dog returning to Flyball Foundations is to be notified to the BFA Committee (if the return is not Committee directed). The handler requires written permission though from the BFA Committee for a dog to be eligible to compete in open again following a return to Flyball Foundation activities. This is so the BFA can be assured that the reason for the return to Flyball Foundation (i.e injury or training issue) is no longer valid. A returning dog may require assessment by a BFA HJ, Vet or BFA Committee member before final approval is given. Retired dogs can do Fun Events and be used for ring-time training but should not be returned to Flyball Foundation competition for welfare reasons as the physical demands placed on the dog are the same as open competition.

Event/Tournament Organisers Guide to Costs and Timings

TOs should not plan on any racing day being longer than 10 hours (i.e 0830-1830), to allow adequate safe travelling time for competitors. 10 hours will provide sufficient time for the maximum 78 races permitted for each ring per day. Any racing capacity not required for open racing can be filled at the TOs discretion, after all open entries have been received, by Foundation Flyball divisions or ring-time training, depending on the time available and demand from competitors. It is reasonable that TOs should aim to cover all costs and expenditures related to hosting a sanctioned event and charges for Foundation Flyball and ring-time training should be set appropriately by the individual TO.

TOs should allocate a maximum 5 teams to a Foundation Flyball round robin, scheduling an empty lane for Foundation Flyball is acceptable practice. Flyball Foundation competitions and ring-time training should be scheduled with or alongside sanctioned racing where practicable so handlers get the benefit of seeing how open racing runs.

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.

B) Notification of changes to Appendices

Appendix 1 – Submitted by BFA Committee

This Proposal is dependent on the success of Proposal 1 relating to the Constitution.

Appendix 1, Section 5: A Records and Statistics REMOVE: Coordinator ADD: Team who will: maintain, in respect of BFA-sanctioned competitions, all sanctioned tournament records and the BFA's statistics, issue tournament results, prepare seeding lists and ratify times and records; make the same available to BFA sanctioned tournament organisers in order that the organiser can comply with BFA requirements; and keep the same up to date on the BFA's website;

Appendix 1, Section 8: REMOVE: A Regional Representative Coordinator and Regional Representatives. The Regional Representative Coordinator is the liaison between the Regional Representatives and the Committee and so must communicate regularly with the

Regional Representatives regarding the sharing of best practice. ADD: Regional Representatives. Each BFA geographical region will be served by a Regional Representative appointed by the Committee who can be approached by prospective new members, new teams and existing members and teams for help and advice in respect of the BFA and flyball in general. Regional Representatives will also assist any member with any new rule or rule amendment proposal they wish to or have submitted for consideration at an Annual General Meeting;

Appendix 1, Section 9: REMOVE: A Tournament Secretary who will approve dates for sanctioned tournaments and ensure that tournament organisers receive all the necessary information to comply with BFA requirements and who will also maintain all relevant data on the BFA Website ADD: Show Secretary. A Show Secretary will; approve dates for sanctioned tournaments; ensure that tournament organisers receive all the necessary information to comply with BFA requirements; maintain all relevant data on the BFA Website; take bookings for all BFA-owned Electronic Judging Systems (EJS);

Appendix 1, Section 11: DELETE IN FULL (and renumber subsequent sections): A Lights Coordinator who will be responsible for taking bookings for and the maintenance of all BFA owned electronic timing equipment;

Appendix 1, Section 15: REMOVE: A Veterinary Advisor who, as a qualified Veterinary Surgeon, will be consulted by the Committee with regards to dog welfare issues or other similar areas ADD: A Veterinary Advisory Team. A qualified veterinary team who will advise the Committee on matters relating to dog welfare and health;

Explanation: A tidy up of official roles to reflect reorganisation.

Appendix 3 – Submitted by Jeff Hughes (BFA Number 2505)

APPENDIX 3 – REMOVE: JUNIOR ADD: YOUNG MEMBERS' AWARD SCHEME

- 100 points Silver Aubrey-Wilson Award (Certificate)
- 200 points Gold Merryman Award (Certificate)
- 500 points Platinum Frost Award (Certificate)
- 1000 points Pearl Knott Award (Certificate)
- 1500 points Jade Mills Award (Certificate)
- 2000 points Sapphire Jennison Award (Certificate and REMOVE: small Glass Award)
- 2500 points Diamond Barnard Award (Certificate and REMOVE: small Glass Award)
- 3000 points Opal Anderson Award (Certificate and REMOVE: small Glass Award)
- 3500 points Topaz Novasio Award (Certificate and REMOVE: small Glass Award)
- 4000 points Emerald Short Award (Certificate and REMOVE: small Glass Award)
- 5000 points Ruby Barraclough Award (Certificate and REMOVE: medium Glass Award)
- 6000 points Amber Reynolds Dobson Award (Certificate and REMOVE: medium Glass Award)
- 7000 points (Certificate and REMOVE: medium Glass Award)
- 8000 points (Certificate and REMOVE: medium Glass Award)
- 9000 points (Certificate and REMOVE: medium Glass Award)
- 10000 points (Certificate and REMOVE: large Glass Award)

Explanation: Current appendix title incorrectly describes the award scheme, junior should be replaced with young. As the glass award supplier has been changed and the size, colour & type of glass awards have altered, this amendment will remove any confusion of the size of the award gained.

Appendix 7 – Submitted by BFA Committee

Appendix 7 – List of BFA Fees

EJS(Lights) Hire(for BFA tournaments only): **REMOVE: Per single Day inc bank holidays: £60 inc VAT Per (2 days) weekend: 24 teams or less £60 inc VAT 25 – 36 teams £90 inc VAT 37 teams and above £120 inc VAT ADD: Per unit, per day £60 inc VAT**

Explanation: Reflect simplification of hire charges.

7. Election of the BFA Committee

Having served on the Committee since the last AGM, the following current members have expressed a willingness to remain on the Committee for a further year:

Alicia Marsland (High Flyers)
David Murdoch (Funky Fidos)
Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes)
Jeannette Shelley (Aces High)
Rachel Short (Commandos)
Will Whiteley (Yorkshire Bouncers)

One member has decided to retire;
Jenni Wallace (Lomond Raiders)

Seeking re-election to the Committee;

Katie Burns (Carry On's) Proposed by Ali Kirk and Seconded by Emily Murdoch
Craig Burrows (FOCUS) Proposed by Katherine Palin and Seconded by Scott Harrison

The nominations for the remaining places on the Committee are;

Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact) Proposed by Jenny Cousins and Seconded by Nicola Cole
Shannon Mills (Extreme Racers) Proposed by Sharon Allcorn and Seconded by Chris Haslam

The result of the committee nomination election has already been publicised and the 2020 committee, which will come into effect after the AGM, is:

Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact)
Katie Burns (Carry On's)
Craig Burrows (FOCUS)
Alicia Marsland (High Flyers)
David Murdoch (Funky Fidos)
Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes)
Jeannette Shelley (Aces High)
Rachel Short (Commandos)
Will Whiteley (Yorkshire Bouncers)

8. Presentation of Annual Awards for 2019

Flyball Open Team of the Year

3rd place FOCUS – 15.13 seconds at Darley Moor on 22th June 2019.

Panik (Craig Burrows), Onyx (Garry Minnikin), Mouse (Kim Gillespie) & Rebel (Mike Hallam)

2nd place High Flyers – 15.05 seconds at Halefield Stud on 22nd June 2019.

Glitz (Jane Allen), Ourson (Richard Allcorn), Edge (Alicia Marsland) & Nano (Reece Marsland)

1st place Aces – 14.77 seconds at Newark Showground on 20th April

Hustle (Jeannette Shelley), Nova (Emma Powell), Shoots (Andrew Worrall) & Heist (Maria Worrall)

Multibreed Team of the Year

1st place: High Flyers Dangerzone 15.46 seconds at Halefield Stud on 22nd April 2019.
Hustle (Jeannette Shelley), Ourson (Richard Allcorn), Amber (Nikki Marlow) & Nano (Reece Marsland)

Claire Gristwood Award

Whizzy with a total of 9005 points in open racing
Owned by Sarah Wallace from Lomond Raiders

9. Chairperson's Closing Speech

So that is a wrap, I hope today worked for you and was not too stressful. I am sure you will agree that considering the global situation the fact that we have still managed to host an AGM is something we can all rightly be proud off.

Before we sign off I would like to mention the BFA network to thank them again for their continued hard work and support to the membership:

Membership Secretary – Jane James

Show Secretary – Maria Casley

Certificates and Awards – Jeff Hughes

Height Card Coordinator – Kate Sermon

Lights Coordinator – Dave Long

Accessibility Officer – Kerena Merchant

Webmaster and today's host – Ali Kirk

Our proposal working party who helped put all the proposals together, I think they've done a great job: Jenny Cousins, Sharon Allcorn, Val Currie, Chris Mace, Helen Seddon, Zoe Colling, Andrew Worrall, Jason Baker, Alison Moyes, Maria Casley

Our Media Team – Helen Ward, Ellie Rivington, Adele Carey, Tye Shelley, Tracy Muir

Our Record and Stats Team – Kim Sermon, Caz Higginson, Helen Seddon, Debbie Speed

Our YMS Team – Shannon Mills, Ellen Barraclough, Jackie Bradburn, Jeff Hughes, Sally Cliff, Moe Hendry, Paul Horton

Our Regional Reps – Sarah Wallace, Jackie Bradburn, Helen Seddon, Maria Casley, Maria Worrall, Amy Ranson, Paul Horton, Lucy Hughes, Lucy Machell-Webb, Joanna Bonner, Adele Carey

Our Judges Board – Sharon Allcorn, Val Currie, Jenny Cousins, Chris Mace, Andrew Worrall, Jason Baker, Alison Moyes

Crufts Working Party – Sarah Prince & Amy Ransom

Our Veterinary Team - Vicky Fraser, Jane Connolly, Sam Fullagar, Nikita McNiff

Our BFA Trainers - Jeannette Shelley, Reece Marsland, Amanda Mills

Also, a massive thanks to the boots on the ground, the Head Judges, Judges, Measuring Officials and Tournament Organisers.

And not forgetting your Committee

Rachel Short – BFA Secretary

Katie Burns – BFA Treasurer

Justin Shearing – Vice Chair

Committee Members – Craig Burrows, Alicia Marsland, Jeannette Shelley, Will Whiteley and lastly our retiring Jenni Wallace.

Jenni has been an ever present for me whilst on the committee and I shall miss her guidance, calm head and support going forward. Jenni has done so much work for the good of BFA Flyball in Scotland and shines like a beacon of support.

Thank you, Jenni, for all your hard work, blood, sweat and tears throughout your 6+ years of your time on the Committee. We are all profoundly grateful and wish you a long and peaceful retirement from Committee life on the Flyball circuit. Stay in touch and we love you greatly.

Thank you everyone for attending today, safe journey from your living room to your kitchen for refreshment and we will see you all soon.