



**British Flyball Association  
Annual General Meeting 2019**

**Discussion Summary**

**All proposals are listed in rule number order.**

**This summary is to enable members who did not attend the AGM to have an insight into the discussions surrounding the proposals. Please note that THREE proposals were amended during the course of the AGM, these are highlighted in yellow. One proposal was withdrawn and this has resulted in re-numbering of subsequent proposals.**

**All proposals are listed in rule number order**

**Constitution**

**Proposal 1**

5.1 b and associated re-numbering – Submitted by the BFA Committee

**5. Committee Members and other positions**

5.1 Each Committee Member must:

- a. be elected onto the Committee by a first-past-the-post postal and/or secure electronic vote by BFA members (i.e. the person who has received the most votes after one round of voting is elected) unless an election is not necessary as the number of those seeking election onto the Committee does not exceed the number of vacant posts on the Committee. In the event of a tie for the final Committee Member vacancy, a further vote will be conducted at the AGM and will only be voted upon by BFA members in attendance. In the event that this vote is a tie, the Chairperson will have the casting vote.
- b. ~~REMOVE: be an active member of a BFA registered team who regularly competes in BFA-sanctioned competitions;~~ ~~ADD: have been an active member of a BFA registered team and regularly competed at BFA sanctioned tournaments for a minimum of 3 years preceding their election to the Committee and have attended at least one Annual General Meeting in that period;~~

~~REMOVE: c. have been a member of the BFA for a minimum of three years preceding their election onto the Committee and have attended at least one Annual General Meeting in that period;~~

~~REMOVE: d.~~ **ADD: c.** not have been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under BFA rules for a minimum of five years preceding their election; ~~REMOVE: and~~

~~REMOVE: e.~~ **ADD: d.** be independent of every other Committee Member, when considered reasonably, and so must not be:

- related by way of being their child or step-child, parent or step-parent, uncle/aunt or cousin to another Committee Member;
- the spouse, civil partner, partner or long-term girl/boyfriend of another Committee Member; and/or
- a member the same BFA registered club and/or team of another Committee Member.

~~REMOVE: f.~~ **ADD: e.** if they wish to remain a Committee Member, be re-elected to the Committee at least every 36 months or, at the discretion of the Committee, sooner.

Explanation: At the moment the rules imply you only need to be active at the time of nominations to be eligible. Combining the clauses that already exist in sub-para b and c it means that not only do people have to have been a member for 3 years they have to demonstrably have been active in BFA flyball over a period of 3 years. People do not have to compete or attend shows to be a BFA member, so membership on its own is meaningless in terms of that individual's understanding of how BFA Flyball works. BFA Rules change on an annual basis and anyone standing for the Committee should be able to demonstrate that they have a good depth of experience in BFA flyball racing, and at the moment that isn't a requirement. This is a tightening up of what the Rules meant to say rather than a change.

### **No comments from the attending membership**

## **Proposal 2**

Rule 5.3 Submitted by the BFA Committee

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 Coordinator
- Webmaster
- Membership Secretary
- Regional Representative Coordinator and Regional Representatives
- Tournament Secretary
- Media ~~REMOVE: and Communications Secretary~~ **ADD: Team**
- Lights Coordinator
- Judges Board
- Awards Secretary
- Height Card Administrator

- Veterinary Advisor
- Accessibility Advisor

Explanation: To amend role titles in line with the way they are known to the membership (the relevant appendix will be updated accordingly)

**No comments from the attending membership**

### **Proposal 3**

Rule 8.3 Submitted by the BFA Committee

8.3 An Adult Member may place an item of business on the agenda including any proposed rule change for a forthcoming Annual General Meeting by submitting the same in writing to the Secretary and the Secretary receiving the same not less than 30 days before the Annual General Meeting. **REMOVE: Any person who has proposed a rule change should, if they are able, attend the Annual General Meeting in order to comment on any suggested amendment(s) to the proposed rule change. If they are unable to attend and the majority of attendees entitled to vote on the rule change suggest an amendment to the proposed rule change, the proposed rule change will not be put to a vote and will not be implemented.** **ADD: Any person who has proposed a rule change should, if they are able, attend the Annual General Meeting in order to clarify the proposed rule change and/or comment on any suggested amendment(s). If the proposer is unable to attend an additional proposer is to be nominated to present the proposal on their behalf. In the absence of any proposer at the Annual General Meeting the proposed rule change will not be put to a vote and will not be implemented.** Any AGM agenda items proposed which the BFA Committee consider to fundamentally change the current BFA flyball rules will be subject to a full impact assessment and may be referred for advice to the BFA Veterinary Advisor prior to implementation.

Explanation: This is a tightening up of AGM procedures and rule changes so that time isn't unnecessarily wasted on random proposals that add no value and not wasted debating sensible changes which can't then be implemented because the proposer isn't there; this would ensure that sensible amendments could actually be made, and a meaningful vote taken. If someone has a genuine proposal but can't make the AGM, if it is sensible then they wouldn't have any problem getting someone else to present it for them; indeed if the Committee felt it was a good idea they could actually propose it themselves on behalf of someone who couldn't attend, so this wouldn't ever prevent any good ideas being taken forward, it would stop some bad ones being put forward and eliminate time spent debating something that the rules will not allow us to do anything about.

**No comments from the attending membership**

## A1 Sanctioned Tournaments

### Proposal 4 – WITHDRAWN (all subsequent proposals renumbered in line with voting structure)

**Starters – submitted by the BFA Committee and Ali Kirk BFA Number 6346**

New rules and section (and subsequent renumbering)

ADD: 1.5 A Sanctioned Tournament shall include all types of competitive racing occurring at the same time and at the same venue as sanctioned open and multibreed competitions i.e. all types of development racing such as (singles, pairs) intermediates and starters.

ADD: 1.6 Starters, Intermediates and fun events that take place on the same day and/or the same venue as Sanctioned Tournaments are to comply with the same rules of racing as set out for a Sanctioned Tournament, with the exceptions as enumerated in Section A4.

Subsequent re-numbering of existing 1.5 to 1.11 to 1.7 to 1.13 respectively

ADD: A.4. - Starters and Intermediates

1. The BFA Rules of Flyball Racing shall apply to starters and intermediates except: -

1.1 Handlers and dogs competing in starters or intermediates do not have to be full members of the BFA but should be pre-registered.

1.2 In Starters:

- a. A younger minimum age requirement for dogs of 12 months old at the date of the competition
- b. Jump heights are to be set at the Tournament organisers discretion, provided no dog is made to jump more than what could reasonably be expected to be their own height.
- c. Training aids are permitted
- d. Both the lane and the run back area shall be fully netted down the 'centre line' of the ring, with additional netting or 'wings' permitted on/between the jumps.
- e. No box judge is required. The Dog must collect a ball or item from the box area, but this does not have to require the use or triggering of a flyball box.
- f. Teams may comprise of dogs from different Primary Teams.

1.3 In Intermediates:

- a. A younger minimum age requirement for dogs of 12 months old at the date of the competition
- b. Jump heights are to be set at the discretion of each Team, provided no dog is made to jump more than what could reasonably be expected to be their own height.
- c. Training aids are permitted
- d. Wings either side of jumps are permitted, but the racing lane, the 'centre line' of the ring, and the run back area are to remain un-netted. **Amendment suggested at the AGM "Wings either side of jumps are permitted, but the racing lane forward of the start line shall remain un-netted"**
- e. No box judge is required. The Dog must collect a ball from the box area, but this does not have to require the use or triggering of a flyball box.
- f. Teams may comprise of dogs from different Primary Teams.

**REMOVE: Appendix 8**

Explanation: For some time it has been an unnecessarily grey area to have starters racing occurring in the same venue and rings as sanctioned racing, but that in theory falls outside much of the jurisdiction of the BFA. By including these new classes and clearly stating what is and isn't allowed, we can remove the grey area that has always existed around starters and improve the pathway to open racing for green dogs as their training progresses.

Pre-registration - (no charge but their details are on file and they are required to agree to abide by the rules).

Well defined differences between starters and inters.

#### **Comments from the attending membership:**

**AK explained about netting for intermediates indoors becomes difficult with staggered format.**

**DL – Stand alone starter comps not included in rules. Lights prioritised for sanctioned comps so what happens when all starter comps are sanctioned? We have a limited number of sets of lights.**

**AS – why in starters full centre line netting between racing lanes as we net the lanes and do not provide centre netting. AK replied that the centre netting is to prevent interference.**

**MH – children judging starters – agree not ideal. For many people**

**RL – comments about eligibility for starters of intermediates only mentions dogs age.**

**Nothing about when dogs have achieved FD or FDI etc. AK responded that this was deliberate as starters is about getting dog ready for open competition, didn't want the barrier of points thresholds and occasionally dogs achieve an award and should be down to individual.**

**WW – suggested due to all the queries and proposed amendments it would be beneficial to form a working party and have robust rules**

**JH – there are 3 junior members judging starters at Epworth and will only get their points if they have a QJ with them.**

**SR – intermediates – concerns about no centre netting in intermediates**

**DW – if no centre netting for intermediates then this should be stated on BFA website and people can decide whether to entre.**

**AW – concerns there are too many changes and there have been many disagreeing about centre netting being needed for intermediates between lanes for safety reasons.**

**WW – committee have discussed the thoughts and feelings of those present and are preferring to organise**

**EF – if pre-registered who is monitoring this?**

**DF – at the moment starters often in second ring and does not have to meet criteria for size etc whereas if this is passed then this criteria must be met. AK replied that starters should be as close as possible to normal racing.**

**WW – does AK want to take it forward as the committee do not want to take this forward.**

**AK wants to hear from Barracloughs as they have children**

**EB – feel we need to encourage our children more. Adults are not permitted to judge without having completed ring party etc and would vote against**

**JW – all members should be full members including starters then all rules apply.**

**Whilst there was general agreement that Starters and Intermediates could be organised better when conducted at other BFA Sanctioned shows, it was felt that there were a lot of issues that still needed to be resolved such as netting, judging, lights and rules of racing before anything formal is put in place. Agreement from those attending the AGM that this proposal is withdrawn and a working party appointed.**

#### **Proposal 4**

Rule A1 4.3 submitted by the BFA Committee

A1.4.3 Teams should be seeded based on the information available from the BFA website. Seeding times for a tournament will be based on the fastest time recorded by a team during their last 3 sanctioned events and a seed list will be supplied from the latest available data on the 14th day before the tournament date, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when the seed times shall be taken on the 21st day before the tournament date Any time recorded more than 4 months before this date is null and void. A declared time, to be used as the seeding time, MUST be submitted by the Team Captain at least 14 days prior to the Tournament, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when no declared times shall be accepted. If a declared time is not submitted then the last available recorded time will be used (even if this is over 4 months old), if there are no previous times recorded for a team then a time of 22.00 seconds will be used as a declared time. A declared time may be submitted - it must be at least ½ second faster or ½ second slower than the teams seeded time and will be subject to the Team break-out rule. Teams not on the seed list must submit a time and will be subject to the team break-out rule. **ADD: The BFA Committee may organise other sanctioned events throughout the year that will follow the process for a standard Tournament and not a Championships.**

Explanation: The Committee are organising Regional events and there is no stipulation that all teams must have a valid seed time.

**No comments from the attending membership**

#### **Proposal 5**

Rule A1.4.13 – Submitted by the BFA Committee

4.13 Only BFA Registered Teams with a valid seed time can compete at a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championships). There shall be no declared times permitted at a Championship. **ADD: Teams from other countries invited by the BFA Committee will be sanctioned to submit a declared time.**

Explanation: This is to allow the BFA to invite teams from abroad to compete.

Comments from the attending membership:

MH – all for inviting foreign teams to compete but not to a British Champs.

JS responded that many Championships invite teams to compete from other countries, they would not be able to become British Champions

MH – supports inviting them to other shows but not a British Championship

SB – agrees to inviting international teams, fantastic idea but when they applied for wild card as they had missed the qualification criteria they did not get in when other teams did, does not understand why some teams did get their wildcard approved.

JS responded

JW – questioning those who disagree what their disagreement is for trophyware. We are about enhancing the competition

If inviting teams you would need to invite well in advance so how do you know if you will be oversubscribed?

AM – why not do invite only? Agility do invitationals for the best of the best so we could do a division or two of the best in the world.

DM – we have not made any decision about how this will be integrated into the Champs so not to have concerns as the membership will be kept informed.

JS – about the best in Europe etc being a showcase

How about a British Open as well as the Champs?

MB – agree with the idea of inviting but should be a separate division.

SA – confirm no concrete plans. There are several options – could enter Champs or Open divisions. About choice.

KS – understand concerns about oversubscription. Could it be amended so qualified teams are confirmed before inviting other teams

MW - ?postpone bringing it in until we know how it would work

KB – said this was about invited teams being able to declare a time as currently in the rules it is not permitted

DW – suggests let the invited teams race in our divisions, if they win the div they get a separate trophy and best British team gets another trophy

EM – likes idea of separate div

ZC – think it's a really good idea and would support the amendment. I trust the committee to have listened to the comments today and not go off and invite a load of team to the Champs

JS – explained that rule amendment would simply allow the committee to look at all the options people are suggesting. The rule needs to change before anything regarding the potential for international attendance at the BFA Champs can be done because at the moment they cannot compete at all if they don't have a BFA seed time. This rule allows the Committee to start looking at the possible options and scoping interest. This is to allow the potential for the BFA to host the best showcase of flyball in Europe which would in turn improve the potential for sponsorship deals and even TV coverage in the future, which would all have major benefits for the long term development and progression of the BFA.

## **Proposal 6**

A1 4.9 & A1 4.10 – Submitted by the BFA Committee – Removal of single side timing sheets, Masters.

4.9 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 **REMOVE: him/her** **ADD: them** at the time. **ADD: 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.

**REMOVE: 4.10 Times must be recorded on single side timing sheets showing times for both lanes (available from the Website through downloads, Master Sheets, 5 6 or 7 team master sheet) separate from the Time Sheets used to identify dogs running heat by heat. All relevant separate Sheets are to be attached to the appropriate Time Sheets prior to hand over or posting to the Records and Statistics Coordinator. If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser. Advance Results should be emailed as soon as possible after the tournament ends so that the seed list can be updated.**

#### **Comments from the attending membership:**

**EF – I have mentioned already on facebook my feelings on this. ?for staggered racing have someone dedicated to doing master sheet.**

**KB – historically introduced due to no external timers and times shouted across.**

**CB – in staggered the master is completed from the C2. Feels it is a pointless exercise.**

**MH – Lights BFA use have the software to show times etc via a laptop as data so the info is there as back-up**

**AK – better to do one sheet well rather than 2 sheets badly.**

**JS – regarding the software MH mentioned, it is there but the information is just lists and lists and lists of info. Wouldn't take into account for errors (eg re-runs, false starts etc) Would need adapting to be useful**

**ZC – is there a possibility of a different format master sheet for staggered?**

**KB – if we remove the rule then TOs can still do if they want to**

**KS – we are assuming the master sheet is correct, but actually not sure which is correct.**

#### **Proposal 7**

Rule A1 4.14 Submitted by Emily Murdoch BFA No 3699

4.14 To qualify for a Championship, Teams shall have raced three times outdoors for an outdoor championship and three times indoors for an indoor championship within the four months to the relevant tournament being released.



**Add: - Teams must declare up to six dogs and their microchip numbers (which may be checked at any time) for each team they are qualifying. These dogs must have all run and contributed to the teams racing times over the four months qualifying period. Dogs may only be substituted if the team drops to five or less dogs, and under exceptional circumstances by written request to the committee. The reasons must be stated as to why the dog needs substituting. Such reasons include, but are not limited to, the dog and handler have left the club, the dog has become injured etc. Dogs removed from one team name must not race with any other qualifying team name within that club.**

The committee will have a number of wild cards at their disposal, details of which will be published in the schedule.

Currently only the team name gains the seed time with no limitations to the dogs running within that team. Some teams have listed 12 dogs running under that team name since the January of that year. This makes it an unfair championship as any dog can run in that team name. After watching one division at the outdoor champs within the first three races five out of the six teams had recorded break out times, some had begun to manage their passes discreetly. Managing teams in this way makes a mockery of the championships which is supposed to be the culmination of a season's racing. Also running consistent line ups promotes the dog and handler confidence within the team, making the whole unit feel more like a real team. This rule addition creates a level playing field, and further assists the judges in preventing management of team times. Chip scanners can be added to the measuring kits for measurers to scan the dogs for confirmation if needed. Scanners are available for around £50 each.

#### **Comments from the attending membership**

**SB – feel this will make smaller teams struggle more than solve the problems that it intends to address. It would be a nightmare to monitor. Dishonest teams will continue to be dishonest. Judges need to be implementing the rules. If I had an injury in my top team all lower teams would have to be amended and this would not allow for that. We already have rules to cover this, we need to enforce them**

**DW – we are a team of 9 dogs and will be running two teams both indoors and outdoors. If you have a small team then will struggle with this if green dogs in and needing to do loose changeovers for inexperience.**

**EM – Regarding changing dogs teams, put an exceptional circumstance in to request the changes. As a small team if we have to change dogs in teams then we use a different team name than the one entering the Champs and declare a time.**

**Question about what happens about this year as qualifier tomorrow.**

**DM – will not affect this year as qualifying periods have started before rules changed.- Majority don't cheat.**

**SH – agree with what EM is saying but feel that those who want to cheat will still find ways to cheat.**

**AK – regarding microchip details these can be held on the database. Agree with reasoning but disagree with way it is being done.**

CB – easiest way to fix is a team to be disqualified at a Champs, or any competition, for holding back.

MW – Perhaps we are looking at the wrong aspect and judges need to be enforcing rules

RL – if this was to be adopted this would require additional work for the committee, has it been considered just how much.

ZS – If a team has a fast dog it could run it in the beginning of the qualifying period and then stop running it to slow the seed time.

I changed teams and my dog needed time to settle before settling into whichever of the new team's secondary team it would race in

## **Proposal 8**

Rule A1 6.1 – Submitted by the BFA Committee

### **6. Tournament Layout**

6.1 The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately ~~REMOVE: 40'~~ **ADD: 30'** x 120' where the size of ground permits. Any lanes and runback not falling within this requirement must be stated on the Tournament Schedule and Diary page. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. The length of the racing lane shall include an area not less than 29' leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the Flyball box and in front of the backstops of 7' to a minimum of 5' where space is limited from the front edge of the Flyball box.

Explanation:

The reason for this is for animal safety, when running indoors at the minute, most tournament organisers run with 12ft centres and can only really cover 21ft of concrete or sports hall floor. Therefore, there is 19ft of ring that can't be covered but if it was 30ft wide there would only be 9ft which is 4.5ft both sides which is better than 9.5ft both sides

**Comments from the attending membership:**

RL – suggests that 30' minimum for indoor and 40' minimum for outdoor

CB – reiterated that it is a minimum.

JS – already some segregation between indoor and outdoor – one set of rules, one BFA

CB – the rule would apply to both indoor and outdoor, but it is a minimum and TOs could go larger where space allows.

## **Proposal 9**

New Rule A.1 7.5 Submitted by Penny Charlton BFA No 0338

**ADD: 7.5 The maximum height for any Judges score stand to be set at 4ft . This can be of any design but not exceeding 4ft in height.**

Explanation: As a head judge of many years I am struggling at times to see the full racing lanes due to the height of some stands whilst judging. I am surely not the only 5ft judge and this has become a problem for me over recent years as some stands have seemed to have grown in height. I sometimes have to put the stand behind me so I can see clearly the lanes but that then causes me a problem if I need to check a false start or the score.

No comments from the attending membership

## A2 Rules for Competition

### Proposal 10

Rule A2.2 Submitted by The BFA Committee

A.2. Rules for Competition

2. Membership

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

ADD: Temporary membership may be offered to guests, by invitation of the BFA Committee.

Explanation: This will allow judges and teams invited from abroad to compete at BFA events.

Comments from the attending membership:

EB – do they have entitlement to vote

RS responded “NO”

EM – could it include such as photographers etc

JS – can non-members be invited by other teams or just committee.

RS – wording amendment agreed “Temporary membership may be offered to guests, following approval by the BFA Committee”

### **REWORDED PROPOSAL**

A.2. Rules for Competition

2. Membership

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

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

### Proposal 11

Rule 5.8 Submitted by BFA Committee

5. Teams

5.8 In multi-breed only competitions, teams must consist of all different breeds recognised by

ADD: recognised by the BFA. REMOVE: any club or studbook, or one dog of mixed breed parents. Border Collies and Working Sheepdogs will be regarded as the same breed. Jack Russell's will be taken to be a breed, as will each of the 4 groups making up Belgium Shepherd

dogs. Any deviation from this will make the class a 'fun class'. Any new or unusual breed not recognised by the Kennel Club must have documentation to prove this breed and this must be sent to the membership secretary at the time of registration. ADD: Any new breed requests should be sent to the Membership secretary for approval along with any documentation.

Explanation: To bring the rule in line with the breed list changes.

### No comments from the attending membership

## **Proposal 12**

Rule A2 5.9 Submitted by The BFA Committee

5.9 In addition to the handlers/holders and the box-loader a team may at their discretion be accompanied by team members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps, collect times, record changeovers and any other relevant jobs to the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team. Members of the team who do not have a job may be asked to leave the ring by the Judge. ADD: A racing team may be assisted by up to five additional Members. Teams that required more than five assistants must gain approval from the Head Judge prior to racing. Members may be asked to leave the ring by the Divisional or Head Judge if causing a distraction or in any way impeding racing."

Explanation: To limit the number of people in the ring that can be a safety issue or intimidate the opposition.

DF – asked for clarification on additional members

JW – additional 5 to the handlers and boxloader.

DL – original rule says 6 handlers, boxloader and captain, is this 5 in addition

RL – what if you need more people?

KB – You ask the HJ

RL – there may be inconsistencies between decision of HJs

KB – if concerns then needs flagging to Judges Board

KBI – I can't think of more than 4 reasons for others to be in the ring. As a younger handler I feel intimidated by lots of people in the ring

AK – what reasons for extra people

CB – if my daughter is running a dog I would need to be with her and if already 5 I would ask HJ

## **A3 Rules of Racing**

### **Proposal 13**

Rule A3 2.2 – Submitted by Vicky Fraser BFA No 6931

2.ADD:1 **The Judge** - After the warm up period and between heats when the judge has shown his/her intention to begin racing he/she shall signal to the teams to be ready to start each heat. If one team acts in an unsporting manner or wastes time preventing the heat to

start at the Judges request, the Divisional Judge will at first issue a warning to the team for time wasting. Should this offence be repeated, with the other team ready to race, the Judge will signal his/her intent and start the heat.

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

Explanation: To have a record of crashes/collisions to find out how frequently they occur & what the cause is (handler error, equipment issue, etc) so measures can be put in place to make racing safer if it needs to be. One argument for the wider jumps was dog safety but no-one was able to say if dogs were colliding in the jumps or not. We need to start getting some facts & figures to help make decisions.

EB – who is responsible for reporting? Judge? Owner? Also, when should it be done – at the time? At the end of racing?

WW – suggested recording on back of C2 as this is currently blank

VF – clarified that reason for collision should be documented (eg handler error, interference)

AM – suggested about using Judges handover form in staggered

KB – mentioned online reporting through google form

AW – 3 part form – judge, owner and TO to complete

DA – is this only for collisions. Over the years there have been many near misses where there has been no contact between dogs, so not an issue.

EB – as judge don't always see what happens behind us and the reasons for it.

SA – brought it back to the basis of the proposal

GM – if there is a collision you report it, if you don't see it then simply report there is a collision but details not known.

## **Proposal 14**

A3 8.1 & 8.2 Proposed by Zoe Colling BFA number 6886 & Trudy Boakes BFA number 3208

A.3. 8.1 Interference – **REMOVE If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat,** ADD Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dog from running/completing its 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 **REMOVE the** ADD an interference will forfeit the heat. ADD The interference will be noted against the offending dogs' details on the C2 form.

- ADD 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, **ADD it is** at the Division Judge's discretion **ADD that** it may be excluded from racing and the Team be allowed to use a reserve if one is recorded on their Time Sheet.

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

8.2 Distractions - Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means, **REMOVE nor THROW ADD including throwing** any object for their dogs **REMOVE (i.e. motivators such as balls, toys, Frisbees, dummies, gloves or treats).** **ADD toy's treats or motivators**

Team members are required to pick up any loose balls. **ADD at the end of each leg**

The first offence of **REMOVE these infringements ADD distraction** shall receive a warning

- a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat.

Explanation: To try and cut down the number of interference instances during racing, especially for repeat offenders. Also, to clarify the difference between interference and distraction. We've had a number of instances where distraction was claimed but in our eyes it was clearly interference.

**CB – regarding the loose balls, they cannot interfere.**

**Discussion about wording of interference and distraction**

**RL – feels there is a bit of confusion. Two scenarios which are being called distraction.**

**One is intentional (not picking balls up, throwing a reward etc) The other distraction is a ball being fumbled and a dog chasing it across. Is this distraction? Also for consistency "leg" should be changed to "heat"**

**TB – a dog chasing a ball is judged differently by different judges.**

### **REWORDED PROPOSAL**

(8.1 remains unchanged from original proposal)

**A.3. 8.1 Interference – REMOVE If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat, ADD Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dog from running/completing its 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 REMOVE the ADD an interference will forfeit the heat. ADD The interference will be noted against the offending dogs' details on the C2 form.**

- ADD 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, ADD it is at the Division Judge's discretion ADD that it may be excluded from racing and the Team be allowed to use a reserve if one is recorded on their Time Sheet.

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

8.2 Distractions - Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means, REMOVE nor THROW ADD including throwing any object for their dogs REMOVE (i.e. motivators such as balls, toys, Frisbees, dummies, gloves or treats). ADD toy's treats or motivators

The first offence of REMOVE these infringements ADD distraction shall receive a warning

- a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat ADD at the Judge's discretion.

(MOVED) Team members are required to pick up any loose balls. ADD at the end of each heat

Amendment as above agreed at AGM.

## Judging and Ring Party

### B3 Divisional Judge

#### Proposal 15

B3 New Rule 2.16 – submitted by Jason Baker BFA No 0284

B3 2.15 Judgement calls should be based on the experience, good character, and fairness of the Judge. The intelligent application of discretionary authority demands a Judge shall exercise common sense, fairness and initiative. Above all else, the safety and wellbeing of the exhibitors and their dogs should be foremost.

ADD: 2.16 To retain their status, Head Judges and Qualified Judges must be current BFA Members and attend at least one Head Judges' and Qualified Judges' Seminar provided by the BFA in the last two years. REMOVE: This Head Judges' Seminar may be incorporated, as a separate half-day session, within a BFA Training Seminar.

Explanation: Add 2.16 to the published statement after rule 2.15. As there is no rule number quoted, we are unable reference this statement on any documentation.  
Remove last sentence from the statement as head judges normally attend the same seminar.

No comments from the attending membership

## E Points and Awards

### Proposal 16

Rule E.3.3.1 – Submitted by Jeff Hughes BFA No 2505

#### **E.3. Junior Members Award Scheme**

3.1 The Young Members Award Scheme will reward all participants with a milestone award for members aged ~~REMOVE: 7~~ ~~ADD: 6~~ to 18.

Explanation of proposed change: To allow a better uptake to the Young Members Award Scheme.

**No comments from the attending membership**

### Proposal 17

Rule E.3.2.5 – Submitted by Jeff Hughes BFA No 2505

~~REMOVE: 2.5~~ ~~ADD: 3.5~~ Points are awarded for;

Explanation: To correct sub paragraph numbering

**No comments from the attending membership**

### Proposal 18

Rule A3 2.5 (3.5) - Submitted by Jeff Hughes BFA No 2505

2.5 Points are awarded for;

- a. judging ~~ADD: half~~ a division at a Sanctioned Tournament (minimum 16 years of age) ~~ADD: or half a division at a Starters Tournament.~~
- b. Handling a dog at a Sanctioned ~~ADD: and Starters~~ Tournament ~~ADD: (for half a division, or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format)~~
- c. Box loading at a Sanctioned ~~ADD: and Starters~~ Tournament ~~ADD: (for half a division, or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format)~~
- d. Ring Party duties i.e. Line Judge, Scribe and Box Judge ~~REMOVE: (for an entire division, or a minimum of 12 races in staggered format)~~ ~~ADD: at a Sanctioned and Starters Tournament (for half a division, or a minimum of 7 races in staggered format)~~

Explanation: To allow a better up take of the young members award scheme & a faster progression to achieving milestone awards.



EB – Should it be clearer that for ring party they need to be supervised.  
CH – ask about if you do a multiple of stated races do you get multiple points  
JH – yes you would  
Concerns regarding starters not being sanctioned.

Agreement at AGM that points would only be allocated for starters competitions run alongside a sanctioned tournament.

## REWORDED PROPOSAL

2.5 Points are awarded for;

a. judging **ADD: half** a division at a Sanctioned Tournament (minimum 16 years of age) **ADD: or half a division at a Starters Tournament.**

b. Handling a dog at a Sanctioned **ADD: and Starters** Tournament **ADD: (for half a division, or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format)**

c. Box loading at a Sanctioned **ADD: and Starters** Tournament **ADD: (for half a division, or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format)**

d. Ring Party duties i.e. Line Judge, Scribe and Box Judge **REMOVE: (for an entire division, or a minimum of 12 races in staggered format)** **ADD: at a Sanctioned and Starters Tournament (for half a division, or a minimum of 7 races in staggered format)**

**ADD Points will be awarded for starter competitions held alongside a BFA sanctioned tournament but not for stand-alone starter competitions.**

## Proposal 19

Rule E.4.3 Submitted by the BFA Committee

Claire Gristwood Award - Awarded to the Jack Russell Terrier **ADD: or Parson Russell Terrier** that has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Limited Open competitions.

Explanation: The breed list has been updated and if PRT were not to be included then some of the previous winners would become ineligible if it was kept at JRT.

GM – for the change but on the award it just says JRT

WW – advised if voted in the award will be amended

DW – has the family been consulted?

WW – we did discuss and decided that it wasn't a significant change as JRT & PRT always been included in the award

One comment was that they didn't think it would be an issue with the family.

## **F      Disciplinary Process**

### **Proposal 20**

Rule F.2 & F.3 – submitted by The BFA Committee

#### **F.2. Misconduct**

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

#### **F.3. Gross Misconduct**

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

Explanation: This type of behaviour is very serious and should be treated as such.

**DA – very subjective as no definition of inhumane treatment**

**Comm – we will look at producing definition/examples of inhumane treatment**