



**British Flyball Association
Annual General Meeting**

To be held on Sunday 2nd April 2017

**At Wythall Community Hall, Birmingham, B47 6LZ
Commencing at 10.00am**

AGENDA

Note: Only Current Members may vote. No Renewals will be accepted on the day. Only items and proposals contained or pertaining to the issues on the Agenda will be discussed during the AGM. IT

WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF ALL MEMBERS WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF ALL THE PROPOSALS, BRINGING A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF EACH ITEM AND AN INFORMED IDEA OF THEIR VOTING INTENTIONS. NO MAJOR AMENDMENTS TO THESE PROPOSALS CAN BE PERMITTED AT THE AGM. Please bring your own copy of the Agenda to the meeting.

- 1. Chairman's opening speech**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of last AGM – 9th April 2016**
- 4. Concise reports for the year 2016/2017 by:**

BFA Officials

Chairperson – Sharon Allcorn

Secretary – Tony James

Treasurer – Val Currie

Judges Board Report

ALL PROPOSALS LISTED IN RULE NUMBER ORDER

A

Rule 1.17

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

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

Proposed by Donna Culley BFA number – 4016

B

Rule 1.19

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

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

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

- Providing advice, guidance and support on disability issues;
- To examine the BFA rules to ensure that the rules are clear and inclusive - i.e. Rule 5.17 g) states that the box loader must be in an upright position. Does this mean that a person who requires a wheelchair or cannot stand for long periods cannot be a box loader or can box loading be done in a sitting position as a reasonable adjustment? Rule 4.5 c) states that there should be adequate toilet facilities. What does this mean?
- To ensure that members with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in all areas of the sport including judging and ring party and developing any reasonable adjustments that may be required.
- To assess and advise on appropriate conditions for disabled campers, identifying who needs adaptations and the appropriate adaptations put in place - i.e. should mobility impaired members and their teams camping be able to camp together near the ring? Deaf members should not need to cross busy roads to get to rings.
- To assess if a defibrillator could be a useful addition to the BFA, and how to utilise this at competitions - i.e. it travels with the lights.

- To assess if a trained first aider and first aid kit should be available at competitions.
- To encourage companies hiring mobility assistance vehicles to attend large competitions so that some members can camp further away and free up space close to the rings for those in greater need.
- Developing systems for reporting any incidents of discrimination and any subsequent investigations;
- To assess the safety of dogs when interacting with disabled participants and their mobility aids - i.e. it would be helpful to have rules in place regarding the use of powered wheelchairs especially in the ring and the speed they can travel at around competition sites.

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

C

Rule 3.5(f)

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

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

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

D

Rule 4.1(a)

4.1(a) A BFA Registered Team wishing to host a Sanctioned Tournament (the Host Team) must submit an application (BFA Form C.3) to the BFA Show Secretary, complete with a **Remove: £20** non-refundable deposit **Add: see C3 Form for current Fee** (per Sanctioned Tournament). The application should state the date, time and place of the tournament, the name, address and telephone number of the Tournament Organiser (and Tournament Secretary if different), any entry fee, whether the entries are limited and the closing date for entries. When two one day sanctioned tournaments are held at the same venue on the same weekend, teams and dogs may only enter Saturday OR Sunday regardless of whether the tournament organisers are different on each day. This must be stated on the Tournament Schedule. The only exception to this is where the Committee are approached and approve tournaments being hosted in areas of growth (e.g. Isle of Man, Ireland, etc.) Notice of

cancelling a Sanctioned Tournament must be given by the Team Captain of the Host Team in writing to the Show Secretary. Tournament applications venues must be within 50 mile (crows' flies) radius from the team captain's home address. Anything outside the 50 miles will require further consideration by the Show Secretary and committee and may be allowed where they consider the best interests of the membership are served. Tournament organisers can only book a maximum of 6 open or limited open tournaments from 1 April to 30 September. A tournament in addition to the 6 can be applied for and may be accepted under certain circumstances by the Show Secretary with the support of the Committee. The Tournament Organiser should indicate on the Application Form the number of Races each Team might expect. The Tournament Organiser must also declare on the application form if he/she is aware of any other canine event to be held concurrently at the same venue. Applications for Sanctioned Tournaments are to be submitted at least ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries. The Host Team must declare on their application the maximum limit for entries (i.e. the maximum number of teams they are willing to accommodate) as no extension will be given, the exception to this will be Tournaments that are held indoors or inside a marquee.

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

E

4.1b Requirements

b) NOTE: A Sanctioned Tournament application received less than ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries may be approved. However, each late application will be judged on its own merit. Applications less than 30 days will not be approved. This includes a change of date but not a change of venue provided the new venue is still outside the for Sanctioned Tournaments in excess of 50 miles (as the crow flies) – as determined by the show secretary from an existing Sanctioned Tournament taking place on the same date. For applications for Sanctioned Tournaments within this 50 miles radius of an existing Sanctioned Tournament, the Show Secretary, supported by the Committee, can reduce the distance between shows where it is considered to be in the best interest of the membership and the provision of sufficient racing opportunities. **ADD: However sanction will be granted within the 50 miles radius where the proposed Tournament offers Indoor to Outdoor racing or when the tournament offers block to staggered scheduling**

A Tournament schedule for all Open or Limited Sanctioned Tournaments should be submitted in word format to the BFA Show Secretary, for approval prior to distribution, no later than 30 days prior to the closing date for entries of the Tournament.

My Proposal is - 4.1b I would like to propose that two competitions could be run within the 50 mile radius providing one is an indoor and one outdoor, I also propose that the two shows could both be indoor or outdoor provided one is block and the other staggered. In explanation I offer - I believe this would allow more shows to be put on, but more importantly gives the membership more choice.

Proposed by Dave Long BFA number – 0855

F

Rule 4.1(k)

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

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

Proposed by Donna Culley BFA number – 4016

G

Rule 4.1(k)

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

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

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

Times must be recorded on single side timing sheets showing times for both lanes (available from the Website through Admin, Online Forms, Racing Form Templates, Single Side Timers) separate from the Time Sheets used to identify dogs running heat by heat. All relevant separate Sheets are to be attached to the appropriate Time Sheets prior to hand over or posting to the Records and Statistics Coordinator. If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser. Advance Results

should be emailed as soon as possible after the tournament ends so that the seed list can be updated.

The Records and Statistics Co-ordinator will advise the Treasurer if the Organiser has failed to meet the 7-day deadline. The Organiser is to forward a copy of Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) together with a cheque for the Race Registration fees of £2 per team per class for all teams entered, including those running Not for Competition (NFC), to the Treasurer by the same 7 day deadline. After the 7 days the Treasurer shall assess the Organiser's liability for a £25 late penalty.

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

H

Rule 4.1(k)

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

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

If the Records and Statistics Coordinator is present at the Tournament, the original Time Sheets , Jump Height form(s) and Tournament Results form should be handed to him/her at the time. Otherwise, following the Tournament, the Organiser must post the original Time Sheets (BFA Form C.2) , Jump Height form(s) (BFA Form C.9) and Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) to the Records and Statistics Coordinator within 2 days to ensure that the latter is in receipt of the same within 7 days after the Tournament. Times must be recorded on single side timing sheets showing times for both lanes (available from the Website through Admin, Online Forms, Racing Form Templates, Single Side Timers) separate from the Time Sheets used to identify dogs running heat by heat. All relevant separate Sheets are to be attached to the appropriate Time Sheets prior to hand over or posting to the Records and Statistics Coordinator. If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser. Advance Results should be emailed as soon as possible after the tournament ends so that the seed list can be updated.

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

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

Rule 4.1(k)

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

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

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

Times must be recorded on single side timing sheets showing times for both lanes (available from the Website through Admin, Online Forms, Racing Form Templates, Single Side Timers) separate from the Time Sheets used to identify dogs running heat by heat. All relevant separate Sheets are to be attached to the appropriate Time Sheets prior to hand over or posting to the Records and Statistics Coordinator. If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser. Advance Results should be emailed as soon as possible after the tournament ends so that the seed list can be updated.

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

I

Rule 4.1(m)

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

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

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

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

J

Rule 4.3

The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits. Any lanes and runback not falling within this requirement must be stated on the Tournament Schedule and Diary page. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. [See also 5.13 (a)] In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible). The whole length of each racing lane shall be matted to the end of the run back, including underlay ~~Remove: with~~ ~~Add: to ensure~~ a minimum ~~Add: total~~ thickness of 6mm. (no underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun' matting ~~Add: or 'Crumb' matting~~ is used) There shall also be matting for a minimum 4½' on either side of the racing lane centre line for the length of the racing lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. All indoor tournaments using rubber matting for the lanes to cover a slippery surface, e.g. a sports hall floor, must put rubber matting or another suitable non slip surface to cover the entire back board area and also between the lanes from the box line for a distance of at least 15 feet back towards the start line. i.e. from the box line to the first jump in front of the box. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area behind the Flyball box and in front of the backstops of not less than 7' beyond the front edge of the Flyball box. Tournament Organisers should endeavour to find flat ground. If the ground has an obvious incline, the Tournament Organiser must arrange racing lanes to ensure that dogs run uphill' to the box rather than 'downhill'.

The Tournament Organiser should provide water at outdoor tournaments by the ring for drinking and cooling the dogs down

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

K

4.3 Layout

The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits. Any lanes and runback not falling within this requirement must be stated on the Tournament Schedule and Diary page. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. [See also 5.13 (a)] In cases of racing lanes being

placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible). The whole length of each racing lane shall be matted to the end of the run back, including underlay with a minimum thickness of 6mm. (no underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun 'matting is used) There shall also be matting for a minimum 4½' on either side of the racing lane centre line for the length of the racing lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. All indoor tournaments using rubber matting for the lanes to cover a slippery surface, e.g. a sports hall floor, must put rubber matting or another suitable non slip surface to cover the entire back board area and also between the lanes from the box line for a distance of at least 15 feet back towards the start line. i.e. from the box line to the first jump in front of the box. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area behind the Flyball box and in front of the backstops of ~~Remove: not less than 7'~~ **Add: to a minimum of 5' where space is limited** beyond the front edge of the Flyball box. Tournament Organisers should endeavour to find flat ground. If the ground has an obvious incline, the Tournament Organiser must arrange racing lanes to ensure that dogs run uphill' to the box rather than 'downhill'. The Tournament Organiser should provide water at outdoor tournaments by the ring for drinking and cooling the dogs down

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

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

4.3 Layout

The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits. Any lanes and runback not falling within this requirement must be stated on the Tournament Schedule and Diary page. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. [See also 5.13 (a)]In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible). The whole length of each racing lane shall be matted to the end of the run back, including underlay **to ensure** a minimum **total** thickness of 6mm. (no underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun 'matting **or** 'Crumb' matting is used) There shall also be matting for a minimum 4½' on either side of the racing lane centre line for the length of the racing lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. All indoor tournaments using rubber matting for the lanes to cover a slippery surface, e.g. a sports hall floor, must put rubber matting or another suitable non slip surface to cover the entire back board area and also between the lanes from the box line for a distance of at least 15 feet back towards the start line. i.e. from the box line to the first jump in front of the box. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area behind the Flyball box and in front of the backstops of 7' **to a minimum of 5' where space is limited** beyond the front edge of the Flyball box. Tournament Organisers should endeavour to find flat ground. If the ground has an obvious incline, the Tournament Organiser must arrange racing lanes to ensure that dogs run uphill' to the box rather than 'downhill'.

The Tournament Organiser should provide water at outdoor tournaments by the ring for drinking and cooling the dogs down

L

Rule 5.2 j)

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

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

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

Proposed by Ray Lewis BFA Number 2686

M

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

5.6 Judging Procedures

Remove:

b) Two Measuring Officials, shall measure dogs jumping less than 14". All dogs must be measured at three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments; either at a gathering/meeting/event agreed by the Committee or at any day of a flyball tournament if time allows.

If the Judges are uncertain of the dog's height after 3 accurate measurements, the height shall be recorded as the lowest for the benefit of the dog.

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

One of these Judges may at any time request that a dog be measured. However, once measured, he/she is under no obligation to measure the same dog again. If in having the dog measured the Judge determines he/she has made a mistake, the team shall in no way be penalised, but will be required to jump the correct height for any remaining heats. Height measurements are to be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by the Measuring Official and observing Judge. A copy of this completed document should be made available for viewing by the tournament participants. All measuring shall be carried out using only BFA authorised equipment. Only one handler per dog shall normally be allowed in the measuring area unless the head Judges/measuring official chose to allow otherwise for specific dogs. A dog will be measured from the ground to between its withers. It shall stand with all four legs squarely on the ground or board neither stretched nor crouched. The head is to be in a natural position. Aggression during measurement will not be tolerated and Rule 5.19 will be observed. A dog deemed 'NOT MEASURED' by the Measuring Officials will jump at the height of the smallest dog in its team (running, not standing by) if that dog measured less than 19" to between withers.

d) Height Cards – All dogs must be measured at three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments; a gathering/meeting/event agreed by the Committee or at any day of a flyball tournament, the dog's height having been agreed by two Measuring Officials on each occasion. The height must be agreed by at least four different Head Judges/Measuring Officials. A dog must be 18 months old prior to its

first recorded measurement and at least 30 months old at final measurement. The final measurement is to be one of the required numbers of measurements in order to be issued with a height card. All height dogs must hold a height card by 36 months of age; if the above criteria cannot be met by 36 months of age then it must be met within the dogs first 10 sanctioned tournaments. Failure to do so shall result in loss of points for the dog and team on the day. When a Height Card is issued and recorded it must be available for inspection at each Tournament entered. The Height Card Administrator will produce an up-to-date list of all issued Height Cards for each Tournament so that it can be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9. Jump Height Cards cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. However, in some circumstances an Owner can re-apply if the dog's measurement is considered to be incorrect. Before re-applying, an explanation must be sent to the Committee in writing, meeting the criteria set out above in this Rule. Once the Committee have agreed, arrangements will be made for two Head Judges, selected by the Committee, who have not previously measured the dog and do not belong to the applicant's own Team, to re-measure the dog to confirm the height. Handlers who are unable to produce their cards may have their dog's jump height contested.

ADD:

b) Height Cards - Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All height dogs must hold a height card by 36 months of age; if the above criteria cannot be met by 36 months of age then it must be met within the dogs first 10 sanctioned tournaments. Failure to do so shall result in loss of points for the dog and team on the day.

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

The Height Card Administrator will produce an up-to-date list of all issued Height Cards for each Tournament so that it can be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9.

c) Measuring environment & set up

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A dog deemed 'NOT MEASURED' by the Head Judges/Measuring Officials will jump at the height of the smallest dog in its team (running, not standing by) if that dog measured less than 19" to between withers.

d) Appeals

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

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

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

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

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

Contesting a dog's height

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

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

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

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

Team racing at the wrong jump height

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

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

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

Proposed by The Committee

N

Rule 5.6(d)

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

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

Proposed by Donna Culley BFA Number 4016

O

Rule 5.6(d)

5.6(d) Height Cards – All dogs must be measured at three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments; a gathering/meeting/event agreed by the Committee or at any day of a flyball tournament, the dog's height having been agreed by two Measuring Officials on each occasion. The height must be agreed by at least four different Head Judges/Measuring Officials. A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least **Remove:30** **ADD: 24** months old at final measurement. The final measurement is to be one of the required numbers of measurements in order to be issued with a height card. All height dogs must hold a height card by 36 months of age; if the above criteria

cannot be met by 36 months of age then it must be met within the dogs first 10 sanctioned tournaments. Failure to do so shall result in loss of points for the dog and team on the day. When a Height Card is issued and recorded it must be available for inspection at each Tournament entered. The Height Card Administrator will produce an up-to-date list of all issued Height Cards for each Tournament so that it can be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9. Jump Height Cards cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. However, in some circumstances an Owner can re-apply if the dog's measurement is considered to be incorrect. Before re-applying, an explanation must be sent to the Committee in writing, meeting the criteria set out above in this Rule. Once the Committee have agreed, arrangements will be made for two Head Judges, selected by the Committee, who have not previously measured the dog and do not belong to the applicant's own Team, to re-measure the dog to confirm the height. Handlers who are unable to produce their cards may have their dog's jump height contested.

Rational - any breed of dog small enough to become eligible for an official height measure, will have finished growing to their full height before the 24 months. 12 months between 1st and last measure as the rule currently stand seem to be a long time to have a dog measured especially if it's border line, this will save time at dog measuring. I can provide sufficient evidence that eligible height dogs are fully grown by 24 at the latest if this is require.

Proposed by Judy Parker BFA Number 0473

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

5.6 d proposed by Donna Culley would read:

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

All height dogs must have a registered final measure by 36 months of age; if the above criteria cannot be met by 36 months of age then it must be met within the dogs first 10 sanctioned tournaments. Failure to do so shall result in loss of points for the dog and team on the day. Entries on the Dog Height Master Sheet cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog.

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

5.6 d proposed by Judy Parker section would read:

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

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

5.6 b) Height Cards - Requirements

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

5.6 c

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

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

P

Rule 5.6 (g)viii

5.6 (g) The Division Judge

- i. Shall be positioned between the racing lanes in an area where they have a clear view of racing to start the heat.
- ii. He/she shall maintain a consistent sequence for electronic starting. When starting manually, the Division Judge shall maintain a consistent cadence of approximately 1-second intervals throughout the tournament and he/she should be in a position to assist the Line Judges in determining winners of close heats.
- iii. During the heat he/she should be in a position to observe the handlers for any violations.
- iv. If it is necessary to stop a heat, the Division Judge shall use a whistle.
- v. Stop the heat for interference in the ring.
- vi. He/she may confer with the Line Judges and the Box Judges before determining a winner.
- vii. If necessary a Division Judge shall reposition himself/herself in such a manner as not to distract the dogs competing
- viii. Note: A loss for both teams shall be recorded in the following circumstances. **Remove: An NFC team running against:**
 1. **ADD: An NFC team running against** A team presenting with less than 4 dogs (i.e. due to injury or other exceptional circumstances – See also 5.17(i) The Finish and 6.1 Points). **Remove: In this case only 3 legs shall be run.**
 2. **Remove: A team that breaks out** **ADD: A team that has already broken out 3 times racing against an NFC team**
 3. A team that breaks out (single leg) racing against an NFC team.
 4. When both teams break out
 5. When both teams choose not to rerun a dog in order to finish the race

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

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

Proposed by The Committee

Q

Rule 5.6 (h)ii.

Judging Procedures

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

- i. Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
- ii. Using both the BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2) and the single sided master sheet that shows teams and divisional break out times, record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied. **ADD and mark if the race was without faults.** NOTE: When appropriate, instead of a time, one of the following may be entered: No time =NT; In the case of interference for the offending team= NT Int., for the non-offending team = Ave Int.; Where Ave is recorded (for whatever reason) the number of dogs that ran to complete should be shown (e.g. 4 dogs or 5 dogs etc.) If a team breaks out, BO should be entered alongside the time. A loss for both teams may be recorded. (See Rule 5.6(g)(viii))

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

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

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

Proposed by Ray Lewis BFA number 2686

R

Rule 5.8(e)

5.8 (e) Box dimensions

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

Rational:

Our current box dimensions do not meet the influx of larger breeds entering the sport.

We have a responsibility to train our dogs to safely turn on our boxes however this is a request near impossible for some breeds. Our current dimensions make it difficult for larger breeds such as Lurchers, Greyhounds, Labradors, Pointers etc to safely turn- although a lot of large dogs can turn safely (four paws) you will find them when reviewed in slow motion they are having to scrunch and compress their body in an unnatural manner to perform the task at hand. The amended dimensions will allow for further space for larger breeds, and most medium size breeds to take full advantage and alleviate some of the pressure when trying to turn on the box.

Proposed by Daniel Culley BFA Number 4017

S

Rule 5.9

5.9 Balls

Each team shall have its own supply of ~~REMOVE un-punctured, tennis balls REMOVE (any colour - that should easily be distinguishable when being carried by a dog, to a judge officiating a race)~~ Subject to the size and comfort of the dog, other tennis-type smaller approved balls may be used. ~~ADD Approved Balls may be of any size, colour or design but must bounce and roll. See also 5.8D~~

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

Proposed by Daniel Culley BFA Number 4017

T

Rule 5.11

5.11 Barriers

The host team shall provide a solid barrier/backstop (Approx. 24" high) ~~Remove: not less than 7ft~~ ~~Add to a minimum of 5' where space is limited~~ from the front edge of the flyball box, in a horseshoe shape so that the barrier is no further forward than the box line. The total length of the barrier should be 24ft and can be in sections for ease of carrying/transporting.

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

U

Rule 5.12 (c)

5.12 c.) Jumps

For each heat, jump heights shall be set at the Jump height of the smallest dog (running, not standing by), as recorded on the Team's Time Sheet for competing dogs, with a minimum of 7" and a maximum of ~~REMOVE 14"~~ ~~ADD 12"~~, this height to include any protective materials.

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

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

Proposed by Daniel Culley BFA Number 4017

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

e) Jump heights shall be set at 5" lower than the dog's height at the withers with a minimum of 7" and a maximum of ~~Remove:14"~~ ~~Add: 12"~~ Adjusted to 1" increments to the lowest whole number ~~Remove: (e.g. 12 3/4" becomes 12")~~ ~~Add: (e.g. 9 3/4 " becomes 9")~~

V

Rule 5.12 (c)

5.12 c.) Jumps

For each heat, jump heights shall be set at the Jump height of the smallest dog (running, not standing by), as recorded on the Team's Time Sheet for competing dogs, with a minimum of 7" and a maximum of 14" this height to include any protective materials.

~~Add "For declared Veterans Teams, the jumps may set up to 4 inches lower, with a minimum of 7 inches."~~

Linked to proposal 5.2 j

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

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

Proposed by Ray Lewis BFA Number 2686

Should both rule changes pass rule will read:

5.12 c.) Jumps

For each heat, jump heights shall be set at the Jump height of the smallest dog (running, not standing by), as recorded on the Team's Time Sheet for competing dogs, with a minimum of 7" and a maximum of 12" this height to include any protective materials.

~~"For declared Veterans Teams, the jumps may set up to 4 inches lower, with a minimum of 7 inches."~~

W

Rule 5.13

5.13(b) The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits'. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet

(such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible) each racing lane shall be matted at a minimum 4' on either side of its centre line for the length of the lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. (No underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun' matting **Add: or 'Crumb' matting** is used) Between the first and last jumps the lane shall have at least 3' wide matting. All indoor tournaments using rubber matting for the lanes to cover a slippery surface, e.g. A sports hall floor, must put rubber matting or another suitable non slip surface to cover the entire back board area and also between the lanes from the box line for a distance of at least 15 feet back towards the start line. i.e. from the box line to the first jump in front of the box. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area not less than 29' leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the box in front of the backstops of not less than 7' from the front edge of the Flyball box.

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

X

5.13 Set Up

b) The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits'. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible) each racing lane shall be matted at a minimum 4' on either side of its centre line for the length of the lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. (No underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun' matting is used) Between the first and last jumps the lane shall have at least 3' wide matting. All indoor tournaments using rubber matting for the lanes to cover a slippery surface, e.g. A sports hall floor, must put rubber matting or another suitable non slip surface to cover the entire back board area and also between the lanes from the box line for a distance of at least 15 feet back towards the start line. i.e. from the box line to the first jump in front of the box. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area not less than 29' leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the box in front of the backstops **of Remove: not less than 7' Add: to a minimum of 5' where space is limited** from the front edge of the Flyball box.

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

Proposed by BFA Committee

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

5.13 Set Up

b) The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits'. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible) each racing lane shall be matted at a minimum 4' on either side of its centre line for the length of the lane leading up to the first jump and

an area from the last jump to the backstops. (No underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun' matting or 'Crumb' matting is used) Between the first and last jumps the lane shall have at least 3' wide matting. All indoor tournaments using rubber matting for the lanes to cover a slippery surface, e.g. A sports hall floor, must put rubber matting or another suitable non slip surface to cover the entire back board area and also between the lanes from the box line for a distance of at least 15 feet back towards the start line. i.e. from the box line to the first jump in front of the box. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area not less than 29' leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the box in front of the backstops 7' to a minimum of 5' where space is limited from the front edge of the Flyball box.

Y

Rule 5.17(b)

5.17b:

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

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

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

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

Racing times: After observing the new start rule over the previous 12 months I do not believe it has reduced racing times. There are many reasons that racing may be delayed, however in my opinion the primary cause is not due to the re running of start dogs. I also think that if you enter to compete at a tournament you should expect to be there all day, hence not sure why delayed racing is such an issue.

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

Proposed by Bhavnesh Patel BFA Number 6325

Z

Rule 5.20

5.20 Infectious and Contagious Diseases.

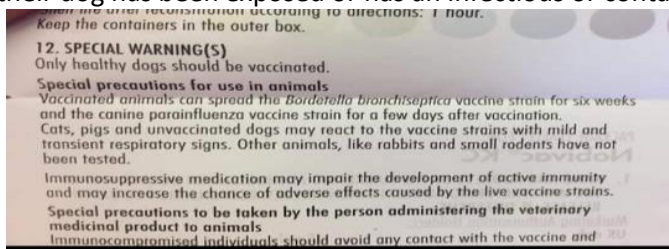
BFA members must not bring to a tournament any dog which has been diagnosed or exposed to any infectious or contagious disease. A BFA member who has a dog with an infectious or contagious disease must not attend a tournament **ADD: and it is strongly advised / recommended not to train with other dogs** until 21 days after symptoms have ceased or, where appropriate negative results have been received and must have the approval of the qualified vet who has treated the illness.

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

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

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

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



Manufacturers' notes

Proposed by BFA Committee

AA

Rule 5.22

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

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

Proposed by Donna Culley 4016

BB

Rule 6.1

6.1 Points

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

6.1 **REMOVE: Points From 1st January 2007 each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time: under 22 seconds each dog racing in that heat will under 30 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 5 points;** **ADD: Points (date added later) each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time under 30 seconds each dog racing will receive 25 points towards a flyball title;** provided that a BFA Head Judge or Officer is present and at least four BFA Registered Teams compete. The teams must actually compete. All four dogs on the team must, in the opinion of the BFA representative successfully complete a run in a reasonable length of time. The BFA representative shall determine what is reasonable. All four teams may be from within the same Team number provided all are registered with the BFA and were given an equal opportunity to enter but declined to do so. All team handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered, with owners who are current members of the BFA. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points.

Any Team voluntarily going 'Not for Competition' (NFC) during racing will forfeit ALL points and placing's. If a Team is forced to withdraw, dogs in the Team will retain any points and placing's gained up to the time of withdrawal, provided a representative of the team present themselves at the Ring for subsequent races. See also Rules 5.6(h) (iii) a) If the team number and team name on the time sheet are incorrect or do not match, the points for that team may be lost. b) If the dogs are not circled, the points for that leg are lost. c) The dog's name and number are incorrect or do not match, the points may be lost for that dog. d) If the handler number and name are incorrect or incomplete, not valid or do not match, the points for that dog may be lost

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed by Lincoln Brookes BFA Number 6725

CC

6.1 Points From 1st January 2007 each time a team races **ADD: without any faults** in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time: under 22 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 25 points towards a Flyball title; under 26 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 10 points; under 30 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 5 points; provided that a BFA Head Judge or Officer is present and at least four BFA Registered Teams compete. The teams must actually compete. All four dogs on the team must, in the opinion of the BFA representative successfully complete a run **ADD: without any faults. REMOVE in a reasonable length of time. The BFA representative shall determine what is reasonable.** All four teams may be from within the same Team number provided all are registered with the BFA and were given an equal opportunity to enter but declined to do so. All team handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered, with owners who are current members of the BFA. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points. Any Team voluntarily going 'Not for Competition' (NFC) during racing will forfeit ALL points and placing's. If a Team is forced to withdraw, dogs in the Team will retain any points and placing's gained up to the time of withdrawal, provided a representative of the team present themselves at the Ring for subsequent races. See also Rules 5.6(h) (iii) a) If the team number and team name on the time sheet are incorrect or do not match, the points for that team may be lost. b) If the dogs are not circled, the points for that leg are lost. c) The dog's name and number are incorrect or do not match, the points may be lost for that dog. d) If the handler number and name are incorrect or incomplete, not valid or do not match, the points for that dog may be lost.

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

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

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

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

Proposed by Ray Lewis BFA Number 2686

Should both proposals be passed the rule will read.

6.1 Points from (date added later), each time a team races without any faults in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time under 30 seconds each dog racing will receive 25 points towards a flyball title; provided that a BFA Head Judge or Officer is present and at least four BFA Registered Teams compete. The teams must actually compete. All four dogs on the team must, in the opinion of the BFA representative successfully complete a run without any faults All four teams may be from within the same Team number provided all are registered with the BFA and were given an equal opportunity to enter but declined to do so. All team handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered, with owners who are current members of the BFA. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points. Any Team voluntarily going 'Not for Competition' (NFC) during racing will forfeit ALL points and placing's. If a Team is forced to withdraw, dogs in the Team will retain any points and placing's gained up to the time of withdrawal, provided a representative of the team present themselves at the Ring for subsequent races. See also Rules 5.6(h) (iii) a) If the team number and team name on the time sheet are incorrect or do not match, the points for that team may be lost. b) If the dogs are not circled, the points for that leg are lost. c) The dog's name and number are incorrect or do not match, the points may be lost for that dog. d) If the handler number and name are incorrect or incomplete, not valid or do not match, the points for that dog may be lost.

DD

Rule 8.4

ADD: 8.4 Tony Hodge Award

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

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

Proposed by The Committee on behalf of Mrs Eileen Hodge

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:

Sharon Allcorn (High Flyers)

Tony Cain (Ready2Fly)

Darryl Ogden (Storm Chasers)

David Murdoch (Funky Fidos Flyballers)

Tony James (FourPaws Racing)

Two Members have decided to retire and are not seeking re-election;

Karen Jarnet (Delta)

Jenni Wallace (Lomond Flyball Club)

Seeking re-election to the Committee after 1 year as a co-opted member;

Ali Kirk (Black Adders)

Proposed by Rachel Brown and Seconded by Sharon Alcorn

Seeking re-election after serving current term on the Committee

Val Currie (Muskerhounds)

Proposed by Lucy Hughes and Seconded by Jenni Wallace

The nominations for the remaining two places on the Committee are:

Shian Corley (Dundee Dynamutz)

Proposed by Bob Haworth and Seconded by Lee Murray

Katie Burns (Carry On's)

Proposed by Emily Murdoch and Seconded by Sue Allen

Donna Culley (WOW)

Proposed by Joe Lamont and Seconded by Lynn Bradley

Presentations of Annual Awards for 2016

Chairperson's closing speech.