



British Flyball Association

Annual General Meeting

To be held on Saturday 2nd April 2022

Via Zoom Webinar

Commencing at 10.00am

AGENDA

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 have your own copy of the agenda available.

1. Chairperson's opening speech
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last AGM – 29th March 2021
4. Concise reports for the year 2021/2022 by:

BFA Officials Chairperson – Justin Shearing

Secretary – Ellen Barraclough

Treasurer – Katie Burns

5. Championships 2022 update
6. University Update
7. Measuring Working Group Update

All proposals are listed in rule number order (unless linked to other rule proposals)

Proposal 1

Constitution 3.3

Proposed by the BFA Committee

3.3 The Committee is responsible for setting, amending, interpreting and enforcing the BFA's rules, policies, guidelines, codes, procedures and so on including but not limited to those related to discipline, sportsmanship, tournaments, and complaints. Any change of the same will not take effect until ~~REMOVE 1st June or 1st November~~ ~~ADD 1st January or 1st June~~ whichever is the earlier after the change is declared by the Committee unless the change relates to dog welfare in which case it will come into effect on any date set by the Committee.

Reason:

To change in line with the new AGM timescales

Proposal 2

Proposed by The BFA Committee

Constitution 4.1 and 4.2 and Appendix 1

4.1 Any meeting of the Committee will require not less than five Committee Members to be in attendance to be quorate with all Committee Members having first been provided with a reasonable opportunity to attend. Attendance can be in person or by way of an electronic or telephone communication system (for example, ~~REMOVE Skype~~ ~~ADD Online system~~, Facebook, conference call, etc).

4.2 For any vote of the Committee to be binding it will require all Committee Members having first been provided with a reasonable opportunity to vote and not less than five Committee Members voting in favour. Committee Members may vote in person, or by way of an electronic or telephone communication system (for example, ~~REMOVE Skype~~ ~~ADD Online system~~, Facebook, email, conference call, etc).

Committee Members will work effectively as a team with the other 8 members of the elected Committee. Deal with all Committee correspondence impartially, fairly and in a timely manner. Will declare any conflicts of interest when they become apparent, be available to attend face to face and or ~~REMOVE Skype~~ ~~ADD Online~~ meetings. Attend every AGM whilst serving as a Committee member. Act as mediator or an Investigating Officer on behalf of the BFA Committee for incidents, complaints or dog welfare issues. Attend, support and assist with planning for BFA Championships and BFA training events.

Reason:

Removal of reference to Skype as it dates the rules. Change to online system to cover whatever is being used at the time.

Proposal 3

Proposed by The BFA Committee

Constitution 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. 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 ~~REMOVE~~ ~~Advisor~~ ~~ADD~~ ~~Team~~ prior to implementation.

Reason:

Updated to reflect that we now have a Veterinary Team not Advisor

Proposal 4

Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.1.1.8 and A.1.1.10

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

The ~~ADD~~ ~~Tournament~~ ~~Organiser~~ must get written approval from the BFA Show Secretary for any and all special or unusual requests. i.e. live streaming and or filming.

Reason:

Updated terminology to ensure consistent with the rest of the rules

Proposal 5

Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.1.2.5

REMOVE Public Address - Flyball is a spectator sport. As such, it is important to announce races, explain the sport and announce times when spectators are present.

Reason:

Not all venues have access to public address and some do not allow due to noise complaints

Proposal 6

Proposed by Keith Marshall

A.1.3.5

Tournament Organisers should register all entries for a period of 72 hours after the schedule release split into two parts:

First 24 hours

- a. If the tournament is oversubscribed after 24 hours a draw will be done on all entries received at that point. The unsuccessful teams will be put on a reserve list.
- b. If the tournament is not oversubscribed at this time all entries received within the 24 hour period will have gained entry to the tournament.

Following 48 hours

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

ADD Tournament Organisers must publish a list of entries after 24 and 72 hours, whether or not there is a reserve list.

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

Reason:

The current rule does not require a list of entries to be published, whether or not the tournament is oversubscribed. TO's currently publish a list of successful entries at their discretion, especially if a tournament is not oversubscribed.

I believe it would be prudent for all entries to be published at the 24 hour point and then again at the 72 hour point if necessary, whether or not a reserve list is applicable.

Although many TO's confirm entries by return email or publish a statement to the effect that "all entries have been successful", to have a published list for every show would allow teams entered a "double check" that their entry has been received!! I am aware that in the past, entry emails have been missed for various reasons and this would resolve that issue.

This would also allow for BFA Officials, Committee, Judges Board, Regional Reps etc. to see, at a glance, which teams are attending which show in all cases, to help where there are requirements for additional assistance, equipment etc. and can be arranged more easily.

Proposal 7

Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.1.4.1

Running orders and tournament information must be posted on the **REMOVE BFA website** **ADD online** so they are available to all team members. An emailed version can be sent if requested by the team captain. Seed times used must be shown with faster and slower declared times clearly marked.

Reason:

Updated to reflect current practice

Proposal 8

Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.1.4.3 and A.1.4.11

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 **ADD (unless in exceptional circumstances and agreed by the Committee)**. If a declared time is not submitted then their entry will be void and they will not race. A declared time may be submitted - it must be at least ½ second faster or ½ second slower than the teams seeded time and will be subject to the Team break-out rule. Teams not on the seed list must submit a time and will be subject to the team break-out rule. The BFA Committee may organise other sanctioned events throughout the year that will follow the process for a standard Tournament and not a Championships.

REMOVE 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. Teams from other countries invited by the BFA Committee will be sanctioned to submit a declared time.

Reason:

A.1.4.3 To allow for exceptional circumstances where a team does not have a valid seed time

A.1.4.11 Remove completely, all the detail is covered already within A.1.4.3 and adding in the exceptional circumstances would cover should teams from other countries enter.

Proposal 9

Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.1.4.12

REMOVE 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 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.

Reason:

To remove the requirement to qualify for a championship event. This is to make it easier for teams to be able to attend championship events.

Proposal 10

Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.1.5.3

Double Elimination Competitions

An alternative format of racing which can be used by Tournament Organisers, often preceded by Speed Trials. Copies of the format forms for double elimination may be obtained from the Records and Statistics Coordinator. To allow teams more racing in double elimination tournaments, some teams have offered consolation rounds for those teams eliminated early. Consolation rounds can be round robin, single elimination or double elimination. This may be adapted to include a single elimination final if the tournament organiser wishes. ALL variations in format shall be clearly marked on all tournament information (diary, schedule, running order etc). **REMOVE NOTE: Speed Trials are not a proper Tournament format on their own and can only be used as a preliminary to a Double Elimination.**

Reason:

To remove the note as speed trials will be used as a preliminary to round robin racing as well

Proposal 11

Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.1.5.4

Sanctioned classes are: open, multibreed, singles, pairs. Other unsanctioned classes may include: Flyball Foundations etc.

ADD Singles

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

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

Pairs

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

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

Reason:

To clarify how singles and pairs can be used and ensure that the formats are easier for TOs to be able to incorporate alongside open racing. Please note that rule A.1.4 "A dog may not be entered in more than one open sanctioned tournament on the same weekend. A dog may be entered into different sanctioned formats at the same tournament on the same weekend, but not the same day" would still apply

Proposal 12

Proposed by Jonathan Ansell

A.1.6.5

REMOVE Where netting is **ADD** Netting must be used to divide the run back area a minimum gap of 25' must be implemented from the start line and a minimum gap of 4' must be implemented at the back of the run back area.

Reason:

6.5 is ambiguous and allows tournament organisers a choice of using a barrier in the runback area. The layout of the ring should be consistent in every BFA tournament.

Interference – I have noticed that there is some variation between Judges and interference rulings. A physical barrier would prevent this.

Distractions – A physical barrier would go towards mitigating distractions and help reduce the rolling of balls from one side to the other.

Proposal 13

Proposed by Andrew Short

A.1.7.1

There shall be a distance of 6' from the start/finish line to the first jump, 10' between each jump (4 in total) and 15' from the last jump to the front edge of the flyball box. **ADD** There shall be a tolerance of + or – ¼ inch("). The distance between the box line and the start/finish line shall be not less than 51' and not more than 51' 1 inch (").

Reason:

At present, although the rules allow a tolerance of 1inch (") in the length of the entire racing lane, there is actually nothing stated in the rules to permit this tolerance due to the wording of the measurements: 6' from start line, 10' each jump and 15' to box line. Adding in the proposed tolerance on each jump placement would allow for the 51' and 1".

Proposal 14

Proposed by Maria Worrell

A.1.7.3

Jumps

The host team shall provide two sets of identical flyball jumps for the duration of the tournament. Teams are asked to co-operate by lending equipment.

The jumps shall be solid, white and are to have an inside width of **REMOVE 24"** **ADD 30"**, with posts neither more than 36" high nor less than 24" high. The outside of the posts may be painted any colour, but the edges must be white. Logos and/or lettering shall be permitted but limited to 3" x 20". The tops of the jumps are to be flexible / breakable AND protected at the front, top and back with foam or soft material (e.g. 15mm x 25mm water pipe insulation). The slats (not baseboard) shall be clearly marked with their size.

Reason:

Dog safety

I feel it is important that in all sports, rules and regulations are reviewed in order to improve the safety and welfare of its participants. This is something that is done widely across all human sports and I feel it's equally as important in dog sports, especially as a lot of their actions in flyball are largely dictated by the handler and although we may not be able to reduce how many errors we as handlers make, we can absolutely increase the margin of error for the dogs welfare, meaning when errors occur accidentally of course, the dogs will not have to bare the consequences of this.

By widening the jumps to 30 inches, this gives a significant amount of room for error in case of early passes. I understand a lot of the membership may feel that early passes (on the jump) is something that should not happen and should be worked on in training, which I agree with however, it is often the case that issues occur once the incoming dog has already been released. Example, a dog could re grip the ball, miss stride, take the jump wrong and lots of other scenarios that could lead to a dangerous pass and therefore putting both dogs at risk. Even with the most experienced of handler these accidents can be completely unavoidable.

Dog confidence

After discussions with members from different associations, suggests that a dogs confidence going into a pass seems to have improved for dogs who usually appear uncomfortable with passing, although sufficient training should be put in place to help dogs feel comfortable in passing, some dogs never fully have this confidence and I feel as owners/handlers it is our responsibility to make our dogs as comfortable as possible in a sport we are asking them to play.

I think it's also important to take into account that with the sport growing and evolving, we are seeing an increase in different breeds. Naturally this will also be safer for larger breeds and give them more confidence and margin of error. This will also help the smaller dogs feel more comfortable with the amount of room they have coming out of the jump and into the gate area, when a much larger dog is passing onto it. It must feel somewhat intimidating for smaller breeds that are faced with a large breed running towards them and the only area they can safely move to one side is once they are out of the last jump and in the gate.

With the sport growing and new members registering weekly, it means that inexperienced members take the lanes (which is amazing for the sport) but there is only so much training that can be done to prepare for certain situations that can happen on race day in the ring, some which cannot be trained for. Widening the jumps again, allows for the sport to protect our dogs in the eventuality of unforeseen and accidental passes in the jumps.

Associations all over the world have either changed or have committed to changing to the 30" jumps, so not only will it bring our association in line with the majority but it begs the question as to why this is happening. If associations are committing to jump changes and thousands of owners are making this conscious choice to vote it in and are happy to race on 30" wide jumps then this must be only in the best interest of the dogs themselves.

I personally feel very strongly about 30 inch wide jumps as I have seen/been involved with near misses myself, or seen crashes on the jumps through circumstances that could not have been avoided. I feel we owe it to our dogs, who are willing to run up and down the lanes and trust us to do so no matter if they are heading into an accidentally dangerous pass, to ensure and improve the sport for their sake.

Additionally, I know a lot of people will be concerned about the price teams will incur to change to 30" jumps, which will require a change of baseboards and slats. I feel cost should not be a factor when considering dog safety however, I know how extremely challenging it is for clubs to financially run in the positive and bear such costs... so I have had discussions with ENVY flyball products who have committed to a discount if the rule change goes through. 50% off baseboards and slats for teams who have previously purchased jump sets from them and 30% off for teams who have not.

For those concerned about the 30" jumps being less stable than the 24", I have contacted multiple members that race consistently on 30" jumps and there has been an overall consensus that the extra 6" does not reduce jump stability and jumps are not, on average knocked over any more than jumps at 24". I feel if there was a risk to jump stability then they would not have been used at Crufts which was shown all over the world, if they were not stable. These jumps along with other associations jumps have not reported any issues with them being knocked over any more than previous 24" ones and dogs are less likely to clip the wings of 30" jumps when they are wider anyway. I have also had the chance to train on 30" jumps for the past year and have not noticed a difference in the jump integrity.

Proposal 15

Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.2.5.1

All Teams will appoint a **REMOVE Manager**/Captain who must be a current BFA member and who will submit the Team name (and Secondary names if applicable) to the Membership Secretary for approval. If acceptable this name will be registered with the BFA and no other Team will be permitted to use it or derivatives thereof.

Reason:

Updated wording to be consistent with the rest of the rules where Captain is used

Proposal 16

Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.2.5.7

In addition to the handlers/holders and the box-loader a team may at their discretion be accompanied by team members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps, collect times, record changeovers and any other relevant jobs to the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team. **REMOVE Members of the team who do not have a job may be asked to leave the ring by the Divisional Judge.** A racing team may be assisted by up to five additional Members. Teams that require 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.

Reason:

This part of the rule was added when a number of members was not specified. Now only five additional members are allowed, so therefore this section shouldn't be required.

Proposal 17

Proposed by Bhav Patel

A.2.5.7

In addition to the handlers/holders and the box-loader a team may at their discretion be accompanied by team members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps, collect times, record changeovers 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 Divisional Judge. A racing team may be assisted by up to five additional Members **ADD and seven members during the warm up**. Teams that require 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 **ADD or warm up**

Reason:

Many handlers work very hard to bring dogs which are a little nervous or lack in confidence to reach a point where the dogs feel safe enough to race happily. I have witnessed on many occasions where large numbers of team members enter the ring during warm up and create a lot of noise which has subsequently cause a dog in the opposing lane to revert or completely shut down. In the interest of dog welfare we are trying to create a racing environment which is safe and enjoyable for all racing dogs and this should be implemented during the warm up too. I have added the number to 7 part which allows members to aid with props which are then not used during racing.

Proposal 18

Proposed by Dave Anderson and Andrew Short

A.2.7.1.d

The ball, when released, must have a free unobstructed flight, **REMOVE of not less than 24" from the box cup in a forward direction**. **ADD which clears the front of the flyball box**.

Reason:

The 24" was included in our rules as a direct lift from the NAFA rules, when the BFA was founded. Judges needed a standard to ensure that boxes were firing correctly so 24" was selected. Dogs tend to catch a ball within 4 to 6" of the hole, so why do we have to fire the ball so quickly and hard at the dogs mouth. The positive effects of the proposed rule change. It would remove the need to measure the distance the box fires, so it will be easier and quicker for the judges to check the box is firing.

Team captains will be able to adjust the box to suit their individual dogs needs i.e soft slower firing for rookies and veterans.
We would no longer be asking our dogs to catch bullets in their teeth.

Proposal 19

Proposed by Bhav Patel and Lauren Simmons

A.2.7.2

Each team shall have its own supply of un-punctured, tennis balls **ADD Dunlop training foam tennis balls and Chuckit balls** (any colour - that should easily be distinguishable when being carried by a dog, to a judge officiating a race) Subject to the size and comfort of the dog, other tennis-type smaller approved balls may be used.

Reason:

Lauren We have some dogs that are more comfortable to carry tennis "type" balls. When previously queried guidance given was that the ball needed to look like a tennis ball, roll and bounce on grass, (I have videos that can demonstrate this although there are no details in the rulebook that this is what is required in a ball).

The Foam tennis balls that we use also travel at least 24" from the box and are the same size as a standard tennis ball. (they are Children's Foam Tennis balls made by Dunlop)

The Medium sized Chuckit Ball, also has the pattern of a tennis ball, can also roll and bounce on grass and is the same size as a standard tennis ball.

Different materials are more comfortable for some dogs so where smaller dogs can have smaller balls for comfort other materials should be allowed for this reason also.

Bhav We promote Flyball as being a inclusive sport for dogs of all breeds and abilities and yet we have a rule which prohibits some dogs from racing because they can't use a tennis ball.

There are many reasons why a dog may have to use a different ball to a "tennis" ball. This may be due to the weight of a ball or the texture of a ball to name a few. We should be encouraging people to find solutions which allow their dogs to enjoy our sport not implementing barriers which prevent it. I have a dog which in my team who will destroy a tennis ball as soon as she takes from the box and therefore it becomes a choke hazard to her, we worked really hard to find a solution to allow her to run safely but under current rules we were advised the use of the different ball is not permitted as it's not a tennis ball.

Proposal 20

Proposed by Will Whiteley

A.3.1.3

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

Reason:

I would like to see 0 false starts allowed. Dogs 2-4 don't have any 2nd chances at making mistakes for changeovers so why should dog 1? Going first dog is already the easiest position to run a dog and there is a free shot at making a mistake with it each race.

Proposal 21

Proposed by The BFA Committee

B.3.2.8

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

- a. A team that has already broken out 2 times racing against an WFC team
- b. A team that breaks out (single heat) racing against an WFC team.
- c. When both teams break out
- d. When both teams choose not to rerun a dog in order to finish the race
- e. ADD when neither team can complete in a reasonable time frame (DJ discretion)
- f. In circumstances a and b only three heats will be run. Circumstances c, d, e and ADD f will count as one heat raced and *may* result in only three heats being run.

Reason:

To allow for the judge to end the race if in their opinion dogs are unlikely to complete the leg. A reasonable time frame will be allowed.

Proposal 22

Proposed by The BFA Committee

B.3.2.12

REMOVE A Divisional Judge is not to engage in conversation with a disgruntled competitor. A judge's decision following mediation is final.

ADD The Divisional Judge should be able to explain any decision they have made during racing to the Team Captain(s); the judge's decision though is final. Team Captains dissatisfied with the decision of a Division Judge during racing should raise the matter with the Head Judge as soon as practicable.

Reason:

To expand and clarify the current rule.

Proposal 23

Proposed by The BFA Committee

B.4.1.1.e

REMOVE When hand timing is used or any part of the electronic equipment fails this must also be recorded on the Time Sheet(s) heat by heat as such times will be disregarded when calculating fastest times and therefore seeding times.

ADD Should the EJS fail during racing and alternative means of timing the race are endorsed by the Head Judge, this is to be clearly marked on the C2, heat by heat, as these times will be disregarded for the purposed of fastest times and seeding times.

Reason:

Sanctioned tournaments would not be allowed without EJS and had timing should therefore not be endorsed, unless there is no other option. This is clarifying the process should this happen.

Proposal 24

Proposed by Reece Marsland

C.2

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

Method 1

- 2.1 All measuring shall be carried out using only BFA authorised equipment; laser device and measuring stick where the datum line is set at 24".
- 2.2 The recommended distance between dog being measured and the laser is 2m and should never be less than 1 m (manufacturer's recommended distance)
- 2.3 Only one handler per dog shall normally be allowed in the measuring area unless the Head Judges / Measuring Officials choose to allow otherwise
- 2.4 A dog will be measured from the ground to between its withers. Withers being the dip between the dogs shoulder blades.
- 2.5 Dogs should be standing square with hocks perpendicular to the ground. The head is to be in a relaxed, natural position neither too high nor too low.

2.6 ADD Method 2:

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

Jump Height (inch)	Ulna Length
6	Up to 4 inches
7	Over 4 inches to 4.5 inches
8	Over 4.5 inches to 5 inches
9	Over 5 inches and up to 5.5 inches
10	Over 5.5 inches and up to 6 inches
11	Over 6 inches and up to 6.5 inches
12	Over 6.5 inches

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

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

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

2.8 A dog deemed 'NOT MEASURED' by the Head Judges/Measuring Officials will jump at the height of the smallest dog in its team (running, not standing by) if that dog measured less than 18" to between withers.

Reason:

Unity with the rest of the world

Other associations have either adopted the Ulna measure or are in advanced stages of implementing the system. As an association we should always be looking to be progressive and improve the sport for the benefit of the dog, comparisons to other associations is a great way of doing this. Having a more uniform measuring system will allow others from different associations to more easily race within the BFA and vice versa.

Not every dog/breed is uniform

Having two systems to measure the jump height of the dog offers greater choice to obtain the best jump height for the dog. Different breeds/dogs are hindered by the withers measure due to body shape and some dogs are fearful of the measuring stick on the back, they may respond better to ulna measure. Training devices for measuring the ulna are cheap to reproduce so owners could practice at home with the dogs to get them comfortable with the process before arriving for official measuring.

Consistency

The general feedback from other associations is that the ulna measure is more consistent once the dog is used to the device along with being a much quicker process. The devices used are cheap to buy and easy to transport so it won't be a big burden on tournament organisers/lights owners to bring them to competitions. Compared to the withers measure they are smaller, easier to transport and quicker to get setup.

Scale

The scale from ulna length to jump height is something that should be expected to change in the early implementations of the rule, the reason being the BFA needs to collect more data in order to produce a best fit conversion chart. Implementing the rule on the proposed scale will allow the BFA committee to collect plenty of data with an aim to review the scale as early as possible. Should it need adjusting, the committee could update in November.

Proposal 25

Proposed by Jeff Hughes

E.3.1

The Young Members Award Scheme will reward all participants with a milestone award for members aged ~~REMOVE 6~~ **ADD 4** to 18

Reason:

To reduce the starting age to 4 years, this allows young members who are already participating in our sport to gain points. This is a recommendation by the Young Members Working Group.

Proposal 26

Proposed by Jeff Hughes

E.3.5

Points are awarded for;

- a. judging half a division at a Sanctioned **ADD open, multibreed, singles or pairs** Tournament (minimum 16 years of age). ~~REMOVE or half a division at a Starters Tournament.~~
- b. Handling a dog at a Sanctioned **ADD open, multibreed, foundation singles or pairs** ~~REMOVE and Starters~~ Tournament (for half a division or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format).
- c. Box loading at a Sanctioned **ADD open, multibreed, foundation singles or pairs** ~~REMOVE and Starters~~ (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 at a Sanctioned **ADD open, multibreed, foundation singles or pairs** ~~REMOVE and Starters~~ Tournament (for half a division, or a minimum of 7 races in staggered format)

- e. Ball collecting duties ~~ADD~~ at a Sanctioned open, multibreed, foundation singles or pairs

Points will be awarded for ~~REMOVE starter~~ ~~ADD~~ foundation, singles and pairs competitions held alongside a BFA sanctioned tournament but not for stand-alone ~~REMOVE starter~~ ~~ADD~~ foundation, singles and pairs competitions.

Reason:

To bring in line with the current rules

8. Any other business

- i. Flyball Jumps working group (David Anderson)
- ii. VRJ Rescue dog of the year (Christine Thompstone)

9. 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:

Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact)

Katie Burns (Carry On's)

Craig Burrows (FOCUS)

Paul Horton (Nuneaton Flyers)

Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes)

Rachel Short (Commandos)

Two members have decided to retire: Alicia Marsland (High Flyers) and David Murdoch (Funky Fidos)

Seeking re-election to the Committee:

Jeanette Shelley (Aces) Proposed by Justin Shearing and seconded by Michelle Atkinson

The nominations for the remaining places on the Committee are;

Sharon Allcorn (High Flyers) Proposed by Will Whiteley and seconded by Kim Sermon

Karen Bell (Waggytails) Proposed by Garry Minnikin and seconded by Jason Baker

Stuart Laverick (Trigger Happy) Proposed by Andrew Short and seconded by Katie Burns

The result of the committee nomination election has already been publicised and the 2022 committee, which will come into effect after the AGM, is:

Sharon Allcorn (High Flyers)

Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact)

Katie Burns (Carry On's)

Craig Burrows (FOCUS)

Paul Horton (Nuneaton Flyers)

Stuart Laverick (Trigger Happy)

Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes)

Jeanette Shelley (Aces)

Rachel Short (Commandos)

9. Chairperson's closing speech.