



Annual General Meeting 20th April 2024 Via Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

1. Opening address by our Chairperson - Bhavnesh Patel.
2. Apologies Received.
3. Previous AGM Minutes Signed.
4. Reports from
 - Chairperson Overview and Welcome Bhavnesh Patel
 - Financial Report from our Treasurer Martyn McNulty
 - Website Report from our Webmaster. To be read by Martyn McNulty
5. Rule Proposals

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

6. Announcement of Annual Awards
7. Introducing New Committee Members
8. Thank you's
9. Closing Statement.

PROPOSAL 1

PROPOSED BY - 2024 Proposal Constitution Working Party

REWRITE OF CONSTITUTION DOCUMENT AS PER AGM 2023 REQUEST

Blue ADD/AMEND Red – Remove

Constitution & Rules of Flyball Racing [REMOVE]

The official rules and regulations of the British Flyball Association, a governing body of International Flyball Racing within the United Kingdom. [REMOVE]

The official rules and regulations of the British Flyball Association, an unincorporated association of voluntary members within the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Channel Islands. [ADD]

CONSTITUTION

1. Name and Objective

1.1 The British Flyball Association (“BFA”) is an unincorporated association of members governing flyball in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland with the following objectives:

- a) Furthering the sport of flyball;
- b) promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship in the sport through its committees, rules, policies, tournaments and other activities;
- c) promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs. [REMOVE]

1.1 The objective of the British Flyball Association (“BFA”) is to further the sport of flyball by promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship, as detailed in its Code of Conduct. [ADD]

2. Code of Ethics [REMOVE]

2.1 One of the objectives of the BFA is to promote co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs.

- a. Co-operation and good sportsmanship should not be recognised in passive observance, but in all BFA related communications as a way of life and in training and competition treating committee, members and guests fairly and with respect, promoting an environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment. BFA members shall at all times be courteous and friendly. At no time should they show displeasure with a dog, a judge, competitor, BFA representative, sponsor, host or spectator in or out of the ring. Never conduct yourself in a manner that would bring discredit to the sport of Flyball. As

- a participant whether it be competitor, trainer, trainees, ring party, team captain, judge, host team or BFA representative, you typify the sport of Flyball.
- b. Training and exhibiting shall be carried out by such methods that are in keeping with the best interests of the dog and the sport of Flyball.
 - c. Abuse or severe discipline of a dog is not in the best interest of Flyball. Participants shall always follow the Rules and Policies, aims and objectives of the BFA, showing a full knowledge and understanding of the same.

3. [REMOVE] 2. Committee [ADD]

3.1 The BFA is run by a committee of Committee Members (the “Committee”) which will include three primary members appointed by majority vote: Chairperson; Treasurer; and Secretary. [REMOVE]

- a. The roles and responsibilities of the three primary members will be outlined in the document Role Descriptors for BFA Committee members and Officers of the Committee (Appendix 1). [REMOVE]

2.1 The BFA is overseen by an elected selection of members (the “Committee”), which includes The Chairperson, The Treasurer and The Secretary. These roles are appointed by the Committee’s majority vote. [ADD]

The responsibilities of these three roles are outlined in Appendix 1 - Role Descriptors for BFA Committee members and Officers of the Committee. [ADD]

3.2 The Committee will comprise of not more than nine Committee Members, and as far as is reasonably possible, not less than six Committee Members. In the event that the Committee comprises of less than nine Committee Members, those Committee Members may co-opt any Adult Member onto the Committee to be a Committee Member. These co-opted members will hold office until the next AGM. [REMOVE]

2.2 The Committee will be comprised of not more than nine Committee Members, and as far as is reasonably possible, not less than six Committee Members. In the event that the Committee is comprised of less than nine Committee Members, those Committee Members may co-opt any Adult Member of good conduct on to the Committee to be a Committee Member. These co-opted members will hold office until the next AGM. [ADD]

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 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. [REMOVE]

2.3 The Committee is responsible for the running of the Association within the existing rules, policies and procedures and the implementation of any changes following an AGM/EGM. [ADD]

2.4 Any changes arising from rule 2.3 will take effect within a maximum of six months from the AGM/EGM. This timescale can be varied by the Committee for matters relating to dog welfare, legislative changes and health and safety. [ADD]

2.5 The Committee will adhere to, enforce and implement the BFA's Constitution, Code of Conduct, Rules of Racing, and all of the BFA's published Policies/Appendices while consulting with the Membership, Working Parties or other professionals when necessary and in accordance with the Descriptors of the Committee. [ADD]

3.4 The Committee is expected to communicate with the membership of the BFA and to carry out its actions in a fair, even-handed, and timely manner according to the Rules and Policies of the BFA. [REMOVE]

2.6 When communicating with the membership, working parties or other professionals, the Committee will use the necessary digital media platforms to deliver their information.

2.7 The Committee will communicate all unrestricted minutes of meetings to the membership within a month of any meeting. In the case of an EGM all minutes should be shared within six weeks. [ADD]

4. [REMOVE] 3. Committee meetings and voting [ADD]

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, online system, Facebook, conference call, etc). [REMOVE]

3.1 Committee Meetings will require not less than five Committee Members to be in attendance to be quorate. Committee Members will be given 72 hours notice of any meetings, or in the case of an emergency 24 hours notice. Attendance at any meeting can be in person or by way of a digital media platform. [ADD]

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, online system, Facebook, email, conference call, etc). [REMOVE]

3.2 For any vote of the Committee to be binding not less than five Committee Members must vote for the same outcome. If there are less than five votes for the same outcome, any non-attending Committee Members will be given the opportunity to vote in writing through the BFA Secretary. [ADD]

5. [REMOVE] 4. [ADD] Committee Members and other positions

5.1 [REMOVE] 4.1 [ADD] Each Committee Member must:

- a. be elected onto [REMOVE] on to [ADD] the Committee through a majority vote [ADD] a first-past-the-post postal and/or secure electronic vote by BFA members (i.e. the person who has received the most votes after one round of voting is elected) [REMOVE] unless an election is not necessary as the number of those seeking election onto [REMOVE] on to [ADD] the Committee does not exceed the number of vacant posts. on the Committee. In the event of a tie for the final Committee Member vacancy, a further vote will be conducted at the AGM and will only be voted upon by BFA members in attendance. In the event that this vote is a tie, the Chairperson will have the casting vote. [REMOVE]

In the event of a tie for the final Committee Member vacancy, a further vote will be conducted at the AGM and will only be voted upon by BFA members in attendance. If this vote is a tie, the Chairperson will have the casting vote. [ADD]

- b. have been an active member of a BFA registered team and regularly at BFA sanctioned tournaments for a minimum of 12 months 3 years preceding their election to the Committee and have attended at least one Annual General Meeting in that period; [REMOVE]

be an active and current member of the BFA and regularly attend BFA sanctioned tournaments within the preceding 12 months of their application. [ADD]

- c. not have been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under BFA rules for a minimum of five [REMOVE] three [ADD] years preceding their election;
- d. not be a Board Member/Committee Member of another UK flyball Association/League. [ADD]

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

- related by way of being their child or stepchild, parent or step-parent, uncle/aunt or cousin to another Committee Member;
 - the spouse, civil partner, partner, or long-term girl/boyfriend of another Committee Member; and/or
 - a member of the same BFA registered club and/or team of another Committee Member. [REMOVE]
 - a member of the same BFA registered club and/or team [ADD]
- e. If they wish to remain a Committee Member, be re-elected to the Committee at least every 36 months or, at the discretion of the Committee, sooner. [REMOVE]
be a UK, Isle of Man, Channel Islands permanent resident. [ADD]

4.2 The standard term a Committee Member may serve is 36 months. Should a Committee Member wish to remain on the Committee after 36 months they can be re-elected annually at an AGM. [ADD]

5.3 [REMOVE] 4.3 [ADD] The Committee may with due cause terminate the appointment of any Committee Member, subject to rule 3.2 [ADD] majority vote of all current Committee members (in accordance with 4.2). [REMOVE]

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

4.4 The Committee will appoint volunteer officers from the membership in to the following roles. These officers report to the Committee as and when required: [ADD]

- Records and Statistics Team
- Webmaster
- Membership Secretary
- Regional Representatives
- Show Secretary
- Media Team
- Judges Sub Committee [REMOVE]
- Judges Board [ADD]
- Awards Secretary
- Height Card Administrator
- Veterinary Team
- Accessibility Advisor
- Safeguarding Leads [ADD]
- Young Member Coaches [ADD]
- Working Party Liaisons [ADD]
- Taskforces [ADD]

The roles and responsibilities of the Officers will be outlined in Appendix 1 - Role Descriptors for BFA Committee Members and Officers of the Committee. [ADD]

6. Conflict of Interest [REMOVE ALL OF SECTION 6]

6.1 No current BFA Committee Member or appointed Officer (as per section 5 above) may, have a significant interest in another flyball association/organisation which runs or administers flyball racing in the UK. "Significant interest" includes but is not limited to being a board member, committee member or holding an official role or position within such an association/organisation and/or, in the case of Committee Members, being a member of such an association/organisation. Should any Committee Member have such a significant interest or be a member of such an association/organisation they may be removed from office in accordance with section 5 above. [REMOVE]

6.2 Any BFA member who holds an official role or position in another flyball association/organisation which runs or administers flyball racing in the UK, relinquishes any entitlement to propose changes to the rules of BFA flyball while they hold such a position. An official role or position includes but is not limited to being a board member, committee member, treasurer, lights co-ordinator and regional representatives, or the equivalent of any of the same but does not include being a judge and/or carrying out ring-party duties. [REMOVE]

6.3 For the avoidance of doubt this does not include participation in an exhibition event, e.g. Crufts Flyball. [REMOVE]

5. Code of Conduct [ADD]

5.1 All members of the British Flyball Association (BFA) are required to comply with our **Code of Conduct**.

5.2 The Code describes our expectations of your conduct and behaviour as a member of the BFA.

5.3 Any breach of Code of Conduct may result in Disciplinary proceedings as set out in the Disciplinary Policy.

5.4 The Code of Conduct can be found in Appendix 12.

7. Members [REMOVE ALL OF SECTION 7, REPLACE WITH SECTION 6]

7.1 Any person over the age of 18 may apply to become an adult member of the BFA ("Adult Member")

7.2 Any person aged 17 and under may become a junior member of the BFA ("Junior Member"), but membership must be linked to a responsible adult BFA member.

7.3 Membership of the BFA is dependent upon the payment of an annual membership fee set by the Committee.

7.4 Membership of the BFA is at the discretion of the Committee.

7.5 Any eligible Adult Member is entitled to:

- a. vote on BFA matters;
- b. propose changes to the rules of flyball; (Subject to clause 6.2)
- c. attend the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting;
- d. race in BFA-sanctioned events;
- e. after three years of membership, stand for election to become a Committee Member.

7.6 Any eligible Junior Member is entitled to:

- a. attend the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting; and
- b. race in BFA-sanctioned events.

6. Members [ADD WHOLE SECTION]

Membership of the BFA will be open to anyone who has a love of dogs and wants to help the Association achieve its aims and objectives by participating in the Associations activities.

6.1 Any person over the age of 18 is eligible to become an adult member of the BFA ("Adult Member").

6.2 Any person under the age of 18 is eligible to become a junior member of the BFA ("Junior Member"), but membership must be linked to an adult BFA member.

6.3 Membership of the BFA is at the discretion of the Committee and is dependent upon payment of an annual membership fee.

6.4 The BFA fees will be set and reviewed by the Committee. Any change in fees proposed by the Committee will be voted on by the membership at an AGM/EGM. The current list of BFA fees are detailed in Appendix 7.

6.5 An Adult Member can:

- a. attend and race in BFA sanctioned events
- b. propose changes to the constitution and rules of flyball;
- c. attend the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting;
- d. vote on BFA matters;
- e. stand for election to become a Committee Member subject to rule 4.1.b.

6.6 A Junior Member can:

- a. attend and race in BFA sanctioned events
- b. attend the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting but does not have voting rights
- c. take part in Young Member Activities, Games, Points and Award Schemes

8. [REMOVE] 7. [ADD] General Meetings

8.1 [REMOVE] 7.1 [ADD] The Committee must hold an Annual General Meeting once each calendar year and not more than 15 months since the previous Annual General Meeting. No Annual General Meeting can be held without the Committee giving all BFA members 45 days' written notice of the Meeting, its time, date and location (**physical and/or digital**) [ADD]. Notice can be given by electronic communication or by way of an announcement on the BFA's website.

8.2 [REMOVE] 7.2 [ADD] At any Annual General Meeting, the Committee will:

- a. report on its activities;
- b. provide a financial report;
- c. announce the Committee Members and any appointments by the Committee for the forthcoming year;
- d. provide the opportunity for Members to debate any proposed rule changes;
- e. provide eligible Adult Members with a vote on any proposed rule change either at the Annual General Meeting and/or following the Annual General Meeting by post and/or a secure electronic voting system save for Adult Members who were not Adult Members at the time the vote was announced by the Committee; and
- f. discuss any other business placed on the agenda by any eligible Adult Member.

8.3[REMOVE] 7.3 [ADD] 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.

7.4 Any AGM agenda items proposed which the BFA Committee consider to fundamentally change the current BFA flyball rules of racing or have a financial impact on the rules will be subject to a full impact assessment and may be referred for advice to, but not limited to, the BFA Veterinary Team, Judges Board, BFA working parties prior to presentation at the AGM. [ADD]

7.5 Any proposed rule change with a financial implication to the costs of the Association, Membership, Tournament hosts or teams, must be accompanied by a full breakdown of costs. [ADD]

8.4 [REMOVE] 7.6 [ADD] Not less than 10 days before an Annual General Meeting, the Secretary will publish the agenda including any proposed rule changes for inspection and consideration of members and announce that each proposed rule change on the agenda will be subject to a vote. Such publication and announcement will be no less than by way of the BFA website.

8.5[REMOVE] 7.7 [ADD] Other than by the Secretary no Annual General Meeting will be recorded electronically by any person without the express permission of all those in attendance.

8.6 The Committee may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting by giving all BFA members 28 days' written notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting, its purpose and/or agenda, time, date and location (which must be central in the UK). Notice can be given by electronic communication or by way of an announcement on the BFA's website. [REMOVE]

8.7 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the membership. A minimum of 10%, or 200 in number, whichever is the smaller, of the adult membership is required to call an Extraordinary General Meeting. An Extraordinary General Meeting will not be quorate with less than 200 adult members in attendance from not less than ten clubs/teams.

8.8 All business at the Extraordinary General Meeting will be limited to that which appeared in the written notice of the same.

8.9 Other than by the Secretary no Extraordinary General Meeting will be recorded electronically by any person without the express permission of all those in attendance.

8.10 Voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting may only be in person and by eligible Adult Members who were Adult Members at the time the Committee gave notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting.

8. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) [ADD]

8.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) is a meeting held by the Association to deliberate on urgent or serious matters that cannot be deferred until the next scheduled Annual General Meeting.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be called by:

- The Committee
- The Membership

The Committee, where appropriate, reserves the right to initiate either internal and/or external mediation to allow for disputes to be resolved, whilst at the same time helping to restore professional relationships. It is in the best interests of both parties and the Association as a whole, to seek resolution outside of an EGM wherever possible.

Both parties are therefore required to actively engage in mediation proceedings when initiated. Mediation processes will follow ACAS guidelines. The BFA Secretary will administer mediation processes, ensuring that any internal or external mediator appointed has relevant mediation qualifications and experience.

8.2 If the Committee calls an EGM [ADD]

The Committee may at any time call an EGM by giving all BFA members 30 days' written notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting but not less than 30 days prior to any AGM.

8.3 If the Membership calls an EGM

For the membership to call an EGM there must be a minimum of 300 adult members in favour coming from no less than 10 primary teams. An EGM can be called at any time but not within a 30-day period of an AGM.

Those calling the EGM must provide the BFA Secretary with the purpose and Agenda for the meeting together with a list of the members' name, primary team, membership number and their signature.

To be quorate there must be at least 300 adult members in attendance. 40% of those in attendance must be from those calling the EGM.

8.4 The time, date and location will be arranged by the BFA Secretary regardless of whether the meeting is called by the Committee or the members.

The Treasurer will be responsible for the payments regardless of whether the meeting is called for by the Committee or members.

8.5 The BFA Secretary will ensure that the meeting is accessible and that all members can access it in person or by secure digital platform.

8.6 The BFA Secretary will secure an independent external moderator to chair the meeting and invite registration no less than 14 days prior to the EGM.

Attendees must pre-register stating whether their attendance is in person or by digital platform.

Registration will close 7 days before the EGM to allow for membership to be validated and for the BFA Secretary to confirm that the meeting is quorate (reference 8.3).

8.7 All business of the EGM will be limited to that which appeared on the agenda and purpose in the written notice calling the EGM.

8.8 All evidence to be considered during the EGM must be provided to all BFA members at least 48 hours prior to the meeting by the BFA Secretary. Evidence which has not been provided will not be considered.

8.10 An EGM can only be recorded by the BFA Secretary.

8.11 Voting at an EGM is restricted to attending registered BFA members, who were adult members on the date the BFA Secretary called the meeting.

8.12 Voting options will be provided by the party who called the EGM, however, these voting options can be amended during the EGM by the membership in attendance. The BFA Secretary will implement any amended change on the digital voting form.

8.13 If any change of the Committee is proposed because of the EGM, nominations for replacement Committee members can be taken from the floor from members in attendance who meet the criteria for Committee membership. Those nominated will be endorsed by a vote of those in attendance. The new members will join the Committee until the next AGM.

9. Process for change to the Constitution

9.1 Any current eligible [REMOVE] adult BFA [ADD] member of the BFA [REMOVE] may submit in writing to the BFA secretary a proposal to amend the constitution., in accordance with normal AGM proposal voting procedures. [REMOVE]

9.2 Proposals will then be subjected to a Committee [REMOVE] review, [REMOVE] and [ADD] consultation and approval process [REMOVE] with an appointed Constitution Working Party and any other relevant or professional bodies. This is [ADD] to ensure the proposal is fit for purpose and does not conflict with existing rules or the ethos of the Association. [ADD]

9.3 If the Committee approve the proposal for being taken forward, it will be put to a vote of the entire membership, as per normal AGM proposal voting procedures. [REMOVE]

9.3 Should the proposal be agreed it will be submitted to the membership and put to a vote at the next AGM. [ADD]

Appendix 12 – Code of Conduct

British Flyball Association Code of Conduct

As a member of the British Flyball Association (BFA) you are required to comply with our **Code of Conduct**. This relates to the nature of your role and your responsibilities as a member of the organisation.

What is the Code of Conduct?

It is a set of requirements that you are expected to meet during your period of membership with the BFA. The Code describes our expectations of your conduct and behaviour, reflecting the standards of behaviour and conduct thought to be reasonable and appropriate for a member of an association such as the BFA. Knowledge of and adherence to these expectations are a requirement of membership and it is your responsibility, by accepting a membership of the BFA, to ensure that you will uphold these standards.

What sits behind the Code of Conduct?

As a member of the BFA, you will be expected to adhere to both national government legislation and statutory guidance, and the policies of the BFA. These frameworks inform the **Code of Conduct**. Of particular importance are the policies and legislations that respect and safeguard individuals, challenge stereotypes and prejudice, and promote equal opportunity regardless of age, class, disability, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, marital status, race, religion, and sexual orientation. Particularly relevant are:

- legislation relating to safeguarding (e.g. that of the Independent Safeguarding Authority); and,
- legislation relating to equality and diversity (e.g. the Equality Act, 2010; the Disability Discrimination Act 1995)

Conduct Requirements

The following provides you with general guidance for your conduct as a member of the BFA:

As a member you must

- i. Always conduct yourself in an appropriate manner in flyball contexts. For example (not an exhaustive list), when at flyball events such as competitions, demonstrations, and training

sessions, in flyball related events such as AGMs and EGMs and also when using social media and other forms of communication. This always includes respectful communications verbally, electronically and in any written communication.

- ii. Always exhibit appropriate behaviour towards others (both children and adults).
- iii. Follow the BFA Constitution and Rules of Racing and interpret them in the spirit of promoting and supporting the flyball community and the sport.
- iv. Follow **all BFA policies and procedures published on the BFA website**. You are expected to familiarise yourself with them and comply with those policies. (Social Media, Data Protection, Disability Discrimination, Safeguarding).

CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY 2023/24

Members: Mandy Herald (Committee Liaison), Kerena Merchant, Dave Anderson, Hilary Larkham, Sarah Wolstenholme

Consulted: Elizabeth McGillivray (Lawyer), BFA Committee

RATIONALE OF CONSTITUTION CHANGES

- Working Party appointed to review, rewrite constitution of BFA as per 2023 AGM.
- To make fit for purpose and update;
- Current constitution layout/placement is out of order;
- Current constitution is not up to date, specific, quantified or offers no reasonable doubt;
- Current constitution is not fit for purpose and offers no legal stance;
- Duplication of wordings or conflicts of objectives;
- To incorporate digital voting terms;
- To separate Constitution from Rules of Racing;
- To implement Code of Conduct.

FURTHER AGM RECOMMENDATIONS – For Constitution Working Party 2024/25

- To continue to review and amend Disciplinary Procedures/Complaints;
- To add additional role descriptors as required by BFA Committee/Membership/Working Party.
- To review and update Appendices as required by BFA Committee/Membership/Working Party.

PROPOSAL 2

PROPOSER TINA HATCHER 6759

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

RULE NUMBER RULES OF FLYBALL RACING A.1.1.8 Page 11

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

1.8 The 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~~ [REMOVE] Tournament Organisers [ADD] 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.

RATIONALE:

This is just to correct a spelling error in the rule book.

Proposal 3

Proposers Name – Granville Pipe

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

**Section A.1.4 Tournament Seeding / Running Order
Page 13**

4. Tournament Seeding/Running Order

4.1 Running orders and tournament information must be posted 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.

4.2 Teams are to be placed in divisions based on current seed time; teams may declare a time for seeding purposes - otherwise the current BFA seeding will be used. There shall be no less than 5 teams and no more than 7 teams in each division, with the exception of BFA Committee organised events where alternative division sizes may be used.

4.3 Teams should be seeded based on the information available from the BFA website. Seeding times for a tournament will be based on the fastest time recorded by a team during their last 3 sanctioned events and a seed list will be supplied from the latest available data on the 14th day before the tournament date, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when the seed times shall be taken on the 21st day before the tournament date Any time recorded more than 4 months before this date is null and void. A declared time, to be used as the seeding time, MUST be submitted by the Team Captain at least 14 days prior to the Tournament, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when no declared times shall be accepted (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.

4.4 At any tournament designated as a “Championship” by the BFA Committee, teams will be seeded and classified into Divisions by using a “Championship Seed Time”, which has been set for that event through one of the Seeding Routes below.

4.4.1 Seeding Route 1 – Choose to use Current BFA Seed Time.

The choice of setting a Championship Seed time by this route will be open to established and stable BFA Registered sub-teams entering the Championship, where each dog participating in the sub-team during the Championship, can be shown to have raced for that named sub-team and been awarded BFA Flyball points at a minimum of 3 separate Open Tournaments, over the 4 calendar months immediately prior to the published date for the Championship.

4.4.1.1 Teams satisfying this condition will be eligible to choose to use the team’s Current Seed Time as shown on the BFA web page 21 days before the published Championship Entry Date and to compete at the Championships using this seed time, providing there are no dog substitutions whatsoever in the team once the team details have been entered for the Championship.

4.4.1.2 Eligible sub teams can choose to use their team’s Current Seed Time as their Championship Seed Time and to be assigned into an appropriate Division based on that Seed Time OR may choose to set a Championship Seed time by participating in Speed Trials.

4.4.1.3 Once made, this decision is not reversible and teams that choose to participate in Speed Trials to set their Championship Seed time, will not be offered the opportunity to revert to their Current Seed Time, even if that seed time would otherwise be a valid seed time.

4.4.1.4 The Team Captain is responsible for collating and submitting such evidence as may be required by the Championship Organiser to prove the eligibility of the team to be allowed to run under their established seed time.

4.4.1.5 The decision to allow a team to be able to enter the Championship using this route rests with The Championship Organiser and may be withheld for any legitimate reason contained within these rules.

4.4.1.6 The final decision in the event of any dispute about the Championship Organiser’s decision, will rest with the BFA Committee, with any appeal being considered solely on the evidence that’s already been submitted by the Team Captain on entry. No further evidence or argument will be admissible, unless specifically requested by the BFA Committee for clarification.

4.4.1.7 Where a team has been declined permission to run under their Seed time at any Championship, this will not affect or prevent that team from running at Speed Trials.

4.4.2 Seeding Route 2 – Participate in Speed Trials.

Setting a Championship Seed Time using the Speed Trials Seeding Route will be open to any established BFA registered sub team or specially invited Guest team wishing to enter the Championships, who have either chosen to participate in Speed Trials at the Championship or are otherwise unable to satisfy any of the conditions in 4.4.1 Current BFA Seed Time or are unable to satisfactorily produce evidence required in 4.4.1.4 above by the entry date of the Championship.

4.4.2.1 Speed Trials to set a Championship Seed Time will be held immediately before the Championship, in accordance with the rules applicable for Speed Trials specified in 4.5 below and also 5. Tournament Format.

4.4.3 Championship Divisional Assignment.

4.4.3.1 The Championship Organisers will decide and publicise in advance, the number of teams that will be assigned into each Division. The Championship Organisers may decide on having a different number of teams (min 4 max 8) within each Division where they feel this would be conducive to more competitive racing or more efficient running of the event.

4.4.3.2 On completion of the Speed Trials, the Championship Organisers will rank all sub-teams that have set a valid Championship Seed time by either Seeding Route in descending order of Championship Seed Time however their seed time has been set.

4.4.3.3 Where two or more sub-teams have exactly the same Championship Seed Time, then those sub-teams will be drawn-out in turn, at random to be assigned into Division order.

4.4.3.3 All teams qualifying for the Championships are equally subject to the Breakout provisions stipulated in A.3 Rules of Racing 11. Breakouts, based on their Championship Seed Time, regardless of the Seeding Route chosen.

4.4. Any subsequent Divisional re-assignments that may become necessary for any reason will similarly take Championship Seed Time into account, with a random draw between all teams having the same Championship Seed Time, deciding Divisional assignment in all circumstances.

4.5 Where speed trials (ST) are used as a preliminary round at a tournament, the results from that ST can be used to re-seed the teams in those divisions into new divisions for the double elimination (DE) or round robin (RR) part of the event at that tournament. In the event that two teams gain the same fastest time, second fastest time will be used, should this also be the same, third, fourth etc will be used. A dog must remain in the same team for both ST and DE/RR even though the team may move divisions.

4.6 Only BFA Registered Teams and non-UK teams competing under the European Flyball Charter will be officially seeded.

4.7 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.

4.8 The Organiser and all in attendance at the tournament (including non-BFA members) must follow current BFA Rules and Policies, whilst within the tournament grounds.

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

4.10 Tournament Organisers are responsible for electronically submitting BFA Form C2 (Time Sheets) including those for any Foundation racing, and BFA Form C6 (Tournament Results) to the BFA Records and Statistics Team within 48 hours of the last day of the tournament. The form C6 is also to be sent to the BFA Treasurer within 48 hours. Advance results should be emailed as soon as practicable on conclusion of racing (but no later than 48 hours) so the seed list can be updated. Copies of the Forms C2 and C6 should be retained by the Tournament Organiser until such time as the results and points from the tournament are updated and available for viewing by the membership on the BFA website. BFA Form C9 (Jump Heights) are to be sent to the BFA Height Card Co-ordinator and any other reporting (as required) sent to the BFA Secretary electronically within 48 hours of the last day of the tournament. [remove](subsequent rules in this section have been renumbered as 4.10 was deleted as part of this rule change)

4.11 A tournament sanctioned by the BFA must be overseen by a BFA approved Tournament Head Judge (who should not be from the host team); if the Tournament Organiser is unable to appoint a Head Judge they are to contact the BFA Judges Board who will make appropriate arrangements.

RATIONALE:

Entry to any BFA Championship event should be open to as wide a selection of teams from within the BFA Flyball community as is possible.

Whilst being an exhilarating spectacle to watch and great fun to take part in, making Speed Trials a compulsory route to entry, without making provision for any other route to be open to entry, forms an enormous and possibly insurmountable barrier for those Members and their Teams who are unable to participate in Speed Trials for reasons they most often can't control.

The recent survey about running Speed Trials at this year's Champs, showed that around a third of those members who voted, would prefer not to participate in Speed Trials at this year's Outdoor Championships.

Extending Speed trials to all Divisions at Champs, was originally introduced as a stop-gap measure after Covid, simply because teams hadn't had sufficient opportunity to record a valid and reliable Seed time.

Currently, members who cannot participate in Speed Trials for any reason, have no alternative but to either like Mandatory Speed Trials, no matter what additional expense and inconvenience that may cause them, or lump it and be forced reluctantly, to exclude themselves and miss out on what should be the highlight of their Flyball year.

It cannot be fair or reasonable, particularly in the present economic climate to lump Members with an additional time and cost overhead and then use this as an exclusionary tactic, which prevents possibly as many as 30% of our members from being able to compete at a Champs, just because we can't think of another "fair" way to set a valid Seed time for Champs.

This proposal defines what constitutes a valid seed time and allows members an alternative route into Champs, other than participating in Speed Trials,.

The proposal is intended to provide established teams, who've worked hard to achieve their current BFA seed time with an alternative choice to Speed Trials, where there is currently only a "Hobson's choice!"

This is with the intention of ensuring that there is still a "fair and inclusive competition" for teams competing at Championships, by helping to minimise occasions where inappropriate Divisional classifications have been allowed to impair competitiveness or produced a surfeit of breakouts within a Division.

We need to remember that a Seed Time is only required as a "predictor" of a team's likeliest fastest time in similar circumstances in the future.

Statistically, a figure used as a predictor of performance, is more likely to be a better predictor, when it's based on multiple plot points, rather than a single plot point. Statistically, there should be fewer and less extreme variances produced from a Seed Time that's been achieved consistently from multiple races at different events, than is a Seed Time that's been produced from a single event.

It could therefore be argued, that a seed time derived from a single event Speed Trial (where the racing environment is not the same as Divisional racing) is likely to be a more unreliable predictor of the team's next actual racing performance, than is an established seed time, as there will be a greater number of more extreme variations.

Teams that participate in Speed Trials are still capable of breaking out during racing.

This proposal provides safeguards that will prevent against Team's being classified into a Division at a Champs, based on misrepresentative Seed Time.

The proposal also helps to relieve pressure on Championship organisers of having to run so many speed trial races immediately before the Championships as there will be less teams running Speed Trials.

The proposal also better defines where the BFA Committee is able to depart from normal tournament processes, when organising a Championship. As The current rule says only that a different process can be followed at a Champs by the BFA Committee, but not what the process should be.

Proposal 4

Proposers Name - Martyn McInulty

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section A.1.Sanctioned Tournaments

4. Tournament Seeding/Running Order, Page 13

RULE CONTENT

4.2 Teams are to be placed in divisions based on current seed time; teams may declare a time for seeding purposes - otherwise the current BFA seeding will be used. There shall be no less than **(REMOVE) 5 (ADD) 3** teams and no more than 7 teams in each division, **(ADD) in the case of a 3 or 4 team division this shall be ran as a double round robin (RR) format.** With the exception of BFA Committee organised events where alternative division sizes may be used.

RATIONALE:

There can be huge variation in seed times within divisions which prevents some teams from experiencing the most competitive racing, by reducing the minimum number of teams within a division, tournament organisers should be able to create divisions with a closer split of seed times and therefore ensure that the most competitive racing is experienced by all teams.

Proposal 5

Proposers Name – Sarah Prentice

RULE NUMBER 5 Tournament information Page 14 & POINTS AND AWARDS Section E page 37

5. Tournament Format

5.2 Round Robin Competitions Each team races every other team entered in their division once. Each race shall have three heats or be of the best 3 out of 5 format (i.e. first team to lose 3 [ADD] heats [REMOVE] legs loses the race). Round Robin format can be run as block or staggered. The Tournament Head Judge reserves the right to reduce the number of heats per race as per rule B.2.2.2 and then each race shall be best 2 out of 3 format.

5.4 Sanctioned classes are: open, multibreed, singles, pairs. Other unsanctioned classes may include: Flyball Foundations etc. 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 [ADD] heats [REMOVE] legs to set their best possible time, whenever possible dogs shall race dogs of similar speeds.

POINTS AND AWARDS Section E

E.1. Dog points and awards

1.1 Each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned flyball tournament each dog racing with that team can earn points towards a flyball title (Appendix 2). Each of the 4 dogs contributing to a clean run (a run without any faults) will be awarded 20 dog points. 5 points will be awarded for each [ADD] heat [REMOVE] leg which is won in accordance at the time of racing, as a result of rules A.3.11 and 12. An additional 5 points will not be awarded for [ADD] heats [REMOVE] legs won by the opposing team breaking out or

RATIONALE:

To consistently use heat rather than leg throughout the BFA rules

Proposal 6

Proposers Name – The Judges Board

Rule number - the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section A.1.7.3 Jumps

Page 16

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 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 and the inside 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.

RATIONALE:

This point came up at the judges seminar this year and the addition is to clarify that the inside of the flyball jump stands should be white.

Proposal 7

Proposers Name - Tina Hatcher

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section A.2. Rules for Competition

Section 5. Teams, Page 17

Subsequent Rule numbers: 6 Time Sheets, 6.4 Page 19

Judging and Ring Party, Section B B.5 Page 29

5. Teams

5.1 All Teams will appoint a 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.

5.2 Dogs may not be entered for racing in more than one team at an open/multi-breed BFA Sanctioned Tournament. Dogs may not take part in Flyball Foundation or fun events on the same day as they are entered in open/multi-breed.

Please note teams registered as Open teams may only compete in Open competitions. Teams registered as Multi-breed teams may only compete in Multi-breed competitions. Use of any team for a class of racing other than for that which it is registered will result in the loss of all points, times and placing for the competition(s) where it has been used out of class.

5.3 Pick 'n' Mix Teams [ADD]

A Pick 'n' Mix team is a transient team that has been formed to race on a single occasion because of a particular circumstance.

- a. Where a small or developing team has insufficient dogs to field an open team, but would still like to compete.
- b. Where an established BFA member, with a good conduct record, does not currently have a Primary Team.
- c. Where a team experiences an incident on the day (e.g accident enroute, lame dog etc), that would otherwise cause that team to withdraw. A Pick 'n' Mix team can then be formed before the start of racing.
- d. The Pick 'n' Mix dog will be a 'spare' dog that isn't racing within another open team at that tournament
- e. A Pick 'n' Mix team may compete at a Championships, providing points a - d are satisfied. It would be considered unsporting and against the ethos of the rule, to select the more elite dogs with the intention of winning the championships.

5.3.1

- a. Races against Pick 'n' Mix teams will be played out as if the team was an open team.
- b. Dogs and participants must be BFA members.

- c. A Pick 'n' Mix team must be annotated on the C2 before the start of the division in which the team is racing.
- d. Pick 'n' Mix teams can be placed within a division based on a reasonable declared time and each dog can gain points as per the BFA rules.
- e. Pick 'n' Mix teams cannot set a seed time and whilst they can physically beat a record time, they can not set an official time or be designated as record holders.
- f. Pick 'n' Mix teams can convert to a WFC team during racing should it become necessary.
- g. At least one of the dogs in the team must be from a different club or have no club and must run in at least one heat throughout the day's racing.
- h. The maximum number of dogs allowed on a Pick 'n' Mix team is 3.
- i. Pick 'n' Mix teams can win races, but will not be ranked in the BFA seed List.
- j. Dogs that run in a Pick 'n' Mix team will be exempt from rule 5.4 for that particular tournament and they will remain with their primary team.

5.3 [REMOVE] 5.4 [ADD] A dog may change teams at any time to compete with another BFA registered primary team, but after this change it may not change teams again for a period of 6 months (e.g. a dog races with Team A on 1st April 2016 so it is free to race with Team B on 1st October 2016). The owner/handler must inform the membership secretary of any such change.

The only exceptions are:

- a. A dog prohibited from competing with an existing Team. Proof must be provided to the committee for consideration.
- b. The handler/dog has moved to another area and their previous Team accepts the transfer.
- c. Their previous Team has dissolved, and the Membership Secretary has been informed.
- d. If a new team is formed and dogs are transferred to this team then these dogs may not be released from this team for a period of 6 months.
- e. Dogs that are associated with Pick 'n' Mix Teams are exempt from this ruling for that particular tournament. [ADD]

All requests to move a dog from one primary team to another within 6 months shall be emailed to the BFA secretary with reasons for the request to move.

5.4 [REMOVE] 5.5 [ADD] At a tournament, each team entered in open or multibreed shall consist of a minimum of four dogs and a maximum of six dogs; a current BFA member responsible for each dog; and a current BFA member as box loader. The dogs must be eligible to run for that team. Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of two alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of injury. Singles is an entry for a single dog, pairs is a maximum of 2 dogs (no standby).

5.5 [REMOVE] 5.6 [ADD] Overseas Guest Teams must only include non-UK resident dogs.

5.6 [REMOVE] 5.7 [ADD] In multi-breed only competitions, teams must consist of all different breeds recognised by the BFA. Any new breed requests should be sent to the Membership secretary for approval along with any Documentation.

5.7 [REMOVE] 5.8 [ADD] 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. A racing team may be assisted by up to five additional members and seven members during the warm up. Teams that require more than five assistants, e.g. to facilitate a Disabled Handler or to supervise a young member under the age of 14 working towards their young members award must notify the Head Judge and Divisional 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 or warm up.

5.8 [REMOVE] 5.9 [ADD] For multiple entries of the same team once any of their teams has started racing in the tournament there will be no switching of dogs from one team to another once the division begins.

5.9 [REMOVE] 5.10 [ADD] Forfeiting teams may be declared WFC or be excluded from the tournament by the Head Judge/Tournament Organiser

6 Time Sheets

6.4 The following information shall be recorded on the C2 timesheet, all information shall match the information held on the BFA website:

- Team's name and number (TRN)
- The captain's name and BFA number
- Each dog's name, BFA number, registered breed and height
- Each handler's name and BFA number (Handlers must be current BFA members and can be from any primary team)
- Box loader's name and BFA number (Boxloaders must be current BFA members and can be from any primary team)
- **Pick 'n' Mix Teams must be annotated on the C2 [ADD]**

JUDGING AND RING PARTY

Section B

B 5 Ring Party

1. The Divisional Judge is assisted by ring party as follows:

1.1 Line judge (and scribe) Duties and Responsibilities

Line Judges (who may have scribes to assist them with their duties) shall:

- Inform the Judge when a Pick 'n' Mix Team enters the ring.[ADD]**
- Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
- Using the BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2) record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied and if the heat was completed by 4 dogs without faults.
- 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.

- e. 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 **[REMOVE] purposed [ADD] purposes** of fastest times and seeding times.
- f. Indicate with a signal for a false start.
- g. Indicate with a signal:
 - When a dog is to run again (early pass, missing a jump, crossing the start/finish line without the ball)
 - If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball)
 - Other rule violations for which a dog must run again
- h. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run their dog
- i. Advise the Divisional Judge if a Team runs a 'break-out' time in a heat
- j. In the event of a close heat, the Divisional Judge shall consult with their ring party. If no clear winner is identified, then that **[REMOVE] race [ADD] heat** shall be declared a tie.

RATIONALE:

Last year at the AGM this proposal was discussed under the term Pool Teams, we were informed a working party would be formed to discuss and form a proposal for this year's AGM.

As far as I am aware this did not happen, therefore I have spent time putting together a rule proposal to incorporate this into our rules.

It is up to the individual and Team Captain to decide whether their dogs could participate in this type of team. If you feel your dog could not cope in this scenario then you reserve the right to decline. It is purely an option for dogs that are capable and individuals and Team Captains that would feel comfortable putting their dog in this scenario.

Some concerns were raised last year regarding the following and here are my reasonings why I feel that these concerns can be overcome:

Kennel Cough - People are really careful these days regarding being around the ring with your dogs, drinking from their own water bowls only etc - Kennel Cough still comes around even though we are as careful as we can be, if dogs are going to catch it then they will. We all know when Kennel Cough becomes rife therefore if you feel that you are putting your dog at risk by possibly joining another team then it is your right to decline.

Flyball Boxes - People join other teams for foundation, multi-breed and form teams for the prestige of Crufts. If you join a foundation team or multi-breed team then the majority of the time it would be a spur of the moment joint team. You might not have used their box before but it doesn't stop people from continuing with joining teams. This type of team would fall under this category for the majority of the time it would be used. Again if you feel this isn't right for your dog then you have the right to decline.

Sometimes people may have similar boxes and therefore feel that their dog can easily cope with the slight change. Some people have the same types of boxes for example Rebellion boxes are very popular and a lot of teams have these. In this instance there would be minimal risk.

Some teams are really friendly with each other and might train together or have similar techniques therefore if for whatever reason that team was short of a dog they would probably go to the team that they know along with knowing the temperament of their dogs.

To enable the relevant officials to determine who is a Pick 'n' Mix team this must be annotated on the C2, this can be simply writing this on the C2 or if easily adaptable a tick box could be added to the C2.

Teams could register a specific team for this type of team, for example I could register Wash Warriors Pick 'n' Mix and have a separate TRN. If knowing you were going to be a Pick 'n' Mix team before entering a competition you can use this team name upon entering.

If a team were to form a Pick 'n' Mix team under point 5.3.C on the day of racing and they had a team name registered then if it was allowed the C2 could be amended by crossing out the original team name and TRN and the new team name and TRN can be added to the sheet.

When uploading results to the website the team will keep their placing but their fastest time throughout the day will not be awarded, instead a time of 99.99 will be uploaded.

The Scribe must inform the judge of a Pick 'n' Mix team when they enter the ring, this is to enable the judge to determine if a record is broken by an Open team and not a Pick 'n' Mix team. If it's broken by a Pick 'n' Mix team then celebrations can take place for that team, but a Judge would not need to follow the BFA Rules for when a record is broken.

Proposal 8

Proposers Name – Martyn McInulty

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :
Section A.2. Rules of Competition

RULE NUMBER: 6.2, Time Sheets Page Number 18

RULE CONTENT

6.2 Details on the C2 timesheet cannot be changed once the division, in which that team is racing, has begun. The Tournament Head Judge may approve an amendment to the C2 timesheet after racing has begun. **(REMOVE) where it affects the dogs height and can be verified against the master list or C9 on the day.**

[ADD] 6.2.1 TC must first point out the error on C2 to DJ and DJ must validate that the change is a minor administrative error that doesn't affect or change the racing outcome. TC may then request Tournament HJ to approve the change.

6.2.2 Only the Tournament HJ may physically alter or amend any information shown on the C2 and must only change the information as requested by the TC.

6.2.3 TC should satisfy themselves that the information has been correctly amended by the HJ as no further changes will be allowed after racing has ended.

RATIONALE:

As per rule 6.5 it is the team captain's (or representative) responsibility to ensure that all information on the C2 is correct. If during the course of the day they identify an administrative error e.g. incorrect handler number, under the current rule this could not be amended once racing has started yet this would not impact the course of the racing day and would simply prevent loss of points.

Proposal 9

Proposers Name – BFA Committee

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :
Section A.2.7 Team Equipment
Page 20

RULE CONTENT

7.2 Balls

Each team shall have its own supply of un punctured, tennis balls, without any squeakers or noise making device (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.

" Each club shall provide it's own supply of balls, these can be of any colour or size to suit the comfort and welfare of the dog. The balls can be of any material but must bounce and roll. They must also fire the required distance from the box as stated in rule 7.1.d

The balls must not contain any noise making device, ie: squeaker or bells. and must not be covered in any kind of fur real of faux ie: rabbit". Or other than the felt added at the time of manufacturing.

RATIONALE:

For the comfort and welfare of the dogs. To bring the rule in line with the majority of the flyball racing community and in the interest of all dogs being able to play flyball.

Proposal 10

Proposers Name – BFA Judges Board

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :
A.2. Rules for Competition
8. Reporting for races

8.1 Practice Runs - Tournament Organisers shall designate a time for warm ups in the rings by informing the teams prior to racing. No other training shall be allowed in or near the ring.

Page 20

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

8. Reporting for races

8.1 Practice Runs - Tournament Organisers shall designate a time for warm ups in the rings by informing the teams prior to racing. **Once the teams have entered the ring and both boxes are in position, the Divisional Judge will signal the start of the practice runs using a whistle. Where count down timers are available, these will be started at this point.** No other training shall be allowed in or near the ring.

RATIONALE:

This addition clarifies when the warm-up period should be started. In some competitions it is difficult to get teams and the boxes into the ring as soon as the previous race has finished. Having to move larger boxes will also impact on the health and safety of the competitors who are trying to enter the ring, leave the ring etc. Waiting for both boxes to be placed will prevent teams having to rush into the ring, possibly causing accidents. The DJ will then be able to determine when it is safe to start the warm up and will clearly indicate this to teams. No dogs should be warming up until the DJ has blown.

Proposal 11

Proposers Name – Martyn McInulty

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section A.2 Rules for Competition

RULE NUMBER 10, Record Times PAGE NUMBER: 20-21

RULE CONTENT

10. Record times (REMOVE) Only times recorded at a BFA sanctioned tournament using BFA sanctioned EJS will be officially recognised as a record-breaking time. If a team records what could be a BFA record the Divisional Judge is to immediately cease racing, ensure nothing in the racing lane is touched, including the EJS, and call the supervising Head Judge. The supervising Head Judge is, with one other independent member (another Head Judge, Committee Member or Qualified Judge, in that order of preference) is to satisfy themselves that the record has been set in accordance with the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing. The following checks are mandated before a Head Judge can certify that a BFA record has been set: the lane measurements and layout are correct, the jump heights of all 4 jumps are set to the correct height as indicated by the C2, the flyball box Page 21 of 60 positioning and functioning is correct (ALL holes are to be checked, each one 4 times), the alignment and placing of the EJS sensors. Once happy that the lane, jumps and box are correct the Head Judge may award the record and complete a C4 (Record Time Form). Additional checks will be undertaken by the Committee before a record is officially sanctioned by the BFA (the Committee will check; dog height in accordance with C9 or master height card list; age of competing dogs; all handlers are active BFA members; dogs are registered to a BFA member).

(ADD) 10.1 BFA recognises and records BFA records in open racing at BFA sanctioned tournaments. The BFA record validation process must be followed:

10.1.1 The event is sanctioned by BFA

10.1.2 The EJS was fully operational and used during the heat.

10.1.3 The BFA Record Validation Process is followed immediately after the completion of the heat and prior to another heat or race beginning.

10.1.4 The BFA Record Validation Form is approved by the BFA Committee.

10.2. Video from all approved open BFA record heats will be posted to the BFA website. This will be edited prior to publication to ensure that only the lane in which the record time has been set and the team setting the time are visible.

10.3 Any time that is faster than the current BFA record will not be posted to the website unless a video recording is submitted, and all BFA record procedures are followed and validated.

10.3.1 In instances when no recording is submitted for validation, the BFA recorded time will be changed to 0.01 slower than the current recorded BFA record time.

10.4 Validation Procedure:

10.4.1 Team Obligation: A recording of the race must be taken and meet the following specifications:

10.4.1.1 The camera must be positioned such that the Committee has a clear view of the start/finish line and can make a confident determination about the validity of the passes.

10.4.1.2 The recording must be of good quality. Poor quality recordings that do not provide a clear view of the heat will not be accepted.

10.4.1.3 The video must show a continuous, unedited recording of the whole heat. It must show the entire heat and the time as displayed on the EJS display.

10.4.1.4 The fault light from the EJS tree must remain in view during the entire heat.

10.4.2 Immediately After the Record Heat:

10.4.2.1 The record time will display immediately on the EJS. The team and the DJ will be made aware immediately.

10.4.2.2 It's the DJ's responsibility to ensure that further racing does not take place and that the racing lane and associated equipment is preserved until the HJ authorises racing to continue.

10.4.2.3 The recording that the Team wishes to submit as verification, should be immediately handed to the DJ/HJ and TO/BFA Committee member (if present).

10.4.2.4 The Team's recording will be reviewed immediately if possible. If not possible, the recording will be emailed to the BFA Committee at secretary@bfa.email. Recording cannot be password protected.

10.4.3 The Head Judge must:

10.4.3.1 Confirm with DJ that racing was stopped and equipment was preserved immediately the heat was completed, before undertaking the validation process.

10.4.3.2 Verify with Ring Party members and DJ that there are no outstanding faults.

10.4.3.3 Copy the time from the EJS onto the BFA Record Validation Form.

10.4.3.4 Ensure that the proper jump height was used by comparing the team's time sheet and/or the Height Measurements recording sheet for that event (C9) to the actual set jump height for the heat.

10.4.3.4 Verify that the lane was correctly measured during set up and has been laid out as is specified and defined within Rules of Flyball Racing 6. Tournament Layout, by using a metal measuring tape to ensure the flyball box is no less than 51' from the Start/Finish Line.

10.4.3.5 Witness that the team's recording of the heat is immediately given to the tournament organiser or BFA Committee member (if present).

10.4.3.6 Complete and sign the BFA Record Validation Form and submit it immediately to the Tournament Organiser.

10.4.4 The Tournament Organiser will:

10.4.4.1 Be in control of the recording at all times.

10.4.4.2 Either send a copy of the recording to the BFA Committee OR Where two or more independent BFA Committee members are present at the event, provide the recording directly to them.

10.4.5 The BFA Committee will:

10.4.5.1 Review and validate the recording and the signed BFA Record Validation Form.

10.4.5.2 Review each pass. Early passes (i.e., any part of the incoming dog passes the plane of the start sensors before any part of the returning dog passes the plane of the return sensors) whether indicated by the EJS or not will be a disqualification.

10.4.5.3 Validate each dog has carried the ball completely across the start/finish line.

10.4.5.4 Validate no part of the handler or any object that the handler is carrying crosses the plane of the start/finish line.

10.4.5.5 Verify that each participating dog is of eligible age, the recorded height corresponds to the C9 or Master height card list and that all participating dogs and handlers are registered active BFA members.

10.4.5.5 Confirm that all BFA Record Criteria have been met, before approving the BFA Record Validation Form and formally recognise that heat as a BFA Record then posting the recording of the heat on the BFA website.

10.4.5.6 If the record cannot be validated for any reason, convert the time of the run to a "no time" (NT) on all BFA records as well as the BFA website.

10.4.5.7 Wins, losses and placements shall not be changed.

10.4.5.7 If two or more BFA Committee members, who are independent from the team, are present at the event in which a record time is recorded, and appropriate equipment for viewing the submitted recording is available, the BFA Committee members may view the recording, and all submitted documents at the conclusion of the event to approve the BFA Record Time on-site.

10.4.5.8 Where on-site approval isn't possible and the recording of the heat has to be verified off site, The BFA Committee members reviewing the Record Application must be independent of the BFA Record applicant team.

RATIONALE:

The BFA and its reputation should be at the forefront of all BFA activities as as such ensuring the validity of such a prestigious piece of BFA history should coincide with this ethos.

Proposal 12

Proposers Name – BFA Judges Board

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section A.3 Rules of Racing
12. Withdrawal From Competition (WFC). Page 25/60

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

Section A.3 Rules of Racing.
12. Withdrawal From Competition (WFC).

Following consultation with the Divisional Judge (DJ) a team may Withdraw From Competition (WFC) at any time. This means that the team will no longer compete in open racing and will not be required to race in any remaining open heats or alternatively allow for the use of training aids for the benefit and safety of a participating dog or dogs, in any remaining heats. If the withdrawal is due to concerns regarding the prevailing weather or ring conditions the Head Judge and Tournament Organiser should be consulted in the first instance, as additional mitigation measures may be instigated (i.e. change of lanes, reduced number of heats, lane covers). **A team is deemed to be WFC as soon as they notify the divisional judge, or as soon as they are unable to run 4 dogs in a race. If a dog is injured and has to be withdrawn the team will become WFC and will remain WFC for the remainder of the competition, even if the dog returns to race later.** Once notified of a WFC the DJ is to inform the Tournament Organiser and inform each of the other competing Team Captains, prior to any races they have with the WFC team.

RATIONALE:

This addition clarifies when a team is classed as WFC and once they have gone WFC, they cannot rejoin the competition. If the race that this occurs in, is noted on the paperwork, the STATS team will be able to sort out points prior to going WFC more easily.

Proposal 13

Proposers Name – Martyn McInulty

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section A.3. Rules of Racing

RULE NUMBER: (ADD) A.3.1.2 Page 22

RULE CONTENT

Remove 1 Control of dogs

[ADD]

1. Control of dogs and good hygiene.

1.1 Control of dogs - Dogs may wear a collar and/or close fitting harness. No hanging parts will be allowed that are liable to flap around when the dogs are racing. Whenever possible, dogs should have all [remove] four [add] their feet on the ground. At no time should they be dragged around by their collar or harness with any of their feet off the ground. For the dogs' safety, should dog tags on the collar be too loose, the handler may be asked to remove the tag or collar.

1.2. Once a team have entered the Flyball Ring, if a dog urinates or defecates anywhere within the ring (as defined within Rules of Flyball Racing 6. Tournament Layout) or on any equipment within the ring that's used to facilitate or adjudicate racing, then that dog's team shall forfeit the result of a heat and any Flyball points earned during that heat.

1.2.1 The forfeit will be either the heat that's about to start or is currently in progress, once it has been completed OR if all heats in a race have been completed, then the DJ will advise the Team's Captain accordingly and will amend C2 for the final heat to reflect the forfeit for that team.

1.2.2 This will NOT be recorded as a win for the opposing team.

RATIONALE:

A dog fouling in the ring causes unnecessary delays to the racing day and can ultimately cause damage to expensive equipment e.g. tuffspun or EJS. It is the handler's responsibility the ensure their dog has had adequate opportunity to toilet prior to entering the ring.

.....

Proposal 14

Proposers Name – Ian Eyres

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change

**Section A.3.8 , and page number :8.1 & 8.,2 page 23 & B5 Ring Party page 29 & D5
Aggressive dogs**

8. Interference & Distractions

8.1 **Interference – [REMOVE]** Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dog from running or completing its race. This includes interference in the racing lane, in all bound areas and in the area where dogs are waiting to run. **[REMOVE] A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference if it does not impede the opposing team from racing. The team causing an interference will forfeit the heat. Any interference, including during warm up, will be noted against the offending dogs' details on the C2 form by the divisional judge, including a description of the incident. If a dog interferes with the opposing team more than twice during a Sanctioned Tournament the team must not run that dog until the opposing team have fully completed their heat. This will apply for the remainder of the Tournament. If a dog continually interferes with opposing Teams, it is at the Divisional Judge's discretion that it may be excluded from racing and the team be allowed to use a reserve, if one is recorded on their Time Sheet.**

The committee is there to help oversee the safe running of this sport and therefore require a database of all interference that takes place. The database is required to build a story of the dog's patterns over a rolling 12 month period. [ADD]

The committee can then determine along with the relevant team and handler/owner where the dog may benefit from additional training and make suggestions on where they can obtain the additional help they may require. This is not intended to demonise a dog in any way. The BFA is proud to be able to provide this service to the membership which enables each dog to reach its full potential. [ADD]

[ADD] 8.1.1 The following coding structure is in place to determine the severity of interference taken place:

A = Accidental (EG Fumble/Ball) B = Crossed Lane (No Chase) T = Dropped treats
C = Crossed Lane (Chased) R = Interference in Runback D = Aggression
X = Contact Made

A RAG system for recording the incidents should be used to build the database and determine where each category falls:

RED: X = Contact Made D = Aggression

When a team's dog(s) is involved in aggressive chasing with contact against a dog or handler from the opponents team, this will result in the loss of the heat and the dog will be asked to leave the ring. This dog will not be able to continue racing for the remainder of the tournament. Where a 5th or 6th dog has been entered on the C2 the team can then select from these dogs to continue racing.

The divisional judge or head judge must submit a report to the committee and judges board on an occurrence of a red incident by using the online incident report found on the BFA website within 48 hours. The BFA committee will then be required to follow D.5 within the Dog Welfare and veterinary guidance section of the rule book after two red incidents are recorded against an individual dog at any point in time.

AMBER: C = Crossed Lane (Chased) R = Interference in Runback

Amber interference can only occur three times throughout the whole tournament and can only occur twice in an individual race.

When a team's dog(s) is involved in interference (no contact), against a dog or handler from the opponents team, this will result in the loss of the heat. After two incidents in an individual race, or three incidents across the tournament, involving a four dog team, the divisional judge reserves the right to request that this dog be placed last and held back. The team must not run the dog until the opposing team has fully completed their heat. If a team has entered a 5th and/or 6th dog on the C2 the team **may** substitute the Amber dog with one of these dogs for the remainder of the tournament and can continue to race competitively.

GREEN: A = Accidental (e.g. Fumble/Ball) B = Crossed Lane (No Chase)

Green interference can only occur four times throughout the whole tournament, after which the dog may be required to be held back for the remainder of the tournament.

- a. The team may approach the divisional judge to request the dog be placed last in a 4 dog team, before the fourth instance. In this instance the judge should grant this request and the team will be allowed to hold the dog back until the opposing team has fully completed their heat. The team reserves the right to continue racing as normal at any time, if they had previously decided to hold their dog back and the dog has not exceeded allowance. If the interference continues and exceeds the allowance, the team will be required to hold their dog back for the remainder of the tournament.
- b. Where a dog has exceeded the limit of interference and the team has entered a 5th or 6th dog on the C2, the team **must** substitute this dog with one of those dogs for the remainder of the tournament. The team cannot approach the divisional judge and request (a) where there are more than 4 dogs on the C2, they **must** substitute the interfering dog.

When a team's dog(s) has caused the opposing team to stop racing, this will result in the loss of the heat. Examples of these incidences are, but not limited to:

- chasing a loose ball into the other team's area
- crossed to the opposing teams lane in confusion
- crossed to the opposing teams box for their ball

No action is required if the incident does not halt racing.

For example: (chasing a loose ball in to the other team's area but does not impede on their racing).

Interference during the warm up period will also follow the RAG system set out above.

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

are dropped on the floor, including the box area and racing lane, the team shall be given a warning. Further offences from the same team and the team shall forfeit the next heat(s). [REMOVE]

8.2 Each team will be required to populate the dogs details on a separate C3 form which will be attached to the C2.

It is the responsibility of the divisional judge to record all incidents on the C3 Interference & Distraction Log, with the assistance of the Scribe. [ADD]

When an interference occurs during a race, the divisional judge will halt racing, and confirm with their ring party the result of the race. The scribe will, on the direction of the judge, complete the boxes on the C3 with the interference codes (X,D,C,R,A,B,T)

The divisional judge will then continue the next heat(s) within the race. At the end of that teams race the divisional judge will then need to complete the C3 Interference & Distraction Log with the description of the incident and sign the form (Example below). The judge should also double check the information entered by the Scribe. [ADD]

C3 INTERFERENCE & DISTRACTION LOG														
DOGS NAME	BFA NUMBER	TEAMS TRN NO:	RED		AMBER			GREEN				T = Dropped Treats	DESCRIPTION OF INTERFERENCE	JUDGES SIGNATURE
			X = Contact Made D = Aggression	C = Crossed Lane R = Interference in	(Chased) Runback	1	2	3	4	A = Accidental B = Crossed Lane (No Chase)				
Geoffrey	12345A	567	X										Aggressive chase with contact	Joe Bloggs
Henry	12346A	567		C R									Henry followed other team dog down it's lane	Joe Bloggs
Casey	12347A	567						A					Dog chased ball into opponents lane	Joe Bloggs
Barney	12348A	567												Joe Bloggs
Flossy	12349A	567												Joe Bloggs
Bungle	12400A	567												Joe Bloggs
A - Team	567	567A									x x		Treats dropped	Joe Bloggs

Completed by Scribe (checked by Judge)

Completed by Judge

The scribe is responsible for informing the divisional judge of any information contained on the C3 prior to the start of the first heat of each subsequent race after the incident has occurred. [ADD]

8.3 Distractions:

- Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a squeaker, bells or whistles, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means including throwing any object for their dogs (e.g. toys, treats or motivators).
- Team members are required to pick up any loose balls at the end of each heat.
- When using treats they must be kept secure at all times, whilst in the ring.
- During warm up, at the box end treats must be administered from your hand (not dropped on the floor).
- During racing treats can be administered from the hand, dispensing toy or bowl/container as long as the treat does not go directly on the floor.

The Divisional Judge will issue a warning on the first offence of distraction. Any offence thereafter during the race, will result in the loss of the heat at the Divisional Judge's discretion and a record of the incident will be made on the C3 Interference & Distractions log as T = Dropped Treats. The Judge will follow the guidelines for completed the C3 log set out in 8.2 [ADD]

B.5. Ring Party

1. The Divisional Judge is assisted by ring party as follows: 1.1 Line judge (and scribe) Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Line Judges (who may have scribes to assist them with their duties) shall: [REMOVE]
- a. Inform the Judge of any information recorded on the C2 and C3 form [ADD]
- b. Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
- c. Using the BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2) record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied and if the heat was completed by 4 dogs without faults.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. Indicate with a signal for a false start.
- g. Indicate with a signal:
 - When a dog is to run again (early pass, missing a jump, crossing the start/finish line without the ball)
 - If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball)
 - Other rule violations for which a dog must run again
- h. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run their dog
- i. Advise the Divisional Judge if a Team runs a 'break-out' time in a heat
- j. In the event of a close heat, the Divisional Judge shall consult with their ring party. If no clear winner is identified, then that race shall be declared a tie.
- k. Indicate to the Divisional Judge that the race should be stopped for safety reasons by standing up, raising both arms above the head, crossed at the wrist.
- l. Assist the Divisional Judge with completing the C3 Interference & Distraction Log [ADD]

D.5. Aggressive Dogs

5.1 [REMOVE] If a dog shows undue aggression towards another dog or handler at any time during the competition, the Division Judge may exclude the dog from competing and a standby dog can be used. The Division Judge is to determine the degree of aggression that warrants substitution. Any dog excluded from competition must be reported to the BFA Show Secretary. A second such report and the dog will be barred from future competitions. An application for reinstatement may be submitted to the BFA Committee after a period of one year.

5.1 If a dog has a RED incident (Rule 8.1.1) recorded against it then it will be excluded from racing for

the remainder of the current tournament and a report will be submitted to the BFA Committee and Judges board. If a second RED incident is recorded against it, at any subsequent tournament, then the BFA committee will decide on the appropriate course of action, which may include barring a dog from racing for a period of up to one year. After the period of barring has expired an application for reinstatement may be submitted to the BFA Committee [ADD]

RATIONALE:

I believe that at the moment the rules are a little too open to mis-interpretation and don't give judges sufficient guidance on levels of severity for interference or any sanctions, if any, that apply in each case. This current lack of guidance within the rules could cause different judges to make different decisions when faced with the same incident.

With these changes in place, I believe both judges and competitors would be provided with a clearer understanding of the ramifications of incidents of interference.

Proposal 15

Proposers Name – Louise McInulty

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change
Section A.3 Rules of Racing
RULE NUMBER 8.2, Rules of Racing, PAGE NUMBER: 23

RULE CONTENT

8.2 Distractions - Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a squeaker, bells or whistles using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means including throwing any object for their dogs (e.g. toys, treats or motivators). The first offence of distraction shall receive a warning - a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat at the Divisional Judge's discretion. Team members are required to pick up any loose balls at the end of each heat.

Treats must be kept secure in the ring **(ADD) at all times. (REMOVE) Dogs may be treated at the box during warm up from your hand, not dropped. During racing treats shall only be given from your hand not dropped on the floor. Treat dispensing toys or bowl/container can be used as long as the treat does not go directly on the floor. If using treats and they are dropped on the floor, including the box area and racing lane, the team shall be given a warning. Further offences from the same team and the team shall forfeit the next heat(s).**

(ADD) Dogs may be treated during warm up and racing either directly from the hand, or from a treat dispensing toy, bowl/container providing the treat is not dropped or goes directly onto the floor. If using an open topped container e.g. a bowl or bucket, treats must not be left loose/unsupervised in the receptacle so that another dog could gain access them. If treats are dropped on the floor or left in an open container anywhere within the sanctioned ring the team shall be given a warning in the first instance and if further offences occur the team shall forfeit the next leg.

RATIONALE:

To tidy up the current wording of the rule and also to add clarity and tighter control for treating from open receptacles.

Proposal 16

Proposers Name – The Judges Board

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

B2 Head Judge. 2. Duties and Responsibilities. 2.1. Page 27 of 60

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

2.1 Prior to the scheduled time for competition the Tournament Head Judge must inspect the ring. It should meet all the requirements of the regulations and be considered safe for competitors and dogs. Jump placement, jump heights, backstops, barriers and box location should be measured to make sure they meet these regulations. A deviation of a ¼" on the jump heights is considered minor and acceptable. Each box may be inspected by the Tournament Head Judge **and shall not be allowed if, in their opinion, [REMOVE] , or nominated Qualified Judges who are experienced and capable of carrying out the required checks.** **If, in the judge's opinion, the box has been [ADD] constructed or altered in a manner that does not meet the box specifications the team will not be allowed to use the box. The Tournament Head Judges decision is final.[ADD]**

RATIONALE:

A Head Judge has many roles to perform prior to the start of a competition, for example, measuring the ring, the Judges and team Captains briefing and, possibly, dog measuring. Delegation of box checking to suitably qualified personnel would allow a smooth start to racing, especially if a Deputy Head Judge was not available.

Proposal 17

Proposers Name – The Judges Board

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section B Judges and Ring Party

B4. Divisional Judge.

1. Qualifying process, Section 1.1. To become a Qualified Judge, individuals must: page 28/60

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

- a. Be 18 Years of age

- b. Must be in good standing with the BFA for the 36 months preceding their application. The Judges Board reserves the right to waive this time limit in exceptional circumstances, such as for growth areas (eg. Scotland, Wales, IOM).
- c. Pass a Novice Judge exam on the BFA Rules of Flyball Racing. Evidence of completion of the above criteria is to be recorded on the approved BFA Form.
- d. Have completed a minimum of 5 assignments as Line Judge, Box Judge and Scribe for a minimum of 12 races, or a whole division where the division consists of less than 12 races. Only one assignment of Box Judge, Line Judge and Scribe can be signed off by a judge from your own team. At least 2 of each assignment shall be directly supervised by a Head Judge or Judges' Board Member. If a candidate is considered "Not Ready" for "Provisional Judge" status, further ring party assignments can be requested.
- e. Completed at least 10 Division Judge Assignments as a Provisional Judge and have a report completed by a supervising judge or Head Judge (at least 3 by a Head Judge), with a minimum of 5 different judges providing reports. If a candidate is considered "Not Ready" for "Qualified Judge" status, further provisional judging assignments can be requested.
- f. Experienced judges from other flyball organisations must pass the novice judges exam before qualifying. They must also be supervised once for a full division on each of the ring party duties, and twice for a full division's judging whilst being supervised by a head judge.

RATIONALE:

The requirements to become a Qualified Judge are aimed at ensuring the Provisional Judge has a good understanding of the BFA rules and constitution, and to give opportunities to develop confidence and experience judging in the ring. Experienced judges from other flyball organisations will already have experience in the ring, and should just need to show they have a good knowledge and understanding of the BFA constitution and rules by completing the exam. They must also exhibit their experience and confidence in the ring, but should not have to complete the full requirements of an inexperienced provisional Divisional Judge.

Proposal 18

Proposers Name – The Judges Board

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section B Judging and Ring Party

B.4. Divisional Judge. 1. Qualifying process. 1.2. Page 28/60

B.4. Divisional Judge

1. Qualifying process

1.2 Provisional Judges judging BFA sanctioned Flyball competitions shall be supervised, at all times, by a Qualified or Head Judge. [Supervising Judges must be within the ring and cannot be undertaking ring party duties at the same time.](#) Minimum age for divisional judging is 16, individuals under the age of 18 must be supervised from within the ring.

RATIONALE:

Supervising Judges must be able to focus fully on the Provisional Judge's performance, and must not be distracted by whatever else is going on during a race.

Proposal 19

Proposers Name – The Judges Board

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section B.4. Divisional Judge
2 Duties and responsibilities 2.4, page 28
Page 28

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

2 Duties and responsibilities (Divisional Judge)

2.4 If it is necessary to stop a heat, the Divisional Judge shall use a whistle, **either electronic or a referee’s whistle. The Judge will also give clear hand signals by raising both arms to indicate the race has been stopped.**

RATIONALE:

This item was discussed at the recent judges seminar.

The use of electronic whistles is becoming more common, and concerns have been raised about referee’s whistles being too loud for dogs and some handlers. Other concerns address the directional element of using an electronic whistle and that some handlers may not be able to hear it. As we have deaf handlers running dogs, who cannot hear either type of whistle, clarifying the judges decision to stop a race by raising both arms should address this issue. faults in either lane can still be indicated by raising arms, but clear arm and whistle signals are needed if a race must be stopped, especially when dog (and handler) welfare may be a concern.

Proposal 20

Proposers Name – The Judges Board

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section B Judging & Ring Party. 5. Roles of Line and Box Judge. Change section h to add role of scribe. Page 30/60

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

Roles of Line and Box Judge.

Line judge (and scribe) Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Line Judges (who may have scribes to assist them with their duties) shall:
- b. Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
- c. Using the BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2) record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied and if the heat was completed by 4 dogs without faults.
- d. 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.
- e. 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~~ purposes of fastest times and seeding times.
- f. Indicate with a signal for a false start.
- g. Indicate with a signal: • When a dog is to run again (early pass, missing a jump, crossing the start/finish line without the ball)
 - If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball)
 - Other rule violations for which a dog must run again
- h. Scribes are responsible for recording all required data correctly on the C2 form. During racing they should also be watching the run-back area for dog interference.
- ~~h.~~ i. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run their dog
- ~~i.~~ j. Advise the Divisional Judge if a Team runs a 'break-out' time in a heat
- ~~j.~~ k. In the event of a close heat, the Divisional Judge shall consult with their ring party. If no clear winner is identified, then that race shall be declared a tie.
- ~~k.~~ l. Indicate to the Divisional Judge that the race should be stopped for safety reasons by standing up, raising both arms above the head, crossed at the wrists.

RATIONALE:

Although the scribe is not an official judge within the ring B5. Ring Party refers to the role of **Line judge (and scribe) Duties and Responsibilities**

One of the problems QJ's have is to watch for interference in the run-back area. Scribes should be watching for interference in the run back areas to aid the DJ.

.....

Proposal 21

Proposers Name – The Judges Board

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section B.Judging & Ring Party 6. Measuring Official.

1. Qualifying process - add 1.4 and 1.5 page 31/60

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

1.1 Measuring Officials are qualified to measure dogs in accordance with the BFA Rules. To become a Measuring Official, individuals must be at least 18 years old; have been a BFA member for the 36 months preceding their application. The Judges Board reserves the right to waive this time limit in exceptional circumstances, such as for the growth areas (e.g. Scotland, Wales, IOM) have competently carried out dog measuring including the setting up of the measuring equipment, in the presence of two Head Judges, or Measuring Officials, on 5 separate occasions where they must measure at least 20 dogs in total, including at least 4 different breeds.

Once the application form is completed this must be sent to the BFA Judges Board to be approved.

Once approved, an exam is to be arranged and passed before the logbook will be issued.

1.2 Each applicant must have been approved by at least 3 Head Judges or Measuring Officials.

1.3 Evidence of completion of the above criteria is to be recorded on the approved BFA Form. Head Judges automatically qualify as Measuring Officials.

1.4 Where Provisional Measuring Officials have completed the requirements for Ulna measuring, submitted their qualification records and been passed by the Judges Board, they will become qualified for this expertise of measuring. They will be allowed to Ulna measure at competitions, but will not be qualified to complete the Withers measurements as a qualified measurer. Withers measures can be logged as provisional measurements but they must be overseen and signed off by two qualified wither measuring officials until such time they have completed the qualification fully.

1.5 Any BFA member, who is a qualified ulna or withers measuring official with another flyball organisation, can become a qualified BFA measuring official following two supervised measuring sessions. A minimum of 5 dogs should be measured at each session and three different measuring officials must be involved, one of which is a Head Judge.

RATIONALE:

1.4 Very few withers measurements are being completed at the moment, and may not be in future, so measurers are finding it difficult to complete the measuring qualification. As we are short of MO's, if QMO's can qualify for ulna measuring, they should be allowed to ulna measure at competitions. If a withers measure is required, this could be used as part of the qualification process, but the measurement must be overseen by 2 qualified withers measurers.

1.5 The BFA measuring judges qualification ensures that measurers gain suitable experience, and develop their skills, through the qualification process. MO's from other flyball associations will already have experience measuring dogs. These MO's must demonstrate their competence and must be able to demonstrate that they have a good knowledge of the constitution and rules of the BFA and they can exhibit competence in the measuring process.

Proposal 22

Proposers Name – Sally Frost

Section D Dog Welfare and Veterinary Guidance Page 34

[ADD] D.7 Flyball for Dogs following an Orthopedic procedure, Amputation or being diagnosed with Paraplegia, Hearing, Sight or other Impairment.

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

7.1 The BFA wants to ensure that dogs who may have been diagnosed with Paraplegia, Hearing or Sight Impairments or have fully recovered from surgery following amputation or an orthopedic procedure, are provided with an accessible, supportive and compassionate environment in which to continue enjoying their Flyball activities.

7.2 Dog owners, handlers and Team Captains have the prime responsibility for ensuring that continuing with any Flyball activities, is in the best interests of their dog(s) and provides them with an appropriate enrichment activity.

7.3. Following a diagnosis or surgical procedure described above, a dog with an established history of racing in BFA Open events, may be allowed to return to Open racing and continue their BFA Flyball career where -

7.3.1 Flyball can be shown to offer an appropriate enrichment activity for the dog, based on that dog's individual capability.

7.3.2 The dog can continue to safely and comfortably complete the run, trigger the box and catch the ball as described within A.3. Rules of Racing, without causing a distraction to the other team as described in A.3. 8.2.

7.3.3. In cases where a reasonable adjustment is required to enable the dog to continue in open racing, the Owner may apply to the BFA Committee for an Exemption Certificate to be issued.

7.4. The BFA Committee may issue an Exemption Certificate, describing the appropriate adjustment(s) pertaining to that dog where –

7.4.1 Continuing Flyball racing is supported by the Veterinary practitioner that has made the diagnosis or carried out the surgery and does not conflict with any advice they may have provided about that dog.

7.4.2. The reasonable adjustment being requested by the owner, wouldn't provide the whole team with an unfair advantage during Open racing e.g. Dog is the only or lowest height dog in the team.

7.4.2.1 Examples of reasonable adjustments for which a BFA Exemption Certificate could be issued by the BFA Committee include –

- Using specified and unexaggerated hand signals by the box loader to encourage the dog.
- Using a specified scent on balls or other equipment, which is unlikely to distract the opposing team's dog or teams racing subsequently.
- Allowing the dog to compete over a lower jump height than is stipulated within Section C Measuring Process.

7.4.3 Team Captains are responsible for ensuring the T/O, HJ and DJ are aware of any dogs in their team that have been issued with a BFA Exemption Certificate, so that C2 Time Sheets can be annotated before racing begins and the DJ can advise other teams.

7.4 DJ is responsible for ensuring only those reasonable adjustments specified on the BFA Exemption Certificate are allowed for that dog during racing and that continuing to race doesn't become an inappropriate activity for that dog, or an unfair competitive advantage for that team, on the day.

7.4.1 DJ's will ensure TCs minimise re-running an exempted dog, other than where this is necessary to win the leg. E.g. opposing team still have lights when dog sets off; and will ensure the team doesn't use an exempted dog as the team's only Start dog during the race.

7.5 When an application is received from an owner, the Committee will consult with the Veterinary Team and Judges Board for their advice on whether the adjustment is reasonable and should be allowed.

7.6 The Committee will advise the applicant of their decision and either decline or grant the Exemption and issue an appropriate Exemption Certificate, giving a precise, unambiguous description of the Exemptions granted to the applicant within 1 month of receiving it.

7.6.1 Any exemption granted by the Committee will automatically expire and lapse 2 years after the date it was issued.

7.6.2 Exemptions will not be renewed by the Committee after the expiry date of an Exemption Certificate, without a further application being submitted by the owner, based on up to date Veterinary information about the dog's condition.

7.6.3 The Committee may on occasion issue an exemption for a shorter period, where they feel a more frequent review of the exemption is appropriate.

7.6.4 On receiving any protests regarding an Exemption Certificate, the Committee will review and either re-confirm or revoke the existing Exemption Certificate, consulting and advising the owner and member lodging the protest as appropriate.

7.7 Any member who is in any way dissatisfied, either with an Exemption Certificate that's been issued or the way an Exemption Certificate was applied during a tournament they've recently attended, should lodge a protest in the manner described within A.2. Rules for Competition 11 Protests, clearly stating the reason(s) for their dissatisfaction.

RATIONALE:

Tripods have to work harder than four legged dogs and are therefore at a disadvantage at running over 11 & 12"

I believe that a 2" concession would be less tiring and bring a Tripod's work rate back in line with the four legged dogs which would allow him to complete a full day's racing, without being more tired than his 4 legged competitors.

Although my experience relates just to running a Tripod dog in Open, I feel it's important the Association does everything we can to make our sport more widely inclusive for dogs with any disability.

This is especially true where an experienced Flyball dog suffers an accident or diagnosis that would otherwise bring their career to a sudden and unexpected end.

In a great many instances, making a relatively minor adjustment to the rules of racing, (e.g. The lower jump height I suggested), would enable that dog to continue enjoying racing and not suffer the problems that a sudden withdrawal from the sport can bring.

However what's a "good and fair" adjustment for one dog, may not be a suitable or a "fair" adjustment for another. E.g. It wouldn't be a fair adjustment to reduce the jump height for a dog that's deaf!

So it's difficult to be sufficiently prescriptive within our rules to ensure that all eventualities are covered.

Instead, this new rule has been structured such, that an owner can, with their vet's support, request a specific adjustment that they feel is suitable for their dog and the BFA Committee can then decide whether or not to grant an exemption and issue a certificate.

I feel this rule change would be hugely beneficial to tripods and will make it more inclusive and accessible for these dogs who clearly enjoy the sport and still love to compete.

I would just like to reiterate that a tripod will not be replacing a height dog in a team. Where there is only one height dog in the team, the tripod will always run with that dog.

Proposal 23

Proposers Name – Records & Stats Team

Points and Awards E. Points and Awards

2 Loss of Points Page 37

Remove 2.1 If the team name and/or team number (TRN) are missing, incorrect, or do not match, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.2 If the team captain's name and/or BFA number are missing; incorrect; do not match; or the team captain is not a current BFA member, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.3 If the box loader's name and/or BFA number are missing, incorrect, do not match, or the box loader is not a current BFA member, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.4 If the handler's name and/or BFA number are missing, incorrect, or do not match, points will be lost for that dog. • If the handler and/or registered owner is not a current BFA member points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team. • If all handler numbers are missing, incorrect, or do not match, then points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team

2.5 If the dog's name and/or BFA number are missing, incorrect, or do not match, points will be lost for that dog.

2.6 If the dog's breed does not match the breed it was registered as, points will be lost for that dog.

2.7 If a dog has competed and is underage, points, result and seed time will be lost for that team.

2.8 If the dogs are not circled, the points for that heat are lost.

Insert

2.1 If the Team name and TRN are missing, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.2 If the Team Captain and/or Boxloader is not a current BFA member, points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team.

2.3 In a four dog team, if any dog or handler is not a current BFA member, points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team. For teams containing more than 4 dogs, (and Rule 2.1 is satisfied) the fastest time excluding the elapsed/non BFA member(s) will be recorded as the seed time, and points awarded accordingly. No points shall be awarded for the heats which include the non/elapsed BFA member(s). If all times are excluded this will result in loss of placing. For validation purposes, there shall be a minimum of 4 nominated dog handlers and a nominated boxloader – 5 separate current BFA members in total.

2.4 If an underaged dog has competed in a 4 dog team points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team. For teams containing more than 4 dogs, the fastest time excluding the underaged dog will be recorded as the seed time and points awarded accordingly. No points shall be awarded for the heats which include the underaged dog. If all times are excluded, this will result in loss of placing.

2.5 In a multi breed competition. if the dog's breed does not match the breed they were registered as, points and times will be lost for each heat where the team failed to field 4 different breeds. If all times are excluded, this will result in loss of placing.

2.6 If the team captain's name and BFA number is missing, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.7 If the box loader's name and BFA number is missing, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.8 If the handler's name and BFA number is missing, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.9 If the dog's name and BFA number is missing, points will be lost for that dog.

2.10 If it cannot be determined which dogs ran in a particular heat, the points for that heat are lost.

2.11 Where a dog and/or BFA member has a compound name, a partial match to the database shall be accepted.

Rationale

Flyball is a hobby that we do as an escape from the other stresses in our lives. We enjoy watching our dogs progress be it their first competition, their last competition or any award gained in between. The gaining of seed times, placings and receiving of points culminates to the enjoyment of racing. The elation of the weekend can quickly turn into disappointment and/or unrest within a team when it is found the C2 has been completed incorrectly, by either the Team Captain or their representative. No one completes a C2 incorrectly on purpose. On most occasions members are very much at the mercy of the person completing the C2. The rules as they stand are very stringent and it leaves the Stats Team no option other than to disallow even for minor mistakes.

The Stats Team do have a heavy workload and having to satisfy all the criteria of the rules, prior to even calculating points, is very labour intensive. We are willing to invest the extra time required, to support team captains by investigating and correcting submissions. We appreciate this may bring complacency in C2 completion however we hope the membership will help by providing the information required so we can complete the seed list and the award of points in the same timely manner.

We believe it is reasonable to expect a competing team to have a minimum of 5 different BFA members. These members do not need to be from the same club. Knowing which team the C2 belongs to and having current BFA members and dogs, who we can trace on the database, is the criteria we need to enable the award of seed times and points.



Proposal 24

Proposers Name – Katie Burns

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Section E Points and Awards

2 – Loss of points (page 37)

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

E.2 Loss of points

2.1 If the team name and/or team number (TRN) are missing, incorrect, or do not match, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.2 If the team captain's name and/or BFA number are missing; incorrect; do not match; or the team captain is not a current BFA member, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.3 If the box loader's name and/or BFA number are missing, incorrect, do not match, or the box loader is not a current BFA member, points, placing and seed time will be lost.

2.4 If the handler's name and/or BFA number are missing, incorrect, or do not match, points will be lost for that dog.

• If the handler is not a current BFA member points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team.

• If all handler numbers are missing, incorrect, or do not match, then points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team

2.5 If the dog's name and/or BFA number are missing, incorrect, or do not match, points will be lost for that dog.

2.6 If the dog's breed does not match the breed it was registered as, points will be lost for that dog.

2.7 If a dog has competed and is underage, points, result and seed time will be lost for that team.

2.8 If the dogs are not circled, the points for that heat are lost.

E.2 Loss of points

2.1 Points shall be lost (for each individual dog) for the following reasons:

- Lapsed BFA handler membership
- Unregistered handler
- Unregistered dog

- Underage dog

2.2 Points will be lost after errors have been recorded at three separate tournaments against a team (to include all secondary teams) in one year. Errors will be defined as:

- Incorrect TRN numbers
- Incorrect Captain BFA number
- Incorrect box loader BFA number
- Incorrect BFA handler numbers
- Incorrect BFA dog numbers

Errors for the TRN number, Captain BFA number and box loader BFA number will lose points for the team. Errors with the handler and dog BFA numbers, will result in points being lost for that individual dog.

RATIONALE:

Rewrite the section as currently there is no leeway, and the stats teams are required by the rules to remove points for any errors within the paperwork. This is very rigid and as 26 different pieces of information are currently required to be completed correctly for a 4-dog team, there is a likelihood of transcription errors. People compete as a break from day to day lives and spend a lot of money driving to tournaments and competing and to have points, placings and seed time stripped for a typo or error on the team captains part creates bad feeling and puts additional pressure on an already stressful captain role.

Removing the seed time and placings seems extremely unfair in addition to losing points as that leaves the team with nothing from a day's racing because of an admin error. It also can create issues with teams not having a valid seed time which could affect future entries for example the champs.

Asking for names to match completely could also be seen as discriminatory as some people struggle with spelling, have dyslexia, or have a language other than English as their first language.

The removal of points can still take place for consistent offenders but gives the opportunity to raise errors with the team captain, so they are aware.

Proposal 25

Proposers Name – Katie Burns & Maxine Marshall

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

Appendix 2 - Dog Awards (page 46)

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 1000 points.

- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 3000 points.
- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 5000 points.
- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 10000 points.
- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 15000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 20,000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 30,000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 40,000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 50,000 points.
- BFA will award a valedictory certificate to any dog retiring full time from flyball regardless of points total. Certificate will identify dog and handler details, current club, first and last show, and status gained. A valedictory certificate will only be produced on request of the Club Captain and will only be produced once for each dog.

RATIONALE:

When the points were changed a few years ago the awards were changed in line. The assumption was that dogs would be getting more points per tournament and therefore less awards should be offered. In reality this hasn't been the case and statistically dogs now get less points per tournament.

Adding a certificate for 3000 (graduate) and 15000 (gold) would add very little in the way of expense for the BFA but would help encourage people and not leave such a big gap from flyball dog to advanced.

Proposal 26

Proposers Name – Judges Board

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

APPENDIX 8

BFA RULES FOR FLYBALL FOUNDATION EVENTS

FLYBALL FOUNDATION COMPETITIONS & RING-TIME TRAINING

Page 54/60

RULE CONTENT (please put in red which part you would like to remove and in blue which part you would like to add)

Flyball Foundation activities are essential to the development of good flyball dogs and handlers that can conduct themselves in a flyball ring in a safe manner. Flyball Foundation competitions

and ring-time training are to only take place in a BFA sanctioned ring, and they are to be supervised by a BFA Qualified Judge (or HJ). The BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing apply to all Flyball Foundation competitions and ring-time training with the following exceptions:

Flyball Foundation Racing. ~~This is competitive racing~~ Although this is competitive racing with the use of props allowed, the aim is to allow new dogs, that are capable of retrieving a ball from a box or chute, to gain experience in a racing ring:

- a. Dogs must be 12 months or older at the time of competition.
- b. Jumps are to be set at a minimum height of 6 inches and a maximum height of 10. If all competing dogs are over the age of 18 months and this is verified in advance of the competition, use of higher jumps may be approved by the QJ.
- c. Standard flyball props are allowed; including the use of striders, a chute instead of a flyball box, wings, jump boards (all props need to be safe and fit-for-purpose). Any unusual or novel props need to be approved by the QJ prior to use.
- d. The flyball box does not need to trigger but the dog is required to take a recognisable ball from a flyball box or a chute (not rolled or picked from the floor). The dog should be attempting to turn in a safe manner, not “stealing” the ball from the box or chute with its mouth.
- e. ~~Team members are allowed in the racing lane (such as a runner, or to place/remove striders) but only with the prior approval of the other competing team and the QJ. [REMOVE]~~ Team members are allowed in the area between the box and the jump closest to it, to either place, change and remove equipment or props. If a dog needs additional support to do a full run during the heat the QJ may agree to the use of a runner, this however will be an automatic fault. The QJ has the right to pause any activity that is unsafe or distracting to the other team in the ring at the time. [ADD]
- f. Centre-netting (or suitable barrier) is to be run down the centre of the racing lanes and in the run-back area to limit unintentional interference and/or distractions (loose balls). Jumps are not to be netted, although wings are allowed.
- g. Dogs and handlers are to be able to meet the BFA standard, they must be able to complete the course and conduct themselves in the flyball ring in a safe manner. [ADD] Failure to do so will result in their removal from the competition by the QJ.

h. False starts – Not required in Foundation racing. Start light sequence should be used to start the race but racing continues if one or both sides false starts. If the dog runs clean this is not recorded as a fault.

i. Early passes will be recorded as a fault because this could impede the returning dog and could be dangerous.

i j. Dogs and handlers competing in the same Flyball Foundation team do not need to be from the same primary club. A foundation racing team can be 1-4 dogs, a team does not need to be 4 dogs to compete.

j k. Flyball Foundation teams shall race no more than 4 times in any competition (most dogs in Flyball Foundations will be too young or too old for open, returning from injury or requiring retraining).

k. l. Flyball Foundation races are 3 heats, run all 3; the winner of a Flyball Foundation competition is determined by the team that has completed the most clean runs (no faults) during the event. Clean runs are recorded per dog (2 dogs running clean and 1 dog faulting equals 2 clean runs for that team for that race). Foundation Flyball is focused on dog and handler achieving the BFA standard safely, not about speed.

l. m. TOs are encouraged to supply all competitors with a suitable token of achievement.

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

a. Standard flyball props are allowed; including the use of striders, a chute instead of a flyball box, wings, jump boards (all props need to be safe and fit-for-purpose). Any unusual or novel props need to be approved by the QJ prior to use.

b. If jumps are to be used they are to be set at a maximum height of 10 inches or the height of the smallest dog training, whichever is the lower; if all training dogs are over the age of 18 months and this is verified in advance, use of higher jumps may be approved by the QJ.

c. Team members are allowed in the racing lane (such as a runner, or to place/remove striders), but the QJ retains the right to pause any activity that is distracting to any other team in the ring at the time.

d. Set time limits are to be determined by the TO prior to the event and training slots are to be annotated on the racing schedule. Timings are to be strictly adhered to and enforced by the QJ and TO so as not to interfere with sanctioned racing.

- e. Teams are not to bring any single dog out for more than 4 training sessions in one day.
- f. A single ring-time training slot will be no longer than a standard race (8 minutes, timed by the supervising judge, starting from box lift on conclusion of previous race). [Timing for training slots outside of competitive racing may be allocated at the discretion of the tournament organiser but should be no longer than 10 minutes for dog welfare.](#)

RATIONALE:

Introduction - to highlight the aims for foundation competition - for the dogs to gain experience, rather than competitive racing.

Within Flyball Foundation

Point e. - Clarifies what is expected of dogs and handlers in a foundation event, so that dogs are not exposed to the ring and competition environment before they can retrieve a ball from a box or chute.

Point g. - Clarifies how the dog and handler should conduct themselves in a flyball ring.

Point h - clarifies why an early cross is classified as a fault when an early start is not classified as a fault.

Ring Time:

Point f - Consideration of training slots outside of competitive racing must take into account dog welfare, especially if ring time is allocated at the end of racing.

Proposal 27

Proposers Name – Sarah Prentice

RULE NUMBER the proposer wants to change, section, and page number :

APPENDIX 8

BFA RULES FOR FLYBALL FOUNDATION EVENTS Page 54

Flyball Foundation Racing

- k. Flyball Foundation races are 3 heats, run all 3; the winner of a Flyball Foundation competition is determined by the team that has **(REMOVE) completed the most (ADD) achieved the highest percentage of** clean runs (no faults), **(ADD) available to each team,** during the event. Clean runs are recorded per dog (2 dogs running clean and 1 dog faulting equals 2 clean runs for that team for that race). Foundation Flyball is focused on dog and handler achieving the BFA standard safely, not about speed.

RATIONALE:

Point i. of this appendix states that “A Foundation racing team can be 1-4 dogs, a team does not need to be 4 dogs to compete” so it is unfair to decide the winner of the Flyball Foundation racing on the number of clean legs won rather than the percentage of clean runs achieved out of the possible number available to each team.

A percentage basis for calculating the placings may also encourage more teams to enter dogs into foundation racing if they have less than four foundation dogs to make up a team, as they would have the opportunity to win the racing which would otherwise be unlikely.

Although the main purpose of Foundation racing is to allow new dogs to gain experience in the ring it would also be good for the racing to be competitive.
