



**British Flyball Association  
Annual General Meeting**

**To be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Via Zoom Webinar due to COVID-19 restrictions.**

**Commencing at 10.00am**

**AGENDA**

**Note: Only those members who had renewed prior the announcement of the AGM (3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020) are eligible to vote. Only items and proposals contained or pertaining to the issues on the Agenda will be discussed during the AGM.**

It would be appreciated if all members would carefully consider the implications of all the proposals, bringing a clear understanding of each item and an informed idea of their voting intentions. No major amendments to these proposals can be permitted at the AGM. Please have your own copy of the Agenda available.

- 1. Chairperson's opening speech**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of last AGM – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019**
- 4. Concise reports for the year 2019/2020 by:**

BFA Officials

Chairperson – David Murdoch

Secretary – Rachel Short

Treasurer – Katie Burns

- 5. Rule Proposals**

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

# Constitution

## Proposal 1

5.3 – Submitted by the BFA Committee

Impact on Proposal 34 relating to Appendix 1 to be considered.

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

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

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

## Rules of Flyball Racing

### A1 Sanctioned Tournaments

#### Proposal 2

A.1.1.4 – Submitted by the BFA Committee

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

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

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

### **Proposal 3**

#### A.1.2.4 - Submitted by the BFA Committee

A.1.2.4 Trophies - The Tournament Organiser is responsible for ~~REMOVE: acquiring trophies, rosettes and if applicable cash prizes, setting up the trophy table and putting together a list of trophies, prizes and presentations~~ ~~ADD: the provision of any trophies, rosettes and/or prizes at their show, and for arranging an appropriate presentation on conclusion of racing.~~ Flyball is a community as well as a sport, and all members are strongly encouraged to attend tournament presentations to show their appreciation and support for their fellow competitors and the efforts of the Tournament Organiser.

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

### **Proposal 4**

#### A.1.3.1 - Submitted by the BFA Committee

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

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

### **Proposal 5**

#### A.1.3.2 - Submitted by the BFA Committee

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

New Rule reads: All schedules for BFA Sanctioned Tournaments will be available to download from the BFA Diary on the website. For Limited Tournaments advance warning must be posted giving the date on which the schedule will be available.

**Explanation:** Direction to use 'web-board' is unclear. If it is referring to the Forum this is an out-dated tool with limited utility. Instruction to simply 'post' should be clear enough. It is in the TO's interest to ensure their show is adequately advertised, so specific direction on where and

how to post is probably unnecessary. The reference to postal entries is extremely dated. This current rule makes receiving tournament entries and providing feedback to teams an inefficient process. Removal does not stop people entering by post should they wish, but it is unclear why anyone would need to do this anyway.

## **Proposal 6**

### **A.1.3.3 – Submitted by the BFA Committee**

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

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

## **Proposal 7**

### **A.1.3.5 – Submitted by the BFA Committee**

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

**A.1.3.5 REMOVE:** As soon as the Tournament is full all further applications may be placed on a reserve list and the Host Team must advise all Teams immediately of the status of their entry. All entries are to be taken strictly on date of receipt. If a tournament is oversubscribed a draw will be made of all entry forms received on the same day. If a tournament is over-subscribed after the first available post for postal entries, electronic entries already received will not be given precedence over postal entries and will be included in any draw required.

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

#### **First 24 hours**

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

#### **Following 48 hours**

- a. If the tournament was oversubscribed after 24 hours then all entries during this time will be put on the reserve list.
- b. If the tournament was not oversubscribed after 24 hours. The Tournament Organiser will calculate the remaining availability and will do a draw of all entries

received during this 48 hour period to achieve the tournament limit. Any unsuccessful teams will be put on a reserve list.

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

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

### **Proposal 8**

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

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

A.1.3.5 As soon as the Tournament is full all further applications may be placed on a reserve list and the Host Team must advise all Teams immediately of the status of their entry. All entries are to be taken strictly on date of receipt. If a tournament is oversubscribed a draw will be made of all entry forms received on the same day. If a tournament is over-subscribed after the first available post for postal entries, electronic entries already received will not be given precedence over postal entries and will be included in any draw required. **ADD: Any teams that failed to enter via the entry draw for the previous tournament should gain automatic entry in the following tournament held by the same tournament organiser at the same venue. This is limited to the next consecutive tournament and not any subsequent ones thereafter.**

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

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

*A.1.3.5 Tournament organisers should register all entries for a period of 72 hours after the schedule release split into two parts:*

*First 24 hours*

*a) If the tournament is oversubscribed after 24 hours a draw will be done on all entries received at that point. The unsuccessful teams will be put on a reserve list.*

*b) If the tournament is not oversubscribed at this time all entries received with the 24 hour period will have gained entry to the tournament.*

*Following 48 hours*

*a) If the tournament was oversubscribed after 24 hours then all entries during this time will be put on the reserve list.*

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

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

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

## **Proposal 9**

### **A.1.3.6 – Submitted by BFA Committee**

**A.1.3.6 REMOVE:** All teams on each entry form pulled out will be allocated a place until the tournament is full (please contact the Show Secretary for clarification, if required.) At the closing date for entries the Tournament Organiser must appoint a Tournament Head Judge. If this is not possible they must contact the BFA Show Secretary immediately. Prize money for any one team may not exceed £100 per event per day. In addition, a host or sponsor may offer expense money provided the same is distributed fairly among all participating teams based on actual expense. **ADD:** Tournament Organisers are encouraged to engage with appropriate sponsors for the provision of prizes but BFA flyball is an amateur sport and, as such, TOs are not to issue cash prizes at BFA sanctioned competitions without prior authorisation from the Committee. Flyball is a family sport and, as such, any sponsorship arrangements must comply with the BFA Code of Ethics.

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

## **Proposal 10**

### **A.1.4.2 – Submitted by BFA Committee**

**A.1.4.2 REMOVE:** Divisions - If the host Team elects to offer divisions, teams should be placed in each division based on times. Teams may submit times for seeding purposes **ADD:** Teams are to be placed in divisions based on current seed time; teams may declare a time for seeding purposes - otherwise the current BFA seeding will be used. There shall be no less than 5 teams and no more than 7 teams in each division.

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

## **Proposal 11**

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

**A.1.4.9 REMOVE:** If the Records and Statistics Coordinator is present at the Tournament, the original Time Sheets (BFA Form C.2), and Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) should be handed to them at the time. If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser. Advance Results should be emailed as soon as possible after the tournament ends so that the seed list can be updated. Otherwise, following the Tournament, the Organiser must post the original Time Sheets and Tournament Results form to the Records and Statistics Coordinator within 2 days to ensure that the latter is in receipt of the same within 7 days after the Tournament. Jump Height form(s) (BFA Form C.9) to be forwarded to the Height Card Co-ordinator via either post or email. Any protests and or reports should be forwarded to the BFA Secretary within 7 days. **ADD:** Tournament Organisers are responsible for electronically submitting BFA Form C2 (Time Sheets) and BFA Form C6 (Tournament Results) to the BFA Records and Statistics Team within 48hrs of the last day of the tournament. The Form C6 is also to be sent to the BFA Treasurer within 48 hrs. Advance results should be e-mailed as soon as practicable on conclusion of racing (but no later than 48hrs) so the seed list can be updated. Copies of the Forms C2 and C6 should be retained by the Tournament Organiser until such time as the results and points from the tournament are updated and available for viewing by the membership on the BFA website. BFA Form C9 (Jump Heights) are to be sent to the BFA Height Card Coordinator and any other reporting (as required) sent to the BFA Secretary electronically within 48hrs of the last day of the tournament.

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

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

## **Proposal 12**

### **A.1.4.11 – Submitted by BFA Committee**

**A.1.4.11 REMOVE:** The Tournament sanctioned by the BFA must use a BFA approved Tournament Head Judge, who should be a current member of either the BFA or other International Flyball body recognised by the BFA. The Tournament Head Judge should not be a member of the Host Team. The BFA will assist the Tournament Organiser by either training or making available a Tournament Head Judge. **ADD:** A tournament sanctioned by the BFA must be overseen by a BFA approved Head Judge (who should not be from the host team); if the Tournament Organiser is unable to appoint a Head Judge they are to contact the BFA Judges Board who will make appropriate arrangements.



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

### **Proposal 13**

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

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

**ADD:** Sanctioned classes are:

Open

Multi-Breed

Singles

Pairs

Other Unsanctioned classes may include:

various 'Fun Classes'

Starters

Intermediates

etc.

A.2.5.2 Dogs may not be entered for racing in more than one team at an open/multi-breed BFA Sanctioned Tournament. Dogs may not take part in **ADD: singles, pairs**, starters, intermediate or fun events on the same day as they are entered in open/multi-breed.

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

**INSERT (and renumber subsequent sections): A.2.5.9**

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

Some possible formats include:

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

### **POINTS AND AWARDS**

#### **E.4. Annual awards**

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

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



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

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

### **Proposal 14**

A.1.5.5 – Submitted by BFA Committee

**DELETE IN FULL: A.1.5.5 Tournament Duration Guidelines**

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

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

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

### **Proposal 15**

A.1.5.6 – Submitted by BFA Committee

A.1.5.6 Duration of Racing

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

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

# A2 Rules for Competition

## Proposal 16

A.2.2 – Submitted by BFA Committee

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

A.2.2 Membership

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

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

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

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

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

## Proposal 17

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

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

A.2.2 Membership

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

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

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

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

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

*A.2.2 Membership*

*Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of official competitions.*

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

## **Proposal 18**

### **A.2.3.1 – Submitted by BFA Committee**

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

**A.2.3.1 REMOVE:** Dogs under the age of 18 months will not be allowed to compete at sanctioned Flyball events even if running in a team stated Not for Competition (NFC) **ADD:** Dogs are required to be over the age of 18 months to be allowed to compete at BFA sanctioned flyball events, even if running in a team that has Withdrawn From Competition (WFC).

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

## **Proposal 19**

### **A.2.3.2 – Submitted by BFA Committee**

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

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

## **Proposal 20**

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

#### **A.2.7.1 Flyball Boxes**

a. Each team shall supply its own Flyball box, which **REMOVE:** should be safe and fit for the purpose intended **ADD:** must meet the following:

- i. There must be no exposed sharp edges
- ii. The landing area must be protected by a layer of padding which should be complete and in good condition. Whilst holes made by a dog's nails are to be expected, there should not be areas where the pedal is bald i.e. the plate is visible.
- iii. If the box has a fixed ball plate the gap between it and the pedal must be either covered or small enough to not allow a dog to trap a toe
- iv. The top of the box must be covered to enclose the box mechanisms. Where the design of existing boxes makes it impossible to do this the mechanisms must be covered with protective padding
- v. There will be no addition, whether considered temporary or permanent, of any object attached to the front elevation of the box that could be considered a potential training aid or prop. This does not include a band painted on the front elevation, providing the surface is considered flat following application.

b. All boxes are to have a mechanical (not electrical) pedal release mechanism.

c. The boxes may be painted or decorated as the team wishes.

d. The ball, when released, must have a free unobstructed flight of not less than 24" from the box cup in a forward direction.

e. **REMOVE:** Boxes shall not exceed 30" in width, 20" in height or 30" in depth. The dimensions do not include any platform the box loader uses to hold the box in place. **ADD:** The landing area is the front elevation of the box, it includes the ball hole plate on fixed plate boxes. The landing area of any box should not exceed 20" in height and 30" in width. Landing area height is the measurement from the highest point of the landing surface at a right angle to the floor. This height includes the base of the box and any anti-slip plates used. Landing area width is measured at its widest point.

f. **REMOVE:** Boxes should be constructed with the comfort and wellbeing of the dog in mind. Sharp edges should be avoided and adequate padding and protection should be used. **ADD:** The depth of the box shall not exceed 30". The depth is measured from the leading edge of the landing area to the rear edge of the box. For the box loader, the base of the box can extend beyond the main body of the box by a further 6" to a maximum of 36".

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

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

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

## **Proposal 21**

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

### **A.2.7.2 Balls**

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

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

## **Proposal 22**

A.2.10 – Submitted by BFA Committee

### **A.2.10 Record Times**

**REMOVE:** British record breaking times for both Open and Multi-breed Sanctioned Tournaments must be recorded on the appropriate form and verified by a BFA Head judge and a committee member or their representative, (i.e. the tournament organiser or another head judge), if a

committee member is not present. The following must be checked and verified: Lane length, jump height, and placement, box function and placement, function and alignment of timing equipment. The measurement of the height dog must be verified by checking the current Dog Height Master List that is held by the Tournament organiser if the dog is not on the Dog Height Master List then the dog shall be measured unless it has been measured that day and recorded on Jump height form C9. Times recorded at a BFA sanctioned tournament on approved BFA timing equipment will be recognised as a record breaking time.

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

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

## A3 Rules of Racing

### Proposal 23

#### A.3.5.2 – Submitted by BFA Judges Board

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

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

## **Proposal 24**

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

#### **A.3.8.1 Interference**

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

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

## **Proposal 25**

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

#### **A.3.8.2 Distraction**

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

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

## **Proposal 26**

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

**A.3.9 Boxloader** – **REMOVE:** Except during the warm up, to load the box, to retrieve a loose ball or get a fresh supply of balls to load, **ADD:** During the warm up, the box loader must remain on the box, but may use their hands to encourage the dogs in any way that they see fit. The box loader must remain in the upright position behind the box with hands behind their back. **ADD:** During live racing of dogs (live racing is defined by the start of the light sequence until the divisional judge blows their whistle to signify the outcome of the leg), unless in the process of loading a ball into the box in between individual dog runs. The box loader may offer verbal encouragement only, as long as such encouragement does not distract the opposing team. **REMOVE:** the boxloader is to remain in position until the divisional judge determines the outcome of the heat. **ADD:** At the end of the warm up and at the end of each leg, the box loader can collect any loose balls and get a fresh supply of balls to load. If, in the Divisional Judge's opinion, a box loader has violated any of these rules, their team may forfeit the heat. If, in the opinion of the Divisional Judge, a box loader assists a dog, except where provided for in the rules, the dog shall run again.

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

## **Proposal 27**

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

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

**A.3.10 The Finish** – The first team to have all four dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last of the four dogs reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat. A Heat may be won due to default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing. A Judge at his discretion can stop a race to allocate a win to a team that has not completed a heat. A loss for both teams may be recorded. BO times will not be used for team placing's in the event of a tie. In the event of 3 BO's all earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents. **ADD:** If a situation arises where two secondary teams from the same primary team are drawn to race each other and declare that they are unable to do so, a loss shall be recorded for both teams for that race. Both teams must still run four dogs each, though this can be separately and for a minimum of 3 legs. Teams that run less than four dogs in this scenario will be considered withdrawn from racing.

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



## **Proposal 28**

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

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

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

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

Division Break-out – with the exception of division 1, a team running more than ½ second faster than the time of the top team in a division (whether seeded time or declared time) shall be the loser of that heat. If both teams 'breakout' in a heat or one team 'breaks-out' and the other fail to finish, both will be declared losers. A team that 'breaks-out' three times in a tournament will be ineligible for any placement in that tournament. If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply. Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets. NOTE: This rule applies to all Teams entered. The team may continue to race but all previous wins will convert to losses (and wins will be recorded for their opponents) on all racing paperwork and the team will therefore lose their placing for the day although their fastest time will be used, if appropriate, for a new seed time. BO times will not be used for team placings in the event of a tie. In the event of 3 break outs, all earlier **REMOVE: races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents** **ADD legs for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents, where that opponent has completed the leg.**

Flyball is a sport of racing where good sportsmanship is paramount. It is unsporting for a team to deliberately hold back (either on starts or crosses) in order to gain points or division placing. Where a team is seen by the Divisional Judge or their ring party to be holding back on the start or crosses, the Divisional Judge may consider whether the team would have broken out if they had not held back, If so the team will, at first, be warned by the Divisional Judge and the tournament Head Judge shall be informed. Teams should endeavour to run all 4 dogs. However if the other team have completed and has clearly won and there is for example an older dog or one returning from injury that has a light, the Divisional Judge may accept a non-completion provided they have been informed of the possibility before their first race. Any team that has a legitimate reason (i.e. nervous dogs, novice dogs, and inexperienced handler) for 'slack' starts or changeovers or for any other reason shall inform the Divisional Judge when entering the ring for their first race.

Should the practice persist; at the discretion of the Divisional Judge and Head Judge, the team may be disqualified. (Should the tournament Head Judge be involved in the race an alternative Head Judge, if available, or, if not a Qualified Judge will act as adjudicator). Upon disqualification the team will lose all points, any wins will convert to losses on all racing paperwork and the team will therefore lose their placing for the day. Disqualified teams will no longer be permitted to race and their fastest time will NOT be recorded for seed lists. If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply. **REMOVE: NOTE: This rule applies to all teams entered. Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets.**

### A.3.12 NFC – Not for competition

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

**Purpose:** The current rules appear to contradict each other in places and cause confusion amongst Judges and competitors regarding when a loss-loss result is appropriate. Furthermore, some competitors feel that teams can gain an advantage when racing a team that has gone NFC or a team that has already broken out 3 times as there is no current requirement for all four dogs to complete in order to win a leg against such teams (compared to those who had to race them earlier in the day before they were NFC or before they broke out 3 times). The new rule therefore brings in the requirement of completing a leg in order to win a race, including on a look back at prior races. Teams therefore need to get into the mentality of completing at least one leg per race in case the result of that race is overturned later in the day.

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

## **Proposal 29**

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

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

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

**A.3.11 Break outs** - With the exception of division 1, a team running more than **REMOVE: ½** **ADD: 1/4** second faster than its declared submitted time will be declared the loser of that heat.

Division Break-out – with the exception of division 1, a team running more than **REMOVE: ½** **ADD: 1/4** second faster than the time of the top team in a division (whether seeded time or declared time) shall be the loser of that heat. If both teams 'breakout' in a heat or one team 'breaks-out' and the other fail to finish, both will be declared losers. A team that 'breaks-out' **REMOVE: three times** **ADD: twice** in a tournament will be ineligible for any placement in that tournament. If the **REMOVE: electronic system** **ADD: EJS** fails, this rule will not apply.

Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets.

**NOTE:** This rule applies to all Teams entered. The team may continue to race but all previous wins will convert to losses (and wins will be recorded for their opponents) on all racing paperwork and the team will therefore lose their placing for the day although their fastest time

will be used, if appropriate, for a new seed time. BO times will not be used for team placings in the event of a tie. In the event of **REMOVE: 3 ADD: 2** break outs, all earlier races for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents.

Flyball is a sport of racing where good sportsmanship is paramount. It is unsporting for a team to deliberately hold back (either on starts or crosses) in order to gain points or division placing. Where a team is seen by the Divisional Judge or their ring party to be holding back on the start or crosses, the Divisional Judge may consider whether the team would have broken out if they had not held back, If so the team will, at first, be warned by the Divisional Judge and the tournament Head Judge shall be informed. Teams should endeavour to run all 4 dogs. However if the other team have completed and has clearly won and there is for example an older dog or one returning from injury that has a light, the Divisional Judge may accept a non-completion provided they have been informed of the possibility before their first race. Any team that has a legitimate reason (i.e. nervous dogs, novice dogs, and inexperienced handler) for 'slack' starts or changeovers or for any other reason shall inform the Divisional Judge when entering the ring for their first race.

Should the practice persist; at the discretion of the Divisional Judge and Head Judge, the team may be disqualified. (Should the tournament Head Judge be involved in the race an alternative Head Judge, if available, or, if not a Qualified Judge will act as adjudicator). Upon disqualification the team will lose all points, any wins will convert to losses on all racing paperwork and the team will therefore lose their placing for the day. Disqualified teams will no longer be permitted to race and their fastest time will NOT be recorded for seed lists. If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply. **REMOVE: NOTE: This rule applies to all teams entered. Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **DELETE IN FULL: A.3.13 Withdrawal from racing**

13.1 Team captains have the right to withdraw their team(s) from racing for a lame dog or prevailing weather conditions not conducive to the running of a particular dog(s) in that team.

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

13.3 Team captains shall also notify the Tournament Organiser and the Divisional Judge of their intention to withdraw and for what reason, either before or during the Division in which their team is seeded.

13.4 Once withdrawn from racing, if the team returns later in the day, all remaining races will be recorded as losses and No Time recorded on the C2 form.

13.5 Points, placing and times are kept up to the point of withdrawal, as long as the team has not introduced training aids or declared themselves NFC and has followed the above process.

#### **ADD: A.3.12 Withdrawal From Competition (WFC)**

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

A WFC team may use any appropriate training aids whilst racing WFC, unless they interfere with or distract the open racing team in the other lane (DJ's discretion). Team members for an WFC team may enter or be in the racing lane whilst racing as WFC, but only with prior agreement from the DJ and opposing team.

Once a team has gone WFC, all legs and races will be recorded as losses. No points, results or times will be gained for any races run under WFC conditions. A team cannot re-enter open competition once it has declared a Withdrawal From Competition. Any points and times set from fully completed races under the rules of open racing prior to WFC will be retained. As a team declaring WFC during an ongoing competition will affect the fairness of the final Divisional

result, all results (W or L) from a WFC team, withdrawing at any stage during the competition, will be voided and recorded as losses (this may result in other teams being awarded wins for races previously recorded as a loss and TOs should amend any paperwork accordingly).

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

## B Judging and Ring Party

### Proposal 31

#### B.3.1.1 – Submitted by BFA Judges Board

##### B.3. Divisional Judge

##### 1. Qualifying process

##### 1.1 To become a Qualified Judge, individuals must:

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

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

## C Measuring Process

## **Proposal 32**

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

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

C.2.1 All measuring shall be carried out using only BFA authorised equipment; laser device and measuring stick where the datum line is set at 24" **ADD: and a microchip scanner**.

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

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

## **E Points and Awards**

### **Proposal 33**

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

E.1. Dog points and awards

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

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

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

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

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

**Explanation:** I believe that there should be a reward for all dogs who successfully complete a run regardless of how long it takes. We have a team who run slower times and it is a bit soul destroying for them when they run without fault all day and only earn a handful of points as a lot of times they run over 30 seconds. At one show they raced all day and gained a third place in their division but were only awarded 5 points for their whole days racing. Every handler puts in



the same amount of effort and costs to attend shows and yet those with slower dogs are not getting the same recognition.

## 6. Any other business

### A) Notification of changes to Starters racing structure/guidelines

**See separate documents at end of Agenda (from p25)**

### B) Notification of changes to Appendices

#### Appendix 1 – Submitted by BFA Committee

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

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

Appendix 1, Section 8: ~~REMOVE: A Regional Representative Coordinator and Regional Representatives.~~ The Regional Representative Coordinator is the liaison between the Regional Representatives and the Committee and so must communicate regularly with the Regional Representatives regarding the sharing of best practice. **ADD: Regional Representatives.** Each BFA geographical region will be served by a Regional Representative appointed by the Committee who can be approached by prospective new members, new teams and existing members and teams for help and advice in respect of the BFA and flyball in general. Regional Representatives will also assist any member with any new rule or rule amendment proposal they wish to or have submitted for consideration at an Annual General Meeting;

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

### **Appendix 7 – Submitted by BFA Committee**

#### Appendix 7 – List of BFA Fees

EJS(Lights) Hire(for BFA tournaments only):

~~REMOVE: Per single Day inc bank holidays: £60 inc VAT~~

~~Per (2 days) weekend:~~

~~24 teams or less £60 inc VAT~~

~~25 – 36 teams £90 inc VAT~~

~~37 teams and above £120 inc VAT~~

~~ADD: Per unit, per day £60 inc VAT~~

**Explanation:** **Reflect simplification of hire charges.**

## **7. Election of the BFA Committee**

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

**Alicia Marsland (High Flyers)**

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

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

Seeking re-election to the Committee;  
**Katie Burns (Carry On's)**  
Proposed by Ali Kirk and Seconded by Emily Murdoch  
**Craig Burrows (FOCUS)**  
Proposed by Katherine Palin and Seconded by Scott Harrison

The nominations for the remaining places on the Committee are;  
**Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact)**  
Proposed by Jenny Cousins and Seconded by Nicola Cole  
**Shannon Mills (Extreme Racers)**  
Proposed by Sharon Allcorn and Seconded by Chris Haslam

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

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

## **8. Presentation of Annual Awards for 2019**

## **9. Chairperson's closing speech.**

## BFA STARTERS RULE EXPLANATION

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

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

There was a complete 50/50 split on the idea of starters being competitive vice non-competitive and there was a far higher approval rating for the current 'intermediates' system of 7 out of 10 vice the 5.6 for traditional starters. To meet all members' needs, there needs to be a balance between the ability to compete in a non-open setting vice the ability to effectively train/condition dogs in a BFA ring setting. There was only a very small demand for starters as a 'fun' event.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What this shows is a very clear demand for a basic standard of training and control that needs to be established before dogs are allowed to be in close proximity with other inexperienced dogs. In the same way that clubs take responsibility for preparing dogs for open through use of the starters system, they need to go back a stage further and prepare dogs and handlers for starters competitions as well. There is clear feedback that the membership do not want starters as a free-for-all no rules apply dog party, and that currently starters can be detrimental to the development of a good well-trained flyball dog. It is clear that the majority of members think dogs should have a good recall, be able to go over 4 jumps and retrieve a ball safely from a flyball box/chute as basic conditions of being able to 'compete' in starters. Not taking a ball from a box or chute, is just a game of fetch, and netting in jumps at a competition is not going to teach a dog to run in during open competition. It is recognised that this would be a shift in approach to the foundation level of flyball and there may be some training education required which the BFA can help with should club captains or club trainers wish to understand the concepts better. The BFA Trainers will provide some foundation training videos to highlight the basic training techniques and standards required of an inexperienced dog starting its flyball journey. It is accepted that some dogs currently competing in starters will need to go back a step to training, but these dogs and their handlers should still be allowed access to a BFA ring to aid their flyball development. Which is why 3 options would be available. 2 of which would be under BFA governance, one that allows dogs to compete in a flyball race (using props) in a ring setting, and training in a ring-setting. A third option of 'fun' flyball for dogs (retired, or not yet trained) who can't independently use jumps and a box/chute would also be available. Netting was a minor contentious issue with a notable minority seeing it as a priority, but the majority not considering it necessary, especially if a minimum expected standard is applied to dogs 'competing' in starters. The practice of fully netting in all jumps in each racing lane adds an unnecessary safety risk to handlers and has little to no real training value. The presence of a barrier to contain an inexperienced, confused or distracted dog though does have value. The presence of a barrier to prevent accidental interference and distraction would also mitigate the reduction in training value for any other dogs distracted or interfered with and provide reassurance for inexperienced handlers.

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

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

day, the preference for 4 or less for starters makes sense, given that most dogs will be younger, inexperienced, older, requiring re-training or returning from injury.

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

**Safety & Dog Welfare.** Although not a specific part of the survey, free text responses made it clear that safety and dog welfare should be a priority. Dogs in starters competition should not ordinarily be allowed to run at full height (many will be under-age, retired or returning from injury). Jump heights should therefore be set at a maximum of 10" or the height of the smallest dog running, unless the age of all dogs is verified in advance and approved by the QJ. The main concerns with starters highlighted in the survey responses was the uncontrolled and chaotic nature of these events, the higher incidence of dog aggression experienced vice open racing, the high levels of interference which was damaging to other dogs' progression and is unsafe for both dogs and handlers, and the amount of time starters competitions take to run. It is considered that this proposal, if accepted, would resolve these concerns and thereby increase participation rates in foundation level events; increasing demand should in itself drive provision which should see more foundation level events being put on.

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

offer Flyball Foundation options, such as Foundation Racing, Foundation Ring-Time, or a Fun event.

## **APPENDIX 8**

### **BFA RULES FOR FLYBALL FOUNDATION EVENTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The BFA Standard.** The minimum standard required of dogs and handlers to be able to safely compete or train under BFA sanctioned conditions is the BFA Standard which is defined as:

**Handler** – For both Flyball Foundation events and ring-time training, a handler must be able to safely release a dog into the racing lane and retrieve their dog under control.

**Dog** – To compete in a Flyball Foundation event a dog must also be able to go over 4 jumps and safely retrieve a ball from a flyball box/chute<sup>1</sup> and return back over 4 jumps to their handler.

**Safe Flyball** – The over-riding principle is that dogs and handlers can compete or train safely. Should a supervising judge have any safety concerns they are to consult with the HJ and Club Captain in the first instance. Dogs or handlers deemed unsafe may be withdrawn from racing or training. The HJ's decision is final.

### **FUN EVENTS**

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

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<sup>1</sup> Any Flyball box used is to meet the specifications of the BFA Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing; a chute is defined as an adequately padded single-piece board that can either be self-supporting or placed in front of a Flyball box (a chute needs to be safe and fit-for-purpose, the HJ's decision on what is safe and fit-for-purpose is final).

## **FLYBALL FOUNDATION COMPETITIONS & RING-TIME TRAINING**

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

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

- a. Dogs must be 12 months or older at the time of competition.
- b. Jumps are to be set at a maximum height of 10 inches or the height of the smallest dog competing, whichever is the lower; if all competing dogs are over the age of 18 months and this is verified in advance of the competition, use of higher jumps may be approved by the QJ.
- c. Standard flyball props are allowed; including the use of striders, a chute instead of a flyball box, wings, jump boards (all props need to be safe and fit-for-purpose). Any unusual or novel props need to be approved by the QJ prior to use.
- d. The flyball box does not need to trigger but the dog is required to take a recognisable ball from a flyball box or a chute (not rolled or picked from the floor).
- e. Team members are allowed in the racing lane (such as a runner, or to place/remove striders) but only with the prior approval of the other competing team and the QJ.
- f. Centre-netting (or suitable barrier) is to be run down the centre of the racing lanes and in the run-back area to limit unintentional interference and/or distractions (loose balls). Jumps are not to be netted, although wings are allowed.
- g. Dogs and handlers are to be able to meet the BFA standard. Failure to do so will result in their removal from the competition by the QJ.
- h. Dogs and handlers competing in the same Flyball Foundation team do not need to be from the same primary club.
- i. Flyball Foundation teams shall race no more than 4 times in any competition (most dogs in Flyball Foundations will be too young or too old for open, returning from injury or requiring re-training).
- j. Flyball Foundation races are 3 legs, run all 3; the winner of a Flyball Foundation competition is determined by the team that has completed the most clean runs (no faults) during the competition. Ties will be determined on fastest time.
- k. TOs are encouraged to supply all competitors with a suitable token of achievement.

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

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



- d. Set time limits are to be determined by the TO prior to the event and training slots are to be annotated on the racing schedule. Timings are to be strictly adhered to and enforced by the QJ and TO so as not to interfere with sanctioned racing.
- e. Teams are not to bring any single dog out for more than 4 training sessions in one day.
- f. A single ring-time training slot will be no longer than a standard race (8 minutes, timed by the supervising judge, starting from box lift on conclusion of previous race).

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

#### **Event/Tournament Organisers Guide to Costs and Timings**

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

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

**Participants.** All people entering a BFA sanctioned ring need to be BFA members, or for the purposes of Foundation Flyball competitions or ring-time training, if not members, must be pre-registered with the BFA.