



British Flyball Association

Annual General Meeting

To be held on Saturday 27th March 2021

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 (3rd February 2021) 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 – 25th April 2020

4. Concise reports for the year 2020/2021 by:

BFA Officials Chairperson – David Murdoch

Secretary – Rachel Short

Treasurer – Katie Burns

5. Regional Representatives Update

6. Judges Board Update

7. Rule Proposals

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

Proposal 1

Proposed by the BFA Committee

Constitution

Name and Objective

- 1.1 The British Flyball Association (“BFA”) is an unincorporated association of members **ADD governing flyball in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland** with the following objectives:
- furthering the sport of flyball;
 - promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship in the sport through its committees, rules and policies, tournaments and other activities;
 - promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs.

Reason:

To clearly identify which nations are included in the BFA remit for sporting purposes

Proposal 2

Proposed by The BFA Committee

Constitution 2

2. Code of Ethics

- 2.1 One of the objectives of the BFA is to promote co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs.
- Co-operation and good sportsmanship should not be recognised in passive observance, but in all BFA related communications as a way of life and in training and competition treating committee, members and guests fairly and with respect, promoting an environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment. BFA members shall at all times be courteous and friendly. At no time should they show displeasure with a dog, a judge, **REMOVE exhibitor** **ADD competitor**, BFA representative, sponsor, host or spectator in or out of the ring. Never conduct yourself in a manner that would bring discredit to the sport of Flyball. As a participant whether it be **REMOVE exhibitor** **ADD competitor**, trainer, judge, host team or BFA representative, you typify the sport of Flyball.
 - Training and exhibiting shall be carried out by such methods that are in keeping with the best interests of the dog and the sport of Flyball.

and B.3 2.11, 2.12, 2.15

B.3. Divisional Judge

- 2.11 The Divisional Judge’s responsibility also extends to the **REMOVE exhibitors** **ADD competitors**, to the host team, or organisation, to the spectators and sponsors. A Divisional Judge must be arbiter and diplomat. A Divisional Judge must leave **REMOVE exhibitors** **ADD competitors** and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage.

Therefore all Provisional, QJ's and HJ's have the responsibility to bring any rule anomalies to the attention of the Committee and may not use a discrepancy for gain

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

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

Reason:

Change of the terminology from "exhibitor" to "competitor"

Proposal 3

Proposed by the BFA Committee

MINOR AMENDMENTS REQUIRED TO ENSURE SINGLES & PAIRS RACING IS CONSISTENT WITH THE RULES

Rules of Racing: A1

A.1 Sanctioned Tournaments

ADD Tournament formats sanctioned by the BFA are open, multibreed, singles and pairs. Singles and pairs racing is an additional sanctioned format where dogs compete on an individual basis or as a pair of dogs rather than in a 4-dog team like traditional BFA open or multibreed racing - where these rules refer to 'teams' this includes a dog entered in singles.

Clarifies that sanctioned racing is not just 4 dogs (can now be singles and pairs).

1.1 A BFA Registered Team wishing to host a Sanctioned Tournament (the Host Team) must submit an application using BFA Form C3 to the BFA Show Secretary, complete with a non-refundable deposit (per Sanctioned Tournament), as detailed on the C3 form, at least ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries. The closing date for entries of ~~DELETE an OPEN or LIMITED~~ **ADD a Sanctioned Tournament** must be at least 28 days before the date of the Tournament.

1.4 A dog may not be entered in more than one open sanctioned tournament on the same weekend. A dog may be entered into ~~DELETE an open sanctioned tournament and a sanctioned multibreed tournament~~ **ADD different sanctioned formats at the same tournament (open/singles/pairs/multibreed)** on the same weekend, but not the same day (see rule A.2.5.2).

1.6 Tournament organisers can book a maximum of 6 ~~DELETE open or limited open~~ **ADD sanctioned** tournaments from 1 April to 30 September. A tournament in addition to the 6 can be applied for and may be accepted under certain circumstances by the Show Secretary with the support of the Committee.

3.1 A Tournament schedule for all ~~DELETE Open or Limited~~ **ADD Sanctioned** Tournaments should be submitted to the BFA Show Secretary for approval, prior to distribution, no later than 7 days prior to the schedule release of the Tournament.

A.2 Rules for Competition

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

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

A.3 Rules of Racing

4. For each heat, jump heights shall be set at the Jump height of the smallest dog (running, not standing by), as recorded on the Team's Time Sheet for competing dogs, with a minimum of 6" and a maximum of 12", this height to include any protective materials. **ADD This rule applies equally to the pairs format but for dog welfare reasons jumps may be set at any height for dogs racing in singles format.**

It is not fair to exclude dogs who normally run with a height dog from singles as sensible owners won't run over higher without training for it. Choice is the fairest and safest way to do it.

10. The Finish - The first team to have all **DELETE four** dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last **DELETE of the four** dog reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat.

B.3 Divisional Judge

2.8 A loss for both teams shall be recorded in the following circumstances. a. A WFC team running against a team presenting with less than **DELETE 4** **ADD a full complement of** dogs (i.e. due to injury or other exceptional circumstances)

Proposal 4

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.1.4.3

Teams should be seeded based on the information available from the BFA website. Seeding times for a tournament will be based on the fastest time recorded by a team during their last 3 sanctioned events and a seed list will be supplied from the latest available data on the 14th day before the tournament date, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when the seed times shall be taken on the 21st day before the tournament date. Any time recorded more than 4 months before this date is null and void. A declared time, to be used as the seeding time, **MUST** be submitted by the Team Captain at least 14 days prior to the Tournament, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when no declared times shall be accepted. If a declared time is not submitted **REMOVE the last available recorded time will be used (even if this is over 4 months old), if there are no previous times recorded**

for a team then a time of 22.00 seconds will be used as a declared time **ADD** then their entry will be void and they will not race. A declared time may be submitted - it must be at least ½ second faster or ½ second slower than the teams seeded time and will be subject to the Team break-out rule. Teams not on the seed list must submit a time and will be subject to the team break-out rule. The BFA Committee may organise other sanctioned events throughout the year that will follow the process for a standard Tournament and not a Championships.

Reason:

In the absence of a valid seed time, teams must declare a time for racing purposes.

Proposal 5

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.1.4.5

4.5 Only BFA Registered Teams and non-UK teams competing under the European Flyball Charter will be officially seeded. **REMOVE Non BFA Registered 'scratch' Teams (i.e. made up from more than 1 BFA team, all handlers etc. being BFA members) may enter a Sanctioned Tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser if there are places available not filled by Registered Teams and be seeded by declared time. Any such non-registered (UK) teams shall run 'Not for Competition'. A BFA registered team, which contains one or more dogs not eligible to run with that team, for any reason, must also run 'Not for Competition' and will only be accepted if places are available. Team captains must declare this prior to the show, preferably on the show entry**

Reason:

This rule is contrary to rule A.2.5.4 which states that all dogs running have to be eligible for that team.

A.2.5.4

At a tournament, each team shall consist of a minimum of four dogs and a maximum of six dogs; a current BFA member responsible for each dog; and a current BFA member as box loader. The dogs must be eligible to run for that team. Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of two alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of injury.

Proposal 6

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.1.5.4

Sanctioned classes are: open, multibreed, singles, pairs. Other unsanctioned classes may include: **REMOVE various 'Fun Classes', starters, intermediates** **ADD Flyball Foundations** etc.

Reason:

Flyball foundations have replaced starters and intermediates as an introduction to flyball racing.

Proposal 7

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.1.7.1 and 1.7.2

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

REMOVE: (note the illustration here does not show the 1" tolerance)

7.2 Backboards

The host team shall provide a solid backboard (Approx. 24" high) 7', to a minimum of 5' where space is limited, from the front edge of the flyball box, in a horseshoe shape so that the backboard is no further forward than the box line. The total length of the backboard should be 24' and can be in sections for ease of carrying/transporting. Backboards 2' high approx., 24' in total length, may be in sections for ease of movement.

Reason:

The diagrams are not representative of the rule and are not required.

Proposal 8

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.2.8.2

REMOVE If one or more team member is more than 5 minutes late for the scheduled start of a race, all else being in readiness, the Division Judge may declare a forfeit by that team. ADD If one or more team member is late for the start of a race (after warm up time has been completed) the Divisional Judge shall start the first heat. If the opposing team arrives during this, or any subsequent heat, they shall wait outside the ring until the end of the heat. Any remaining heats will be raced as usual. Each heat a team does not race shall be declared a loss.

Reason:

5 minutes is a long time for a team that is ready to race to have to wait for another team to present to the ring for racing. If a team is ready they should be entitled to race.

Proposal 9

Proposed by the BFA Committee

B.4. Ring Party

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

1.1 Line judge (and scribe) Duties and Responsibilities

- e. When hand timing is used or any part of the electronic equipment fails, **REMOVE or non BFA approved lights are used**, this must also be recorded on the Time Sheet(s) heat by heat as such times will be disregarded when calculating fastest times and therefore seeding times.
- f. Indicate with a signal for a false start.
- g. Indicate with a signal:
 - When a dog is to run again (early pass, missing a jump, crossing the start/finish line without the ball)
 - If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball)
 - Other rule violations for which a dog must run again
- h. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run their dog
- i. Advise the Divisional Judge if a Team **REMOVE that submits a** time runs a 'break-out' time in a heat
- j. **REMOVE The Line Judges decision shall be unanimous with respect to determining winners of close heats. If they are not in agreement, the Divisional Judge shall consult with them and either declare a winner or declare the heat to be a tie.** **ADD** In the event of a close heat, the Divisional Judge shall consult with their ring party. If no clear winner is identified then the race shall be declared a tie.

Reason:

- e. There are no occasions when non-BFA lights are used in sanctioned racing, with the exception of lights going through the approval system, when there is always a back-up approved set available.
- i. Judges should be advised of all heats when break-out times are run.
- j. The line judges should not be the ones to determine the outcome of a heat, the divisional judge shall make the decision by consulting with the ring party

Proposal 10

Proposed by the BFA Committee

C.4.1

C.4. Contesting a height

- 4.1 Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally **REMOVE within 30 minutes of the heat in question** **ADD** before leaving the ring at the end of the race in question.

Reason: The option of 30 minutes after the end of a heat means that a protest could be made at presentation if the concern is noted in the last few races of the day. Any protests should be made as soon as possible to ensure the concern is addressed early and appropriate action is taken as necessary.

Proposal 11

Proposed by the BFA Committee

E.1. Dog points and awards

- 1.1 Each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned flyball tournament **REMOVE: with a recorded time, each dog that contributed to the time will** **ADD: each dog racing with that team can earn points**

towards a flyball title (Appendix 2). Each of the 4 dogs contributing to a clean run (a run without any faults) will be awarded 20 dog points. 5 points will be awarded for each leg which is won. REMOVE: The amount of points awarded will depend on the time gained, as follows:

1. - Under 18 seconds = 30 points
2. - Under 21 seconds = 25 points
3. - Under 24 seconds = 20 points
4. - Under 27 seconds = 15 points
5. - Under 30 seconds = 10 points
6. - 30 seconds and above = 5 points when the heat 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.

1.2 Any team voluntarily Withdrawing from Competition (WFC) during racing and rule A3.12 will apply

1.3 REMOVE If an average time is awarded, the time will be calculated based on the average time of that combination of dogs and points will be awarded accordingly. If it is the only instance in which that combination of dog has run, then a no time (NT) will be awarded and no points will be gained. ADD If a time is not recorded for any reason (e.g. EJS failure, interference etc) then points will be awarded if there were no faults prior to the race being ended.

1.4 REMOVE All team captains, handlers (and registered owners if this is different to handler) and box loaders ADD All personnel on the team sheet (captain, handlers and box loader) must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be registered with the BFA and registered to an owner/handler who is a current BFA member. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points. NOTE: Flyball Foundation and 'fun' events will not be subject to point allocation.

1.5 It is the responsibility of Team Captains and Members to check points allocated to their dogs in good time REMOVE and they will therefore have SIX months from the date of any sanctioned tournament to lodge queries concerning these points with the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator. After this period enquiries will only be considered at the Committee's discretion. In such cases an administration fee of £10.00 must accompany the enquiry. ADD The BFA will only accept queries relating to the issuance of dog points within 30 days of the points being published on the website.

Reason: The BFA Committee conducted a survey of members regarding their thoughts on the current points system. This rule has been proposed by the committee based on the results from the survey

Proposal 12

Proposed by Lynne Laing

E.1. Dog points and awards

E.1. Dog points and awards

1.1 Each time a team races **ADD: and the heat is successfully completed by 4 dogs without fault** 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 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
- 30 seconds and above = 5 points

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.

Reason: This rule change will discourage handlers from re-running dogs just to gain points but will still reward dogs in a team who complete a heat with no faults according to their completed time.

Proposal 13

Proposed by Lynne Laing

B.4.1.1c

B.4. Ring Party

- c. Using the BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2) record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied **ADD and if the heat was completed by 4 dogs without faults**.

Reason: To record if the heat was completed by 4 dogs without faults to enable points to be awarded. Following last year's rule change to award points for 4 dogs completing a heat in a time of 30 seconds or above with no faults and also if my proposed rule change to rule E1 is approved it would be required for any points to be awarded regardless of time.

Proposal 14

Proposed by the BFA Committee

APPENDIX 2 - DOG AWARDS

- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 1000 points.
- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 5000 points.
- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 10000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 20,000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 30,000 points.

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

Reason: Following the market research of members around the current points system, the BFA committee have taken on board the feedback and made amendments to these rules based on results. Dogs will continue to gain points once they are over 50,000 points.

8. Any other business

- i. Consideration of moving AGM to November
- ii. BFA Championships 2021
- iii. 5-year plan update
- iv. Current research
- v. Tournament Planning for 2021
- vi. Is flyball a sport?

9. Election of the BFA Committee

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

Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact)

Katie Burns (Carry On's)

Craig Burrows (FOCUS)

Alicia Marsland (High Flyers)

David Murdoch (Funky Fidos)

Jeannette Shelley (Aces High)

One member has decided to retire: Will Whiteley (Yorkshire Bouncers)

Seeking re-election to the Committee:

Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes) Proposed by Ali Kirk and seconded by Craig Burrows

Rachel Short (Commandos) Proposed by Caz Higginson and seconded by Janet Anderson

The nominations for the remaining places on the Committee are;

Paul Horton (Nuneaton Flyers) Proposed by Jenni Wallace and seconded by Lucy Hughes

Christine Thompstone (Primed) Proposed by Avril Wilson and seconded by John Proctor

The result of the committee nomination election has already been publicised and the 2021 committee, which will come into effect after the AGM, is:

Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact)

Katie Burns (Carry On's)

Craig Burrows (FOCUS)

Paul Horton (Nuneaton Flyers)

Alicia Marsland (High Flyers)

David Murdoch (Funky Fidos)

Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes)

Jeannette Shelley (Aces High)

Rachel Short (Commandos)

10. Chairperson's closing speech