



British Flyball Association
Annual General Meeting
To be held on Saturday 1st April 2023

In person at Lode Heath School, Lode Lane, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2HW and via Zoom Webinar.

Commencing at 10.00am

AGENDA

Only Items and proposals contained or pertaining to the issues on the agenda will be discussed during the AGM. It would be appreciated if all members would carefully consider the implications of all the proposals, bringing a clear understanding of each item and an informed idea of their voting intentions. No major amendments to these proposals can be permitted at the AGM. Please have your own copy of the agenda available.

1. Chairperson's opening speech
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last AGM – 2nd April 2022
4. Concise reports for the year 2022/2023 by:
 - BFA officials Chairperson – Jeannette Shelley
 - Secretary – Nicky James
 - Treasurer – Martyn McInulty
5. Championships update
6. University update

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

Proposal 1

Rules of Racing A.1.1.1

Proposed by Penny Charlton

The BFA aims to provide structure and governance to flyball activities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. 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 a Sanctioned Tournament must be at least 28 days before the date of the Tournament. Tournament application venues must be within (ADD) a 50 mile (REMOVE) (crow flies)' radius from the team captain's home address and in excess of (ADD) a 50 (ADD) mile radius (REMOVE) miles (crow flies) of any other sanctioned tournament on the same dates. Anything outside the 50 miles (ADD) radius of the team captain's home address, will require further consideration by the Show Secretary/Committee and may be allowed where considered in the best interests of the membership.

Reason:

To tidy up the rule and remove the unnecessary reference to crow flies, where radius will suffice.

Proposal 2

Rules of Flyball Racing A.1.2 and A.1.4.9

Proposed by Justin Shearing

(ADD) 2.7 The Tournament Organiser shall be responsible for uploading tournament results to the website, and update the seed list within 48 hours of the last day of the tournament.

Reason:

If TOs had access to the website tournament results could be uploaded on the day as they happen. This would reduce reliance on volunteers for official roles in managing and uploading results and because TOs have to submit results anyway there would be no increase in tasks on the TO. There is no validation by the BFA required, the accuracy of results would very quickly become self-policing.

A.1.4.9

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

Reason:

Again, for me this is just about redistributing responsibility for running our association across the membership, getting members more involved in running their own association and trying to break down the barriers of a them and us between those that volunteer their time to help and regular members. This works really well across Europe, and the national associations just host results on their website - tournament organisers (with helpers from other teams in attendance) literally do everything on the weekend of the event.

Proposal 3

Rules of Flyball Racing A.1.4.2 Proposed by the BFA committee

A.1.4.2

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

Reason:

To allow DE divisions to be run without teams being given a bye to the next round and in effect a possible unfair advantage.

Proposal 4

Rules of Flyball Racing A.1.4.4 Proposed by Kim Sermon

A.1.4.4

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

Reason:

Clarification on how teams should be seeded when speed trials are used

Proposal 5

Rules of Flyball Racing A.1.4.5 Proposed by The BFA Committee

A.1.4.5

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

Reason:

The European Flyball Charter does not exist.

Proposal 6

Rules of flyball Racing A.1.5.2 Proposed by the judges Board

Round Robin Competitions Each team races every other team entered in their division once. Each race shall be of the best 3 out of 5 format (ADD) (i.e. first team to lose three legs loses the race). Round Robin format can be run as block or staggered. (ADD) The Tournament Head Judge reserves the right to reduce the number of heats per race as per rule B.2 2.2** and then each race shall be best 2 out of 3 format.

**If judges board proposal under Judging and Ring Party B.2 is voted through then B.2.2.2 would become B.2.2.3

Reason:

To clarify that a minimum of three heats do not need to be run where prevailing conditions mean that the Tournament Head Judge and Tournament Organiser have agreed to reduce the number of heats per race. If racing is reduced to best of three due to excessive heat, for example, there is no benefit in running all three heats if a team wins the first two heats. Insisting that dogs run the third leg in such situations would be detrimental to the welfare of dogs and handlers and therefore we would like this rule to be amended to make this position clear.

Proposal 7

Rules of Racing A.1.7.3 and A.3.4

Proposed by Penny Charlton

7.3 Jumps The host team shall provide two sets of identical flyball jumps for the duration of the tournament. Teams are asked to co-operate by lending equipment. The jumps shall be solid, white and are to have an inside width of 30", with posts neither more than 36" high nor less than 24" high. The outside of the posts may be painted any colour, but the edges must be white. Logos and/or lettering shall be permitted but limited to 3" x 20". The tops of the jumps are to be flexible / breakable (REMOVE) protected at the front, top and back with foam or soft material (e.g. 15mm x 25mm water pipe insulation). The slats (not baseboard) shall be clearly marked with their size.

A3.4 The Run - 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", (REMOVE) this height to include any protective materials This rule applies equally the pairs format but for dog welfare reasons jumps may be set at any height for dogs racing in singles format.

Reason:

I feel this is now unnecessary to still use the foam on top of the jumps due to the extra width of jumps and the jump height has come down so much compared to when this rule of the use of foam was bought in. It is always coming off and I have seen so many different thicknesses of foam being used. This should make the jump height exact without the use of foam.

(This obviously means that either the base boards will need to be changed to 5" slats or the top slat which is obviously the cheaper option will need to be changed to 1-and-a-half-inch slat.

There have been so many broken base boards since going to the wider jumps, hopefully taking the foam away and increasing the base board to 5" will stop so many being broken

Proposal 8

Rules for competition A.2.4.

Proposed by the BFA Committee

(ADD) 4.1 BFA approved timing equipment only may be used at sanctioned tournaments. They will display three (REMOVE) amber lights and be set at a one second sequence. Any new lights must be approved, after consultation with the committee. EJS may be supplemented by (REMOVE) Automatic Pass Evaluation System (ADD) BFA approved computerised technology, where available (ADD) to aid judges with decision making.

Reason:

More lights are coming to the market, and they may not be the shade amber, the exact shade doesn't need specification as long as the lights are able to be deciphered.

Removing APES and adding BFA approved computerised technology means alternative equipment can be used where available

Proposal 9

Rules for competition A.2.4.

Proposed by Jason Baker

(ADD) 4.2 The start gates are to be set at a minimum of 4ft and a maximum of 5.6ft from the inside edge of the foot base.

Reason:

There are different sets on lights used when racing some of the bases of the gate stick out slightly which could cause injury to a dog's foot. Plus, when racing inside the lanes might be set at a minimum distance.

Proposal 10

Rules for competition A.2.5.7 and Points and awards E.E.3.6

Proposed by Kerena Marchant

In addition to the handlers/holders and the box-loader a team may at their discretion be accompanied by team members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps, collect times, record changeovers and any other relevant jobs to the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team. A racing team may be assisted by up to five additional members and seven members during the warmup. Teams that require more than five assistants (ADD) e.g. to facilitate a Disabled Handler or to supervise a young member under 14 working towards their young members award must (REMOVE) gain approval from (ADD) notify the Head Judge (ADD) and divisional judge prior to racing. Members may be asked to leave the ring by the Divisional or Head Judge if causing a distraction or in any way impeding racing or warm up.

(ADD) E.E.3.6

If a young member needs supervision from an adult to carry out these duties in the ring, the team can request an extra person under rule teams A.2.5.7 but must notify the head judge and divisional judge prior to racing.

Reason:

These changes allow for young handlers and disabled handlers under 14 to be in the ring with supervision/facilitation running their dogs and carrying out team duties e.g. ball collecting whilst

racing without compromising their team who is restricted to 5 additional team members or be hostage to HJ discretion. It also makes the above rules consequential to existing rule B1 Ring Party "...All line and box judges within the ring must be 14 years of age or over, unless directly supervised by an additional adult member ..."

Proposal 11

Rules for competition A.2.6.2 Proposed by the judges Board

A2.6.2 Details on the C2 timesheet cannot be changed once the division, in which that team is racing, has begun. (ADD)The Tournament Head Judge may approve an amendment to the C2 timesheet after racing has begun, in exceptional circumstances.

Rationale

This is to bring the rule book up to speed with what is happening in practice, for example where an error is made on a C2 (e.g. no jump height completed) and the Head Judge signs off the amendment/rectification being made.

Proposal 12

Rules for Competition A.2.7.1.iii Proposed by the BFA Committee

7. 1 iii

If the box has a fixed ball plate the gap between it and the pedal must be (REMOVE) either covered (REMOVE) or small enough to not allow a dog to trap a toe.

Reason:

Dog safety

Proposal 13

Rules for competition A.2.7.2 Proposed by Lynne Laing

A.2.7.2

Each team shall have its own supply of un-punctured, tennis balls (ADD) without any squeakers or other noise making devices (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.

Proposal 14

Rules of Racing A.3.5.2 and Judging and ring party B.4 Proposed by the Judges Board

A3.5.2 Broken Boards - The heat may be stopped for broken boards or knocked down jumps if, in the opinion of the (REMOVE) Division judge (ADD) judges in the ring, 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

B.4. ** Ring Party

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

1.1 Line judge (and scribe) Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Line Judges (who may have scribes to assist them with their duties) shall:
- b. Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
- c. Using the BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2) record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost, or tied and if the heat was completed by 4 dogs without faults.
- d. When appropriate, instead of a time, one of the following may be entered:
 - No time = NT; In the case of interference for the offending team = NT Int, for the nonoffending team = Ave Int.; Where Ave is recorded (for whatever reason) the number of dogs that ran to complete should be shown (e.g. 4 dogs or 5 dogs etc.)
 - If a team breaks out, BO should be entered alongside the time. A loss for both teams may be recorded.
- e. Should the EJS fail during racing and alternative means of timing the race are endorsed by the Head Judge, this is to be clearly marked on the C2, heat by heat, as these times will be disregarded for the purposed of fastest times and seeding times.
- f. Indicate with a signal for a false start.
- g. Indicate with a signal:
 - When a dog is to run again (early pass, missing a jump, crossing the start/finish line without the ball)
 - If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball)
 - Other rule violations for which a dog must run again
- h. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run their dog
- i. Advise the Divisional Judge if a Team runs a 'break-out' time in a heat
- j. In the event of a close heat, the Divisional Judge shall consult with their ring party. If no clear winner is identified, then that race shall be declared a tie
- (ADD) k. Indicate to the Divisional Judge that the race should be stopped for safety reasons by standing up, raising both arms above the head, crossed at the wrists.

** Should proposal from Chris Bell be voted through the B.4 will become B.5

Reason:

The reason we would like to bring this in is that we have noticed since the wider jumps have come in the top slats are coming out or bowing out which could cause injury to dogs jumping over the jumps. And we would like ring party to inform the judge by standing up, raising both arms above the head, crossed at the wrists so the judge knows to stop the racing for safety reasons.

Proposal 15

Rules of Racing A.3.8.2 Proposed by Sarah Reed

Distractions - Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means including throwing any object for their dogs (e.g. toys, treats or motivators). The first offence of distraction shall receive a warning - a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat at the Divisional Judge's discretion. Team members are required to pick up any loose balls at the end of each heat. Treats must be kept secure in the ring. Dogs may be treated at the box during warm up from your hand, not dropped. During racing treats shall only be given from your hand not dropped on the floor. If using treats and they are dropped on the floor, (ADD) [Treat dispensing toys or bowl/container can be used as long as the treat does not go directly on the floor](#), including the box area and racing lane, the team shall be given a warning. Further offences from the same team and the team shall forfeit the next heat(s).

Reason:

This clarifies the position regarding food dispensing toys and other containers which might be used as a reward. The current rules only cover the options of a treat from the hand and not the floor. This allows people to use toys where the treat is placed securely inside for the dog to retrieve and the rule of no direct contact with the floor will still apply.

Proposal 16

Rules of Racing A.3.8.2 Proposed by Lynne Laing

A.3.8.2

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

Proposal 17

Rules of Racing A.3.10 Proposed by the judges Board

10 The Finish - The first team to have all dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last dog 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 2 BO's or a team going WFC, all earlier heats for that team will be recorded as losses and wins will be recorded for their opponents, where the opponent has completed the heat. 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 three heats. Teams that run less than four dogs in this scenario will be considered withdrawn from racing. (ADD) Where a team is unable to run four dogs in the last race of the day only, the Tournament Head Judge, in consultation with the affected Team Captain and Tournament Organiser, may agree that the results of earlier heats for that team will remain unchanged.

Reason:

Following feedback from some members received in 2022, this rule was felt to be unfair where a team is unable to run four dogs over the correct height in the last race of the day due to injury, for example, and the team had already effectively won their division in their previous races but are deemed to go WFC through no fault of their own. The Judges Board have therefore decided to put this to a membership vote.

Proposal 18

Rules of Racing A.3.11

Proposed by Louise McNulty

Division Break-out – with the exception of division 1, a team running more than ¼ 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. (ADD) where EJS computer split times are available a team running more than 1/2 a second faster than the time of the top team in the 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' twice in a tournament will be ineligible for any placement in that tournament. If the EJS fails, this rule will not apply.

(ADD) Net Break-Out Rule

This rule is only applicable at tournaments where EJS computer split times are available. The net time is the time recorded by the EJS minus the start time and passes. If the net time recorded by a team is more than 1/4 of a second faster than the divisional breakout (so 1/2 second faster than the top seeded team) the team will lose the heat. It should be recorded on the time sheet as the actual time ran but with NBO clearly marked next to it. If both teams run an NBO then both teams will lose that heat.

Proposal 19

Rules of Racing A.3.12

Proposed by the Judges Board

Once a team has gone WFC, all heats 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, (ADD) other than points only awarded to the winner of a heat. 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 – see rule A.3.10)

Reason:

The stats team have previously raised with the Judges Board that there is a conflict within the current set of rules as they state that all wins turn to losses for teams going WFC, which would mean that the WFC team would have won no previous legs and therefore qualified for no win bonus points. The rules also state, however, that all points will be retained until the point the team goes WFC. This proposed change is to make it clear that all points will be retained, other than any points only attributable to winning a previous heat before going WFC (i.e. win bonus points).

Proposal 20

Judging and ring party B.2.2.2 Proposed by the Judges Board

2.2 (REMOVE) The Tournament Head Judge in consultation with the Tournament Organiser shall reduce, delay or suspend racing due to inclement weather conditions (i.e. excessive heat, cold, rain, etc). (ADD) The Tournament Head Judge should be available to support a Divisional Judge in reaching a decision where their original decision made during racing has been contested by a Team Captain

(ADD) 2.3 The Tournament Head Judge in consultation with the Tournament Organiser shall reduce, delay or suspend racing due to inclement weather conditions (i.e. excessive heat, cold, rain, etc).

B3.2.12 The Divisional Judge should be able to explain any decision they have made during racing to the Team Captain(s); the (ADD) Divisional Judge's decision though is final. Team Captains dissatisfied with the decision of a Division Judge during racing should raise the matter with the Head Judge as soon as practicable. (ADD) The Head Judge's responsibility should be to support the Divisional Judge in reaching a decision.

Reason:

A Head Judge should be available to support a Divisional Judge in making their decision about the outcome of a heat or race and this may lead the Divisional Judge to change their decision on a particular outcome and instead restart the heat in question. The decision should ultimately be down to the Divisional Judge and the Head Judge is there in a capacity to support and offer advice only. A Head Judge should not be making decisions about the outcome of a heat, particularly as they are unlikely to have been present in the ring at the time the contentious decision was made. A Head Judge does not have the power to overrule or overturn a Divisional Judge's decision, they can only advise them that they think it is incorrect.

Proposal 21

Judging and Ring Party B.3 Proposed by Chris Bell

(ADD)

Deputy Head Judge

1.1 Qualifying Process

The only requirement in becoming a Deputy Head Judge, is to be a Qualified Judge, However, a recently Qualified Judge (12 months/10 assignments) may not become a Deputy Head Judge until this probationary period has been completed. A Deputy Head Judge shall be chosen by the Tournament Organiser, for the upcoming tournament only. The Deputy Head Judge shall not be from the same primary team as the Head Judge

1.2 Duties and Responsibilities

The Deputy Head Judge shall be in consultation with the Head Judge/Tournament Organiser if required. They shall act as an impartial adjudicator if/when the Head Judge is unable to do so (due to either themselves, or their team, being involved in a decision being made).

Subsequent changes under this section would be

(REMOVE) B.3. Divisional judge (ADD) B.4. Divisional Judge

(REMOVE) B.4. Ring Party (ADD) B.5. Ring Party

(REMOVE) B.5. measuring official (ADD) B.6. Measuring official

Reason:

I have seen several instances over the last couple of years whereby Head Judges have been put in a position of making a decision that may have affected the outcome of placings or results for their own team. In order to maintain the association's mission of equitability and fairness for all, it seems sensible to have a second official from a different primary team to the Head Judge. The Judges Board have also said they support this idea.

Proposal 22

Judging and Ring Part B.3.1.1 And B.5.1.1 Proposed by the 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 (REMOVE) a minimum of 36 months (ADD) the 36 months preceding their application. The Judges Board reserves the right to waive this time limit in exceptional circumstances, such as for growth areas (eg: Scotland, Wales, IOM)
- c. Pass a Novice Judge exam on the BFA Rules of Flyball Racing. Evidence of completion of the above criteria is to be recorded on the approved BFA Form.
- d. Have completed a minimum of 5 assignments as Line Judge, Box Judge and Scribe for a minimum of 12 races, or a whole division where the division consists of less than 12 races. Only one

assignment of Box Judge, Line Judge and Scribe can be signed off by a judge from your own team. At least 2 of each assignment shall be directly supervised by a Head Judge or Judges' Board Member. If a candidate is considered "Not Ready" for "Provisional Judge" status, further ring party assignments can be requested.

e. Completed at least 10 Division Judge Assignments as a Provisional Judge and have a report completed by a supervising judge or Head Judge (at least 3 by a Head Judge), with a minimum of 5 different judges providing reports. If a candidate is considered "Not Ready" for "Qualified Judge" status, further provisional judging assignments can be requested.

B.5.** Measuring Official

1. Qualifying process

1.1 Measuring Officials are qualified to measure dogs in accordance with the BFA Rules. To become a Measuring Official, individuals must be at least 18 years old; have been a BFA member for **(REMOVE) at least 3 years; (ADD) the 36 months preceding their application. The Judges Board reserves the right to waive this time limit in exceptional circumstances, such as for growth areas (eg: Scotland, Wales, IOM);** have competently carried out dog measuring including the setting up of the measuring equipment, in the presence of two Head Judges, or Measuring Officials, on 5 separate occasions where they must measure at least 20 dogs in total, including at least 4 different breeds. Once the application form is completed this must be sent to the BFA Judges Board to be approved. Once approved, an exam is to be arranged and passed before the logbook will be issued.

** Should proposal from Chris Bell be voted through the B.3 will become B.4 and B.5 will become B.6

Reason:

There is a great shortage of judges and measuring officials in growth areas. This would allow members who have the necessary skill sets that can be brought to these roles to apply before hitting the membership period criteria and the judges board to assess suitability on a case by case basis.

Proposal 23

Measuring Section C

Proposed by the Judges Board

(REMOVE)

Sections C.1.1.1 to C.5.5.2 inclusive

(ADD)

MEASURING PROCESS

Section C

C.1. Dog master Height List requirements

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

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

- 1.3 A dog must have three measures recorded at the same height, by either Method 1 or Method 2 one of which must be its final measure, before an Official height on the Dog Height Master Sheet can be recorded and a height card will be issued. One of these measures may be video recorded and then submitted to the Judges' Board, for future reference.
- 1.4 The dog's height must be agreed by two Head Judges / Measuring Officials on each occasion and by at least four different Head Judges/Measuring Officials by its required final measurement. Measures done by a member of the dog's team shall not count towards an entry on the Master Height Sheet, but shall be valid for the day's racing only.
- 1.5 Height measurements are to be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by both officials who have measured the dog(s)
- 1.6 A copy of the completed C9 shall be made available for viewing by the tournament participants.
- 1.7 All height dogs must be measured at each sanctioned tournament attended until such time as they hold an official height on the Dog Height Master Sheet and within the dogs first 10 sanctioned tournaments. Failure to do so shall result in loss of times and points for the dog and team on the day.
- 1.8 Official heights cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. The BFA committee, on receipt of a complaint from a member, or concerns from Head Judge/Measuring Official/Height Co-ordinator regarding measuring, reserve the right to challenge a dog's height and request further information and a re-measure, if deemed appropriate. Only one challenge per dog.
- 1.9 The Height Card Administrator will produce an up-to-date list of all official heights for each Tournament that must be made available online.

C.2. Measuring set up/environment

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

Method 1

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

2.6 Jump height recorded on the C.9 is the height of the dog from the ground to between its withers less 6 inches

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

Method 2

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

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

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

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

2.9 Dogs should be standing during the process of the ulna measure

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

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

C.3. Appeals

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

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

- 3.3 If the Committee agree to a remeasure, arrangements will be made for two Head Judges/Measuring Officials, selected by the Committee, who have not previously measured the dog and do not belong to the applicant's own Team, to measure the dog to confirm the height, the remeasure will be videoed.
- 3.4 The result will be the dog's height; there will be no further appeal.
- 3.5 During the appeal process the dog will continue to run at the height issued on the Dog Height Master Sheet unless the dog is measured at each tournament it races at whilst awaiting a decision from the committee/remeasure

C.4. Contesting a height

- 4.1 Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally before leaving the ring at the end of the race in question.
- 4.2 The Division or Tournament Head Judge may at any time request that a dog be measured.
- 4.3 Handlers can refer to the Dog Height Master Sheet or refer to the C9 form if measured at the tournament.
- 4.4 If the height cannot be proven by the above means the dog will be measured before being allowed to compete further, this will be arranged by the Tournament Head Judge (unless they are directly involved with the dog)
- 4.5 Handlers whose dogs are not showing on the dog height master sheet may have their dog's jump height contested

C.5. Racing at incorrect height

- 5.1 If the Division or Tournament Head Judge determines that the team is jumping below the proper height, the team will forfeit any races won at the incorrect jump height.
- 5.2 Times recorded will not stand or count towards a seed time nor will any points be gained for heats run at the incorrect height.

Proposal 24

Points and Awards E.1.1.1 Proposed by the BFA Committee

E.1.1.1

Each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned flyball tournament each dog racing with that team can earn points towards a flyball title (Appendix 2). Each of the 4 dogs contributing to a clean run (a run without any faults) will be awarded 20 dog points. 5 points will be awarded for each leg which is won (ADD) in accordance at the time of racing, as a result of rules A.3 11 and 12. An additional 5 points will not be awarded for legs won by the opposing team breaking out or opting to go WFC

Reason:

Flyball is a race and wins by default aren't won on merit, points should be a reflection of dog's achievement

Proposal 25

Section E Dog Points and Awards E.1.4, E.1.5 and E.2 Proposed by Justin Shearing

E1.4

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. (REMOVE) Failure to comply will result in loss of all points. NOTE: Flyball Foundation and 'fun' events will not be subject to points allocation.

E.1.5

(REMOVE) It is the responsibility of Team Captains and Members to check points allocated to their Dogs in good time. The BFA will only accept queries relating to the issuance of dog points within 30 days of the points being published on the website. (ADD) Teams are responsible for uploading their own dog points on the website.

Reason:

Inputting dog points requires a lot of time expended by volunteers. Other dog sports rely on individual competitors inputting their own points and awards to the website, working on trust and integrity and reducing the administration effort and costs to the organisation. Routine validation checks on every point are not required as members would only be cheating themselves if they put on fake points and it would very quickly become self-policing as members would very quickly be called out by other members if they were claiming falsely. The BFA Stats could conduct audits or spot checks if members thought this was going to be a problem (team captains would take a photo of the C2 at the end of racing to retain for evidence). This would take away a huge source of routine stress and friction from the association as dog points are for many members very contentious and the withdrawal of legitimately earned points for administrative mistakes is hugely emotive and a little unnecessary for what is a hobby sport. It also just reduces the amount of things the committee are responsible for which is at times virtually unmanageable; the BFA is a membership led association and giving the membership more authority and freedoms back is a positive step.

(REMOVE)

E.2 Loss of points

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reason:

Linked to the proposal for team's to put their own points on. The withdrawal of legitimately earned dog points for administrative mistakes is hugely emotive and somewhat unnecessary for a hobby sport. This rule was introduced due to the amount of mistakes that were being made on team sheets which had to be corrected or checked by the volunteers inputting points onto the website – but if teams could input their own points on to the website then the rationale for this rule disappears completely.

Proposal 26

Points and awards E.2

Proposed by the BFA committee

E.2 Loss of points

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

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

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

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

- If the handler and/or registered owner is not a current BFA member points, placing and seed time **(REMOVE) will (ADD) may** be lost for that team.
- If all handler numbers are missing, incorrect, or do not match, then points, placing and seed time **(REMOVE) will (ADD) may** be lost for that team

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

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

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

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

Proposal 27

Points and Awards E.2.2.4

Proposed by Kim Sermon

E.2.2.4

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

- If the handler (REMOVE) and/or registered owner is not a current BFA member points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team.
- If all handler numbers are missing, incorrect, or do not match, then points, placing and seed time will be lost for that team

Reason:

I have given this a lot of thought with recent passings of Flyball Members. The rules state that the dog must be registered to a current BFA member. I feel very strongly that as long as they are handled by a registered member as per the BFA rules, that the owner should be able to remain without being a BFA member. In the current rules, you have to change the dogs from members who have passed away, deleting them as registered owners. This feels sad and very wrong in my eyes. They are still the owner of said dog, and it feels wrong to remove them. The handler (registered) takes responsible for them at the event and really feel that this is sufficient.

Proposal 28

Disciplinary process section F

proposed by Justin Shearing

(REMOVE)

F.1. Objective

1.1 The objective shall be for all members of the Association to be aware of the Association's Rules and Policies and to observe its Code of Ethics.

1.2 It is the Team Captain's responsibility to ensure that all team members are aware of and adhere at all times to the BFA Code of Ethics, in order not to bring the sport of Flyball into disrepute.

1.3 It is the Committee's responsibility to ensure that the Disciplinary process is conducted fairly, impartially, within the given timescale(s) (whenever possible) and in the strictest confidence.

F.2. Misconduct

Misconduct shall include, but not be limited to behaviour in opposition to the BFA Code of Ethics, abusive or foul language, demonstration of dissatisfaction with a judge's decision, demonstration of poor sportsmanship, wilful violation of the BFA rules, wilful intent to gain unfair advantage, or any behaviour that would leave a spectator, competitor, host or sponsor with an unfavourable opinion of Flyball.

F.3. Gross Misconduct Gross Misconduct shall include, but are not limited to inhumane treatment of a dog, theft, fraud, disorderly and indecent conduct, physical assault or threatening physical violence on any person, drunk and disorderly conduct, the use of illegal drugs, deliberate damage to BFA property or that of any other BFA member or any other person. All the above will apply at BFA Sanctioned Shows, including outside racing times, and at any other time when gross misconduct is deemed to have been committed by a BFA member.

F.4. Misconduct/Gross Misconduct Charge 4.1 Any current BFA member may report another member or group of members for misconduct/gross misconduct. Misconduct/Gross Misconduct charges should be forwarded to the BFA Secretary in writing in the first instance, within 14 days of the alleged incident. The BFA Secretary will pass the matter to the committee. 4.2 Every effort will be made to resolve the complaint within 3 months from the date the complaint was first accepted; however, in exceptional circumstances this may not be possible. 4.3 The Committee reserve the right to reject a complaint by a member(s) if it is believed to be broadly or substantively the same as a previous complaint or they believe the complaint to be vexatious or malicious. 4.4 Complainants should be aware that during any investigation, whilst evidence gathering is taking place, facts may arise that could affect the final outcome of the investigation.

4.5 Complaints of a similar nature will only be considered on production of good, reasonable new or additional evidence.

4.6 The BFA Committee may prefer charges against any member or group of members within 6 months of any alleged incident of misconduct/gross misconduct. In this instance, any administration fee will be waived.

4.7 In a case of Gross Misconduct the BFA Committee reserves the right to immediately suspend the membership of person(s) suspected of being responsible for a complaint deemed to be of this nature, pending further enquiries by an appointed impartial investigating officer wherever possible.

4.8 All complaints should be dealt with in confidence unless agreed with the individual raising the complaint. Information supplied by other parties involved in the complaints procedure will also be dealt with sensitively and only disclosed on a need to know basis. Any unjustified disclosure regarding a complaint may be subject to investigation.

4.9 The investigating Officer shall inform all parties at the outset of the procedure and that the need may arise to disclose information to certain people, such information shall only be disclosed by the Investigating Officer, in strictest confidence.

4.10 The appointed Investigating Officer will look to settle a dispute by means of Mediation or Arbitration or Discipline procedures.

4.11 An administration fee of £50.00 should accompany each misconduct/gross misconduct charge. This fee will be forfeited if the misconduct/gross misconduct charge is not upheld or the fee returned if the charge could not be proceeded with due to the criteria not being fulfilled.

F.5. Disciplinary Procedure

5.1 Once the BFA Committee has received a complaint of misconduct/gross misconduct they shall carry out a preliminary investigation by appointing an impartial investigating officer wherever possible, who should make initial enquiries and report back to the BFA Committee within 5 days. The Committee reserves the right to establish and clarify the nature of the complaint being lodged before appointing an Investigating Officer.

5.2 The Investigating Officer will gather evidence and initial statements in writing from the complainants, defendant members and all witnesses to the alleged incident. The defendant member(s) will be given the opportunity to make oral representation(s) if they so wish and a written statement produced.

5.3 The Investigating Officers initial report should contain a recommendation for the Committee to consider whether more time is required to investigate further or to pursue mediation or whether the complaint should be dismissed.

5.4 The investigating officer within 6 weeks of their appointment having gathered all relevant information and mediation outcome if appropriate, will then report back to the BFA Committee.

5.5 The Committee will consider if a DSC is required or whether further mediation or arbitration can settle the dispute or if the matter has satisfactorily been resolved.

5.6 Once set up the DSC will then consider the misconduct/gross misconduct charge(s) and consider various sanction options available and where appropriate the DSC shall be empowered to suspend from membership any member or member(s) found guilty of misconduct/gross misconduct for an appropriate length of time. In considering the length of suspension, the DSC shall have regard to the member's record and in particular any previous findings of misconduct/gross misconduct. The terms of the suspension shall be determined by the DSC, judged on the merits of each individual case.

5.7 The complainant(s) and defendant member(s) shall be informed within 14 days of the DSC arriving at a decision.

5.8 Whilst the investigation should remain confidential, the complainant should be kept informed of the process in order to demonstrate that the rules are being followed

5.9 A report will be sent to the BFA Secretary detailing the DSC findings and recommendations.

F.6. Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC) In the event of a charge of misconduct/gross misconduct the committee will appoint a Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC) to deliberate on the evidence relating to the matter. The DSC shall comprise of at least three current BFA members, who may or may not be committee members, excluding the Chairperson and the Secretary.

F.7. Appeal

7.1 The defendant member(s) may appeal against the DSC's decision. The appeal should be in writing and sent to the BFA Secretary within 21 days of the date of the notification of the DSC's decision. Either the complainant or the defendant member(s) may appeal.

7.2 The complainant member(s) may appeal against the Investigating Officer's outcome when a complaint has not been upheld. The appeal should be in writing and sent to the BFA Secretary within 21 days of the date of the notification of the outcome.

7.3 The BFA Committee will consider the appeal.

F.8. Appeal Hearing

8.1 The committee shall review the DSC's investigations, reports and deliberations together with the appeal submission. After deliberation and by majority vote the Committee shall determine from the evidence available whether to ratify or over-rule the DSC's decision, or amend the length/increase the length of suspension.

8.2 The committee shall review the Investigating Officer's investigations, reports and deliberations together with the appeal submission. After deliberation and by majority vote the Committee shall determine from the evidence available whether to ratify or overrule the outcome 8

8.3 The BFA Secretary shall immediately notify the appellant(s) of the Committee's decision.

8.4 The BFA Committee will prepare a report of the proceedings for record purposes.

8.5 The findings will be posted in official BFA publications.

8.6 A complaint or DSC findings will only be reviewed once and there will be no further appeal or review after this.

(ADD) Complaints Process

F.1. Any member may raise an issue or concern regarding BFA matters to the Committee if their own efforts to resolve the matter informally have been unsuccessful. Any complaint to the Committee will need to be submitted in writing within 30 days of the matter being complained of occurring. Complaints regarding possible misconduct or gross misconduct are dealt with separately under Section G: Disciplinary Process.

F.2. In dealing with complaints submitted by BFA members about matters relating to the BFA, the Committee and BFA members will endeavour to abide by the following principles of fairness and transparency:

Issues will be dealt with promptly without unreasonable delay.

The Committee will act consistently in any handling of complaints.

An attempt should be made to resolve any complaint informally at the lowest level wherever practicable.

The Committee (or member(s) appointed by the Committee) shall carry out any necessary investigations to establish the facts of the complaint.

Members will engage with all reasonable requests to provide accurate and timely information in relation to any complaints.

The Committee (or member(s) appointed by the Committee) shall inform all members involved about the nature of any complaint and provide them an opportunity to provide any relevant information before any decisions are made.

Should an investigation lead to a charge of, or uncover an allegation of, misconduct or gross misconduct, then Section G of the BFA Rules, Disciplinary Process should be applied (Note: an administration fee for misconduct/gross misconduct investigations applies see G4.11).

Any complaint outcome shall be considered by no less than 3 members of the Committee.

Members may appeal any outcome of their complaint, by providing their reasons for such an appeal, in writing within 14 days of being notified of the outcome.

Any appeal will be dealt with impartially, and where practicable, by no less than 3 Committee members not involved in the original outcome.

F.3. Any complaint that may result in a member's suspension or expulsion from the association MUST be dealt with in accordance with the procedures detailed in Section G: Disciplinary Process

F.4. When any confusion arises about the handling of any complaint or discipline procedure, not covered by these rules, then the ACAS Code of Practice on disciplinary and grievance procedures should be used as guidance, as the UK arbiter of best practice in these matters.

Disciplinary Process (becomes section G not F)

(ADD)

G.1. Objective

1.1 The objective shall be for all members of the Association to be aware of the Association's Rules and Policies and to observe its Code of Ethics.

1.2 It is the Team Captain's responsibility to ensure that all team members are aware of and adhere at all times to the BFA Code of Ethics, in order not to bring the sport of Flyball into disrepute.

1.3 It is the Committee's responsibility to ensure that the Disciplinary process is conducted fairly, impartially, within the given timescale(s) (whenever possible) and in the strictest confidence.

G.2. Misconduct

Misconduct shall include, but not be limited to behaviour in opposition to the BFA Code of Ethics, abusive or foul language, demonstration of dissatisfaction with a judge's decision, demonstration of poor sportsmanship, wilful violation of the BFA rules, wilful intent to gain unfair advantage, or any behaviour that would leave a spectator, competitor, host or sponsor with an unfavourable opinion of Flyball.

G.3. Gross Misconduct Gross Misconduct shall include, but are not limited to inhumane treatment of a dog, theft, fraud, disorderly and indecent conduct, physical assault or threatening physical violence on any person, drunk and disorderly conduct, the use of illegal drugs, deliberate damage to BFA property or that of any other BFA member or any other person. All the above will apply at BFA Sanctioned Shows, including outside racing times, and at any other time when gross misconduct is deemed to have been committed by a BFA member.

G.4. Misconduct/Gross Misconduct Charge

4.1 Any current BFA member may report another member or group of members for misconduct/gross misconduct. Misconduct/Gross Misconduct charges should be forwarded to the BFA Secretary in writing in the first instance, within 14 days of the alleged incident. The BFA Secretary will pass the matter to the committee.

4.2 Every effort will be made to resolve the complaint within 3 months from the date the complaint was first accepted; however, in exceptional circumstances this may not be possible.

4.3 The Committee reserve the right to reject a complaint by a member(s) if it is believed to be broadly or substantively the same as a previous complaint or they believe the complaint to be vexatious or malicious.

4.4 Complainants should be aware that during any investigation, whilst evidence gathering is taking place, facts may arise that could affect the final outcome of the investigation.

4.5 Complaints of a similar nature will only be considered on production of good, reasonable new or additional evidence.

4.6 The BFA Committee may prefer charges against any member or group of members within 6 months of any alleged incident of misconduct/gross misconduct. In this instance, any administration fee will be waived.

4.7 In a case of Gross Misconduct the BFA Committee reserves the right to immediately suspend the membership of person(s) suspected of being responsible for a complaint deemed to be of this nature, pending further enquiries by an appointed impartial investigating officer wherever possible.

4.8 All complaints should be dealt with in confidence unless agreed with the individual raising the complaint. Information supplied by other parties involved in the complaints procedure will also be dealt with sensitively and only disclosed on a need to know basis. Any unjustified disclosure regarding a complaint may be subject to investigation.

4.9 The investigating Officer shall inform all parties at the outset of the procedure and that the need may arise to disclose information to certain people, such information shall only be disclosed by the Investigating Officer, in strictest confidence.

4.10 The appointed Investigating Officer will look to settle a dispute by means of Mediation or Arbitration or Discipline procedures.

4.11 An administration fee of £50.00 should accompany each misconduct/gross misconduct charge. This fee will be forfeited if the misconduct/gross misconduct charge is not upheld or the fee returned if the charge could not be proceeded with due to the criteria not being fulfilled.

G.5. Disciplinary Procedure

5.1 Once the BFA Committee has received a complaint of misconduct/gross misconduct they shall carry out a preliminary investigation by appointing an impartial investigating officer wherever possible, who should make initial enquiries and report back to the BFA Committee within 5 days. The Committee reserves the right to establish and clarify the nature of the complaint being lodged before appointing an Investigating Officer.

5.2 The Investigating Officer will gather evidence and initial statements in writing from the complainants, defendant members and all witnesses to the alleged incident. The defendant member(s) will be given the opportunity to make oral representation(s) if they so wish and a written statement produced.

5.3 The Investigating Officers initial report should contain a recommendation for the Committee to consider whether more time is required to investigate further or to pursue mediation or whether the complaint should be dismissed.

5.4 The investigating officer within 6 weeks of their appointment having gathered all relevant information and mediation outcome if appropriate, will then report back to the BFA Committee.

5.5 The Committee will consider if a DSC is required or whether further mediation or arbitration can settle the dispute or if the matter has satisfactorily been resolved.

5.6 Once set up the DSC will then consider the misconduct/gross misconduct charge(s) and consider various sanction options available and where appropriate the DSC shall be empowered to suspend from membership any member or member(s) found guilty of misconduct/gross misconduct for an appropriate length of time. In considering the length of suspension, the DSC shall have regard to the member's record and in particular any previous findings of misconduct/gross misconduct. The terms of the suspension shall be determined by the DSC, judged on the merits of each individual case.

5.7 The complainant(s) and defendant member(s) shall be informed within 14 days of the DSC arriving at a decision.

5.8 Whilst the investigation should remain confidential, the complainant should be kept informed of the process in order to demonstrate that the rules are being followed

5.9 A report will be sent to the BFA Secretary detailing the DSC findings and recommendations.

G.6. Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC) In the event of a charge of misconduct/gross misconduct the committee will appoint a Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC) to deliberate on the evidence relating to the matter. The DSC shall comprise of at least three current BFA members, who may or may not be committee members, excluding the Chairperson and the Secretary.

G.7. Appeal

7.1 The defendant member(s) may appeal against the DSC's decision. The appeal should be in writing and sent to the BFA Secretary within 21 days of the date of the notification of the DSC's decision. Either the complainant or the defendant member(s) may appeal.

7.2 The complainant member(s) may appeal against the Investigating Officer's outcome when a complaint has not been upheld. The appeal should be in writing and sent to the BFA Secretary within 21 days of the date of the notification of the outcome.

7.3 The BFA Committee will consider the appeal.

F.8. Appeal Hearing

8.1 The committee shall review the DSC's investigations, reports and deliberations together with the appeal submission. After deliberation and by majority vote the Committee shall determine from the evidence available whether to ratify or over-rule the DSC's decision, or amend the length/increase the length of suspension.

8.2 The committee shall review the Investigating Officer's investigations, reports and deliberations together with the appeal submission. After deliberation and by majority vote the Committee shall determine from the evidence available whether to ratify or overrule the outcome

8.3 The BFA Secretary shall immediately notify the appellant(s) of the Committee's decision.

8.4 The BFA Committee will prepare a report of the proceedings for record purposes.

8.5 The findings will be posted in official BFA publications.

8.6 A complaint or DSC findings will only be reviewed once and there will be no further appeal or review after this.

Reason:

The BFA currently has no complaints process and this is a significant omission from the rules; especially given the recent EGM was ostensibly about the process for the handling of complaints. There is a disciplinary process for dealing with complaints alleging misconduct and gross misconduct but there is no process for dealing with complaints that do not involve or allege misconduct. This forces the Committee into dealing with any issues raised as disciplinary matters which is unnecessarily confrontational and drives conflict as opposed to conciliation and resolution. The recent EGM highlighted that some members held the view that all complaints and issues brought to the attention of the committee needed to be treated as allegations of misconduct by default and referred to a Disciplinary Sub Committee, which is unnecessarily confrontational, and instantly drives conflict rather than resolution. Most organisations would have a separate complaints and disciplinary process. Members should be able to raise concerns with the committee without alleging misconduct or gross misconduct in order for them to be dealt with and without having to pay a £50 administration fee. The proposed procedure has been written using the ACAS Code of Practice on disciplinary and grievance procedure as a framework. This has been recognised as an issue by several iterations of previous committees; the proposal had been discussed by the committee prior to the calling of the recent EGM. This proposal is not therefore a response to the issues raised at the EGM but rather the EGM was in some ways a response to achieving desired outcomes prior to this matter being discussed and voted on by the membership.

Proposal 29

Disciplinary Process F.4.4.2 Proposed by Justin Shearing

F.4.4.2

Every effort will be made to resolve the complaint within 3 months from the date the complaint was first accepted; however, in exceptional circumstances this may not be possible. (ADD) *Where exceptional circumstances apply these must be specified and disclosed to all parties involved and a new deadline for resolution mutually agreed.*

Reason:

Exceptional isn't a reason in itself. Where the spirit of the rules cannot be complied with for good reason this should be specified and explained to all involved; it shouldn't be used by the Committee as a 'get out of jail free' card. There are currently at least 2 disciplinary processes being conducted by the committee, and at least 1 recently concluded that exceeded 3 months with no attempt at a suitable explanation being provided to the parties involved.

Proposal 30

Disciplinary Process F.4.4.6 Proposed by Justin Shearing

F.4.4.6

The BFA Committee may prefer charges against any member or group of members within 6 months of any alleged incident of misconduct/gross misconduct. In this instance, any Page 38 of 55 administration fee will be waived. (ADD) *To be clear, this means the committee can only prefer a*

charge of misconduct against an individual member or members within 6 months of the alleged offence happening, (and that by prefer a charge, it means informing that individual).

Reason:

The statute of limitations intended by this rule is pretty clear and not really open to interpretation. It is already a very generous length of time to go back historically. However, I have it in writing from the current committee that their interpretation of this rule is that they have up to 6 months to start investigating whether there might have been any potential misconduct, and in effect it doesn't matter when they inform the individual members involved. The individuals that called the EGM were preparing it for at least 4 months and had plenty of time to state their case to the members, there really wasn't any reason why a charge of misconduct could not have been preferred on 5 Dec other than even 4 months in the planning there was insufficient evidence on hand to do so. To 'investigate' for a further 3 months and to still not make any direct allegations but continue to try to find evidence for an open ended period of time is really quite tiresome and actually constitutes harassment. There needs to be a finite period of time for these things to be held over people, and 6 months is what the current rules state, I think that just needs to be made clearer as the committee are interpreting this differently.

Proposal 31

Disciplinary Process F.5.5.1

Proposed by Justin Shearing

F.5.5.1

Once the BFA Committee has received a complaint of misconduct/gross misconduct they shall carry out a preliminary investigation by appointing an impartial investigating officer wherever possible, who should make initial enquiries and report back to the BFA Committee within 5 days. The Committee reserves the right to establish and clarify the nature of the complaint being lodged before appointing an Investigating Officer. (ADD)At a point no later than 5 days after receiving an allegation of misconduct or gross misconduct the Committee shall notify all identified participants and provide regular updates on the progress of the investigation (fortnightly as a minimum).

Reason:

It is a solid principle of justice that individuals accused of something are informed of what those accusations are. It is fair and reasonable that those under investigation are kept informed of progress and any significant developments. There is at least 1 disciplinary process currently underway that has been ongoing for over 6 months without the committee making any contact with those involved about what is happening and how the investigation is progressing. Even though the committee are already out of time to be able to prefer a charge of misconduct in accordance with rule 4.6, the investigation is still ongoing without any reasonable explanation as to why. Bottom line is the committee should not be investigating allegations of misconduct or gross misconduct without informing the individual of the allegation.

Proposal 32

**Disciplinary process section F
proposed by Justin Shearing**

(ADD)F.9 Committee Sanctions.

9.1 Sanctions available to the committee where disciplinary cases have been proven are suspensions of membership of the association for a period up to 3 months for proven Misconduct and periods up to 6 months for proven Gross Misconduct. Should the Committee determine that circumstances may justify longer suspensions or a ban from the association this decision must be approved by the membership (a simple majority vote of not less than 20% of the eligible membership).

Reason:

Requirement to clarify what the authorities of the committee are in relation to disciplinary findings. An analysis of historical committee decisions relating to disciplinary matters conducted in preparation for the EGM that was called highlighted a wide range of responses and several instances of previous committees handing out bans and suspensions without even conducting a disciplinary investigation.

Proposal 33

**Appendix 7 tournament application:
Proposed by Ryan Mills**

Tournament Application: (REMOVE) £24 inc VAT (ADD) £12 inc VAT per day

Reason: To apply for a show you pay £24 inc VAT for weekend or for 2 one day event it costs £48 inc VAT

7. Any other Business

i: Received from Ryan Mills - Matting at the back arena must have equal amounts for both teams. 8 pieces of matting a run in, the racing lane and 2 run outs. Currently at e.g. champs 7 mats gets used and this isn't fair for both sides and makes the area tight

ii: Received from Kam Hussain and Dawn Barker - Young members award scheme being signed off by the divisional judge

iii: received from Hilary Blackhouse and Alicia Marsland – Pool teams see Appendix A attached

8. Election of the BFA Committee

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

Sharon Allcorn (High Flyers)

Three members have decided to retire:

Jeannette Shelley (Aces)

Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact)

Phoebe Brown (Dukes)

The nominations for the remaining places on the Committee are:

Martyn McInulty (Finesse) proposed by Bhav Patel, seconded by Emily Barnard

Magda Whiteley (Yorkshire Bouncers) proposed by Jenny Cousins, seconded by Lyndsay Gladstone

Nicky James (FourPaws Racing) proposed by Helen Ward, seconded by Dawn Cannon

Sam Barraclough (Critical Impact) proposed by Jaco Jansen, seconded by Louise McInulty

Max Hurlstone (The Doghouse) proposed by Dave Anderson, seconded by Lucy Hughes

Roxy Bird (Eclipse) proposed by Chris Gosling, seconded by Nicky James

Due to no vote being required, the results of the Committee nominations have already been published and the 2023 Committee which will come into effects after the AGM is:

Sharon Allcorn (High Flyers)

Martyn McInulty (Finesse)

Magda Whiteley (Yorkshire Bouncers)

Nicky James (FourPaws Racing)

Sam Barraclough (Critical Impact)

Max Hurlstone (The Doghouse)

Roxy Bird (Eclipse)

9. Chairperson's closing speech.

Appendix A – Pool Teams

Received from Alicia Marsland and Hilary Backhouse – **agreed by proposers to move to AOB from rule proposal for discussion with view to work with Rules working party to have full and concise proposal for voting at next AGM allowing for complete review to prevent anomalies in the rules**

Rule 5.3

*Since Covid many teams have lost members due to various reasons and some have had to give up altogether. Small teams that are still struggling through are often unable to compete due to not having enough dogs to make up a team. Several members, during discussion, have said they wish they were able, when struggling, to merge with or bring in a dog/dogs from another club to make up a team without the 6 month rule applying, allowing them to compete and enjoy their flyball while still working on building up their own clubs. This already works fine in Multibreed and Foundation (and also Crufts!), so why not in open racing? It also seems to work well and is very popular in other organisations both here and abroad. **This team would be known as a Pool team.***

A Pool team is a team of up to 6 dogs. At least one of the dogs will be from a different club and must complete in at least one heat. Any BFA registered dog and handler can compete as part of a Pool team.

While some people may have reservations about this we all know our own dogs and care about their welfare. It is the owners/handlers responsibility to ensure adequate training is done prior to a tournament to ensure dog safety and, like in any race, a judges decision would be final should he/she have concerns about any dog in the ring.

5.3 A dog may change teams at any time to compete with another BFA registered primary team.

After this change it may not change teams again for a period of 6 months. (e.g. a dog races with Team A on 1st April 2016 so it is free to race with Team B on 1st October 2016). The owner/handler must inform the membership secretary of any such change. The only exceptions are:

- a. A dog prohibited from competing with an existing Team. Proof must be provided to the committee for consideration.
- b. The handler/dog has moved to another area and their previous Team accepts the transfer.
- c. Their previous Team has dissolved, and the Membership Secretary has been informed.
- d. If a new team is formed and dogs are transferred to this team then these dogs may not be released from this team for a period of 6 months, **(ADD)** with the exception of Pool teams.

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

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

1. Dogs and handlers must be BFA members at the time of racing.
2. As in open racing, dogs must be a minimum of 18 months old
3. All dogs in the team must be entered on the official time sheet before racing begins.
4. **C2: A small tick box can added to show when a pool team is racing, Or POOL TEAM**

added next to team name or a dedicated C2 sheet as per Multibreed and Foundation. **Pool teams would be in open divisions so can't have their own C2. C2 rule would need change - A2 2.4. A2 6.4 (not 2.4)**

5. Pool teams will always run on a time to be declared at least 14 days in advance of the event. No seed times can or will be used for Pool teams and breakout will apply as normal on a declared time. **How do we stop the seed times appearing on the website? The current website can't hold the result without automatically updating the seed time. Pool team registered as sub team?**

A.1.4.11 needs adding to explain that pool teams must run on a declared time.

6. A team will consist of a minimum of four dogs and four handlers and a maximum of six dogs and six handlers

7. At least one dog in the team must be from another club and must compete in at least one leg of the race. **A2.5.10 needs adding to explain this.**

8. Dogs racing in a Pool team will be eligible to gain their BFA points in the usual way.

9. Pool teams will be placed as normal in an event but cannot set BFA records. **A2.5.10.**

A2.10 needs amending to clarify that pool times cannot set records.

10. Pool teams can win heats **and will appear on the results sheet** but will not be ranked in BFA (change from data to) **seed list. BFA data includes the results pages of the website.**

Would teams not appear on the results page?

Addendum: If the working party agrees and the membership accept it, a Pool division could be run at the Champs in a separate division, as is done with Foundation. **Requires change to Rule A1.4.3 which currently states only teams with seed times can enter the champs.**

Questions and Answers

Q. Could a dog run both days over a flyball weekend?

A. No. It will be written in the rules that dogs may not compete on consecutive days. **rule A1.1.4 already covers this.**

Q. If the proposal is accepted, would it mean the multibreed rule would require an amendment too?

A. That would be a decision for the working party to take. **Only if you want to have pool multibreed teams as well. This would require further amendments to your proposal. N/A**

Q. Would Pool teams run on a seed time?

A. No. Seed times for Pool teams would not be entered on the BFA database.

The host teams will keep their own seed times.

Q. What happens if a Pool team breaks a record at a competition?

A. Nothing but congratulations on the day! New records would not be entered on the BFA database.

The main point of a Pool team is to allow small clubs, short of dogs, to carry on enjoying flyball and

for their dogs to be able to achieve their points and awards.

Q. How would a TO know which is a Pool team?

A. A tick box on the racing form to indicate it's a Pool team or POOL TEAM added to team name **(See reply to point 5 below).**

Q. What about the safety and welfare of the dogs?

A. It is the owners/handlers responsibility to ensure adequate training is done prior to a tournament to ensure dog safety and, like in any race, a judges decision would be final

should he/she have concerns about any dog in the ring.

Further concerns for consideration :

- 1. Need to add a rule to cover what pool teams are and how they work. Suggest section A2 creating 5.10. *A Pool team is a team of up to 6 dogs. At least one of the dogs will be from a different club and must complete at least one heat. Any BFA registered dog and handler can compete as part of a Pool team.***
- 2. Appendix 11 regarding kennel cough guidance also needs to be updated if this passes. Pool teams should be added to be treated as high risk alongside Primary Teams. This will need to be made clear in proposal so membership understand.**

High Risk: dogs from the same primary team or who have competed as part of a Pool team - these dogs are not to race or train for 14 days, if no signs/symptoms then they can return to training/racing. Any dogs from other teams spending prolonged periods of time with infected dogs will also fall under high risk.

- 3. Rule 6.4 that sets out c2 information required needs to be considered. It requires captain's information. Team name and number. What do you write for a pool team? Who is responsible? The host team**
- 4. E2 says you lose points if certain information not present on c2 yet under this they get points but if you have no pre registration of pool teams other than 14 days to declare a seed how do you cross check information to ensure complied with E2 and points can be awarded. See reply to point 5**
- 5. A2 5.1 requires team names to be registered. What provision is being made for pool team names? Are you paying your £12 plus vat as per appendix 7 Any club wishing to run a Pool team must register it as a secondary team e.g Peak Pool Team**