

## **British Flyball Association**

**British Flyball Association  
Annual General Meeting**

**To be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018**

**At Lode Heath School, Lode Lane, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2HW.**

**Commencing at 10.00am**

### **AGENDA**

**Note: Only those members who have renewed prior to this agenda being published will be 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 bring your own copy of the Agenda to the meeting.

- 1. Chairperson's opening speech**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of last AGM – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**
- 4. Acceptance of Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing**
- 5. Concise reports for the year 2017/2018 by:**

BFA Officials

Chairperson – Sharon Allcorn

Secretary – Rachel Short

Treasurer – Val Currie

Webmaster – Ali Kirk

## 6. Rule Proposals

All proposals are listed in rule number order

# CONSTITUTION

## Proposal 1

### 8. General Meetings

8.3 An Adult Member may place an item of business on the agenda including any proposed rule change for a forthcoming Annual General Meeting by submitting the same in writing to the Secretary and the Secretary receiving the same not less than 30 days before the Annual General Meeting. Any person who has proposed a rule change should, if they are able, attend the Annual General Meeting in order to comment on any suggested amendment(s) to the proposed rule change. If they are unable to attend and the majority of attendees entitled to vote on the rule change suggest an amendment to the proposed rule change, the proposed rule change will not be put to a vote and will not be implemented. **ADD Any AGM agenda items proposed which the BFA Committee consider to fundamentally change the current BFA flyball rules will be subject to a full impact assessment and may be referred for advice to the BFA Veterinary Advisor prior to implementation**

Explanation: This was unintentionally omitted in the transition of the rules to the new format. The committee feels this section in the rules protects the membership as a whole.

# RULES OF FLYBALL RACING

## A.1. Sanctioned Tournaments

### Proposal 2

#### 1. Application Requirements

1.9 The Host Team must declare on their application **REMOVE the** **ADD their intended maximum** limit for entries (i.e. the maximum number of teams they are willing to accommodate) **REMOVE as no extension will be given. The exception to this will be Tournaments that are held indoors or inside a marquee.** **ADD Tournament Organisers may request an extension to their tournament, regardless of surface, via the Show Secretary. Each request will be assessed individually and factors such as format, surface and proximity of other tournaments will be considered prior to approving an extension**

**Proposed by – The BFA Committee and Penny Charlton**

#### Explanation (BFA Committee)

With the change in racing formats and surfaces over the last few years, it appears fairer to allow all Tournament Organisers to apply for an extension. Each individual application will be judged on its own merit. This will allow BFA members the opportunity to race on the surface and in the format of their choice without having to miss out due to a reserve list.

#### Explanation (Penny Charlton)

At present host teams cannot take any extra teams that wish to enter a show and have had all enquiries for extensions denied by the Committee. Surely if a host team feels they can cope with taking the extra numbers and have the space to put up another ring then I can't see why or who this affects. Surely this is in the best interest to the membership.

When applying for a show you don't have any idea how many teams will wish to enter. If you ask for a 96 team limit you have to accept all teams entered and put up two rings. Sometimes you may only have an extra 6 teams entered after a 56 team limit, this means host teams have to put up an extra ring and endure extra costs for lights etc just for one extra division. By applying to the committee or the show secretary to be able to take all teams entered then this is in the best interest of flyball.

I also cannot see the difference on allowing extensions for indoor shows and not outdoors ones. There are some outdoor venues that are as expensive as indoor ones, example Mapledurham use to cost me £1200 to hire and that was some 4 years ago so will be more now.

### **Proposal 3**

#### **2. Tournament Organiser Responsibilities**

**2.7 ADD Indoor Tournament Organisers must provide weights (minimum of 15kg) to secure the flyball boxes per racing lane, for use by all teams as required.**

#### **Proposed by – Ryan Mills**

##### Explanation

We have attended many shows where weights have not been provided, as a result of this boxes move making it unsafe for the box loaders and the dogs. This proposal means that every indoor tournament organisers have to provide weights for all racing lanes but it allows teams the choice if they use them or not.

## Proposal 4

### 5. Tournament Format

#### 5.3 Double Elimination Competitions

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

#### **Proposed by – The BFA Committee**

##### Explanation

By having a variety of racing formats available, this gives tournament organisers more flexibility in the way they host their tournaments

## Proposal 5

#### 5.6 Duration of Racing

**REMOVE** Round Robin Tournaments - The Organiser shall not expect more than 8 races per hour per ring. The Organiser shall not expect more than 75 races per ring in any one day, (5 divisions of 6) including starters. Sanctioned racing should take precedence over fun events at all times

Double Elimination Tournaments - The Organiser shall not expect more than 8 races per hour (with the winner being determined in the best 3 out of 5 heats) per ring.

**ADD** : The Organiser shall not expect more than 78 races per ring in any one day, including starters/intermediates, regardless of format. Sanctioned racing shall take precedence over fun events at all times.

#### **Proposed by – The BFA Committee**

##### Explanation

Due to the combination of round robin and speed trial/double elimination formats at Championship events, under current rules the double elimination racing needs to switch rings to ensure no more than 75 races are completed in one ring. By increasing to 78 races per day, all double elimination races will be able to be held in one ring for all three top divisions as well as three 6-team round robin divisions. This will make for better atmosphere at Championship events. (3 x 6-team divisions = 45 races, 3

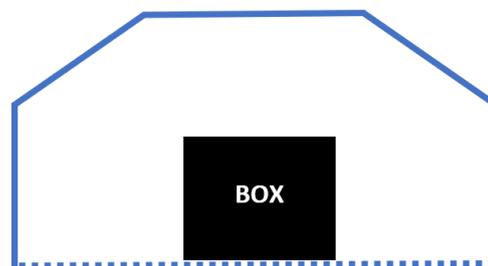
divisions of DE = maximum 33 races) This rules has been condensed as there is no difference in number of races per ring regardless of format.

## Proposal 6

### 7. Set Up

#### 7.2 Backboards

The host team shall provide a solid backboard (Approx. 24" high) 7ft, 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 24ft and can be in sections for ease of carrying/transporting.



Backboards 2ft high approx., 24ft in total length, may be in sections for ease of movement.

**ADD:** The only equipment permitted within the backboard area during racing is the flyball box and any associated weights/fixation devices

#### Proposed by – The BFA Committee

##### Explanation

The area within the backboards are part of the racing lane and “in bounds”. This area should be kept clear to minimise distraction to the dogs and reduce hazards.

## Proposal 7

#### 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 **Remove: of 24" Add: of a minimum of 24" and maximum 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 4" x 20". The tops of the jumps are to be flexible / breakable AND protected at the front, top and back with foam or soft

material (e.g. 15mm x 25mm water pipe insulation). The slats (not baseboard) shall be clearly marked with their size.

**Proposed by – Liz Adamson**

Explanation

As we now allow the use of wider (up to 30" wide) boxes, it would seem sensible to allow for matching wider jumps for those teams who choose to use the bigger boxes. It would seem to defeat the dog welfare purpose, of allowing bigger dogs more space on the box, just to take it away again by making them over rotate off the box to pull themselves into the narrower jumps.

**A.2. Rules for Competition**

**Proposal 8**

**2. Membership**

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

Alcohol **REMOVE and smoking of tobacco products (including electronic/vaping type cigarettes)** is not permitted in the flyball ring during competitions. **ADD Smoking of tobacco products (including electronic/vaping type cigarettes) is not permitted in or within six feet of the flyball ring during competitions.**

**Proposed by – Emma Foxton**

Explanation

Addition of no smoking within a specific perimeter of the ring to protect people competing and spectating who have conditions which would be aggravated by the smoke/vapour.

**Proposal 9**

**5. Teams**

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

The only exceptions are:

- a. **REMOVE Multiple entries of the same Team Registration Number.**
- b. A dog prohibited from competing with an existing Team.

- c. The handler/dog has moved to another area and their previous Team accepts the transfer.
- d. Their previous Team has dissolved, and the Membership Secretary has been informed.
- e. 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: 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.

#### **Proposed by – The BFA Committee**

##### Explanation

To bring clarity to the rule and ensure consistency in the process when dogs move teams. This will ensure that dogs are registered to the new team in a timely manner and the website and subsequent databases are updated accordingly.

#### **Proposal 10**

- 5.5 REMOVE A BFA Registered team must comprise all BFA Registered dogs and all handlers of these dogs must be current members of the BFA.

ADD 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.

MOVED from 6.2 Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of 2 alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of any injury.

REMOVE 6.2 Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of 2 alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of any injury.

#### **Proposed by – Emma Foxton**

##### Explanation

To bring the rules up-to-date with the changes made to the website and improved validation checks when awarding points. To move rules into a more logical section.

#### **Proposal 11**

##### **6. Time sheets**

###### Remove

6.1 At a tournament each team shall consist of a minimum of 4 dogs and a maximum of 6 dogs; a BFA member responsible for each dog and a BFA member as box-loaders. The dogs must be eligible to run with that team. The dogs and responsible members shall be

declared on the C2 Timesheet prior to the start of racing of the Division. When a team reports for racing only those dogs declared shall enter the ring, each accompanied by a BFA member to hand or to hold the dog. In addition to the handlers/holders and the box-loader a team may at their discretion be accompanied by team members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps collect times, record changeovers and any other relevant jobs to the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team. Members of the team who do not have a job may be asked to leave the ring by the Judge. (there is a separate proposal to move this to A.2.5)

Add

6.1 The timesheet (BFA form C2) must be completed and returned to the Tournament Organiser before the start of racing in the division in which the team is seeded.

6.2 Details on the C2 timesheet cannot be changed once the division, in which that team is racing, has begun.

6.3 The team or divisional breakout shall be included on the C2 timesheet, if applicable.

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

- Team's name and number (TRN)
- The captain's name and BFA number
- Each dog's name, BFA number, registered breed and height
- Each handler's name and BFA number (Handlers must be current BFA members and can be from any primary team)
- Box loader's name and BFA number (Box loaders must be current BFA members and can be from any primary team)

6.5 It is the responsibility of the team captain, or a representative of the team captain, to ensure that all information on the C2 timesheet regarding their team is correct."

### **Proposed by – Emma Foxton**

Explanation

To bring the rules up-to-date with the changes made to the website and improved validation checks when awarding points.

### **Proposal 12**

6.1 At a tournament each team shall consist of a minimum of 4 dogs and a maximum of 6 dogs; a BFA member responsible for each dog and a BFA member as box-loaders. The dogs must be eligible to run with that team. The dogs and responsible members shall be declared on the C2 Timesheet prior to the start of racing of the Division. When a team reports for racing only those dogs declared shall enter the ring, each accompanied by a BFA member to hand or to hold the dog. **MOVE to 5.9 In addition to the handlers/holders and the box-loader, a team may at their discretion be accompanied by team members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps collect times, record**

changeovers and any other relevant jobs to the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team. Members of the team who do not have a job may be asked to leave the ring by the Judge.

6.2 Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of 2 alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of any injury. (there is a separate proposal to move this rule to 5.5)

6.3 The Time Sheet (BFA Form C.2) be completed and returned for checking before the division, in which the team is running, starts and shall include the team name and registration number, the team captain's name and BFA number, each dog's name, BFA number, breed, and jump height, together with each handlers name and BFA number. It shall also record the relevant teams 'break-out' time (if applicable). **MOVE to 5.11** Forfeiting teams may be declared NFC or be excluded from the tournament by the Head Judge/Tournament Organiser.

6.4 **MOVE to 5.10** For multiple entries of the same team once any of their teams has started racing in the tournament there will be no switching of dogs from one team to another once the division begins.

Add

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

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

5.11 Forfeiting teams may be declared NFC or be excluded from the tournament by the Head Judge/Tournament Organiser.

### **Proposed by – Emma Foxton**

Explanation

To bring the rules up-to-date with the changes made to the website and improved validation checks when awarding points.

## **Proposal 13**

### **7. Protests**

11.3 The Tournament Organiser should submit all correspondence on the protest to the BFA Secretary within 14 days of the Tournament. The BFA Secretary shall then inform the BFA Committee, who would decide whether or not the nature of the protest should be dealt with as per Rule **Remove Section 3.1(c)** **Add F.1.3** or be

resubmitted in accordance with **Remove Section 3.4 (a) Add F.4.1**, and in this case the time limit would be extended by a further 14 days from the date of notification to the member after the committee's decision

**Proposed by – The BFA Committee**

Explanation

Correction of references following reordering of rules

**A.3. Rules of Racing**

**Proposal 14**

4. **The Run** - Each dog is to **ADD pass through the start/finish gate**, hurdle the four jumps in succession, trigger the box **ADD to release the ball**, and return over all four jumps and **ADD pass through the start/finish gate**, with the ball in its mouth. During the return run a dog may retrieve a dropped ball without penalty, (even if this means jumping more than four jumps on the return run).

**Proposed by – The BFA Committee**

Explanation

To bring clarity to the rule that each dog must pass through the start/finish gate on both its outward and return run. Also, the dog must trigger the box to release the ball, not steal the ball and then trigger on its return.

**Proposal 15**

4. **The Run** - Each dog is to hurdle the four jumps in succession, trigger the box, and return over all four jumps and the start/finish line, with the ball in its mouth. During the return run a dog may retrieve a dropped ball without penalty, (even if this means jumping more than four jumps on the return run). Only when the first dog has reached the start/finish line with any part of its body may the second dog reach that line with any part of its body (generally this is a nose to nose pass at the start/finish line) and so on for all four dogs, as well as dogs that must run again. Early passes will be indicated by the Line Judge and the dog will be required to run again after the other dogs have run. Dogs that are faulted for any reason must be re-run in the order that they were faulted. If a dog reaches the start/finish line before the preceding dog has reached the start/finish line or does not take every jump, or does not trigger the box and take the ball from the cup, or does not return with the ball, the dog must run again. If any part of the handler's body or associated objects crosses the start/finish line during his/her dog's run the dog must run again (with the exception of setting up a knocked down jump or retrieving a loose ball). When electronic changeover lights are used any part of the outgoing dog's body breaking the beam before any part of the returning dog's body will cause an infringement to be called by the Line Judge. 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 **Remove 7" ADD 6"** and a maximum of 12", this height to include any protective materials.

**Proposed by – Lucy Machell-Webb**

Explanation

- 1) At the decrease from 14" to 12" there were a lot of thoughts that this would devalue our height dogs. The argument put forwards was mainly that the effect of 14 inches could affect gait and striding of a large dog. With a large number of our height dogs also potentially seeing this problem over their own height I think we should take into account their striding and gait. That a lower jump height may potentially allow smaller breeds to single stride over double striding in a more comfortable jumping style. (can provide diagram)
- 2) We have allowed for many changes to help large breeds of dogs to play safely, larger boxes etc, but not much emphasis has been put on the welfare of our smaller breeds such as Jack Russels who would be constantly putting in extra effort to jump over 'their height'. Many smaller breeds would be recognised as 6" height dogs if it were available and would be much more comfortable at this height.
- 3) Our height dogs make up a large percentage of our active racing dogs. They are usually the one dog in the team that runs all day over their own height, I feel this is a strong reason to try and protect their welfare and improve their jumping pattern if we can, especially for the short-legged breeds.

If voted in this rule would also affect the following rule

**A.1. Sanctioned Tournaments**

**7. Set Up**

7.3 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 24", 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 **Remove 4" Add 3"** x 20". The tops of the jumps are to be flexible / breakable AND protected at the front, top and back with foam or soft material (e.g. 15mm x 25mm water pipe insulation). The slats (not baseboard) shall be clearly marked with their size.

**If both parts of rule A.3.4 are voted in the rule will look as follows:**

**4. The Run** - Each dog is to pass through the start/finish gate, hurdle the four jumps in succession, trigger the box to release the ball, and return over all four jumps and pass

through the start/finish gate, with the ball in its mouth. During the return run a dog may retrieve a dropped ball without penalty, (even if this means jumping more than four jumps on the return run). Only when the first dog has reached the start/finish line with any part of its body may the second dog reach that line with any part of its body (generally this is a nose to nose pass at the start/finish line) and so on for all four dogs, as well as dogs that must run again. Early passes will be indicated by the Line Judge and the dog will be required to run again after the other dogs have run. Dogs that are faulted for any reason must be re-run in the order that they were faulted. If a dog reaches the start/finish line before the preceding dog has reached the start/finish line or does not take every jump, or does not trigger the box and take the ball from the cup, or does not return with the ball, the dog must run again. If any part of the handler's body or associated objects crosses the start/finish line during his/her dog's run the dog must run again (with the exception of setting up a knocked down jump or retrieving a loose ball). When electronic changeover lights are used any part of the outgoing dog's body breaking the beam before any part of the returning dog's body will cause an infringement to be called by the Line Judge. 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.

## JUDGING AND RING PARTY

### Section B

#### Proposal 16

##### B.3. Divisional Judge

##### 1. Qualifying process

1.1 To become a Qualified Judge, individuals must:

- b. Must be in good standing with the BFA for a minimum of ~~Remove: 18 months~~ Add: 36 months

##### **Proposed by – The BFA Judges Board**

##### Explanation

To gain more experience in flyball and also to ensure that members has the best interest of the BFA and abiding by the rules set out by the BFA before applying to become a judge..

## Proposal 17

- d. Have completed a minimum of 5 assignments as Line Judge, Box Judge and Scribe for a minimum of 12 races. [Add: 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.

### Proposed by – The BFA Judges Board

#### Explanation

We like to see different judges signing logbooks and give different comments and to give you advice when judging

## Proposal 18

### 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 at least 3 years; 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.

[ADD 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 with be issued.](#)

### Proposed by – The BFA Judges Board

#### Explanation

Applicants apply to the judges board to become a measuring official

# MEASURING PROCESS

## Section C

### Proposal 19

#### C.1. Dog master Height List requirements

1.3 A dog must have three measures recorded at the same height, one of which must be its final measure, before an Official height on the Dog Height Master Sheet can be recorded.

ADD The final measure must be video recorded and then submitted to the judges board, for future reference.

#### Proposed by – The BFA Judges Board

##### Explanation

To reduce challenging of the dogs height and to support measuring officials

### Proposal 20

1.3 A dog must have three measures recorded at the same height, one of which must be its final measure, before an Official height on the Dog Height Master Sheet can be recorded.

ADD and a height card will be issued.

#### Proposed by – The BFA Judges Board

##### Explanation

It is easier to ask the handler for a height card than looking though the height master sheet list, when a dog height is queried when racing.

#### **If both parts of rule C.1.3 are voted in the rule will look as follows:**

A dog must have three measurements recorded at the same height, 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.

The final measure must be video recorded and then submitted to the judges board, for future reference.

## Proposal 21

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. **ADD 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.**

### Proposed by – The BFA Committee

#### Explanation

There is a potential conflict of interest when a Measuring Official/Head Judge is measuring a dog which races with their own team. We expect impartiality during the measuring process but to reduce the manipulation of this, the measure will be valid for the tournament the dog is measured at but not towards the entry on the Height Master List. The C9 form will be updated accordingly should this rule be passed

## Proposal 22

1.6 Jump height recorded on the C.9 is the height of the dog from the ground to between its withers **Remove 5" Add 6"**

### Proposed by – Lucy Machell-Webb

#### Explanation

When the minimum jump height was reduced to 12 inches from 14, many height dogs running at 12 and 13 inches were no longer deemed height dogs. Approximately 14 percent of dogs who had previously been 12/13" height dogs, are now having to race equally with their larger counterparts. To level the playing field and help these in between size dogs we would see 12" height dogs return as 11" dogs. Although unfortunately this would not make a difference to previous 13" dogs I feel it would be a good compromise.

This change also means that all existing height dogs currently measuring below 12 inches at the whither, will drop by an inch. I believe this to be fairer since the maximum jump height was reduced to assist larger dogs, with their 'gait effect' being the reasoning, yet no change was made to assist the height dogs who are at the end of the day, the ones jumping their own height. I think it's unfair to benefit all dogs measuring over 11 inches by a significant 2 inch height decrease and to not consider the height dogs. It's my opinion that a one inch decrease for all height dogs is a fair compromise to revalue our height dogs.

Although the BFA is its own organisation, we run our association in line with NAFA who are receiving great feedback to a 6" below the withers proposal in its survey period. By moving to make the change in the BFA, it ensures we remain current with the number

one world leader in international flyball as well as being at the forefront of modernising british flyball.

**If voted in this rule would also affect the following rules**

C.1

1.1 All dogs jumping less than 12" or measuring less than **Remove 17" Add 18"** from the withers must be measured 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.

2.7 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 **Remove 17" Add 18"** to between withers.

**Proposal 23**

1.10 Official heights cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. **ADD The BFA committee, on receipt of a complaint or concerns regarding measuring, reserve the right to challenge a dog's height and request further information and a re-measure, if deemed appropriate.**

**Proposed by – The BFA Committee**

Explanation

If the committee receive complaints/concerns regarding the measuring process they must be able to investigate thoroughly and make recommendations, which may include requesting the re-measure of dogs. This would only come into effect if complaints or concerns are raised.

**Proposal 24**

**C.2. Measuring set up/environment**

2.6 Aggression during measuring will not be tolerated and Rule **Remove 5.19 Add D.5.1** will be observed

**Proposed by – The BFA Committee**

Explanation

Correction of references following reordering of rules

## Proposal 25

### C.3. Appeals

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. ~~Add- the re-measure will be videoed~~

#### Proposed by – The BFA Committee

##### Explanation

As the dogs height will then be determined by one final measure it is crucial to ensure that the measure has been carried out correctly and that both the measurers and the dogs owners are happy with the measure that was undertaken.

## DOG WELFARE AND VETERINARY GUIDANCE

### Section D

#### Proposal 26

##### D.1. General dog welfare

1.1 Owners have a "Duty of care" to the animals they keep ~~REMOVE which is a legal phrase meaning that~~ ~~ADD under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.~~ ~~REMOVE owners have an obligation to do something.~~ ~~ADD This legislation~~ ~~REMOVE This~~ means that a person has to look after ~~REMOVE the animal's welfare~~ ~~ADD their animal's needs~~ as well as ensure that it does not suffer.

~~REMOVE Not only is it against the law to be cruel to an animal, you must also ensure that all the welfare needs of your animals are met.~~

This includes the need:

- a. For a suitable environment (place to live)
- b. For a suitable diet
- c. To exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- d. To be housed with, or apart from, other animals ~~REMOVE (if applicable)~~ ~~ADD (as appropriate)~~
- e. To be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease

#### Proposed by – Victoria Fraser

##### Explanation

Reworded to provide more clarity

## Proposal 27

- 1.2 All members of BFA teams, whether registered or unregistered individuals, are forbidden to use electronic shock collars, electronic dummy collars or pinch/prong collars on the tournament grounds **ADD (including racing rings, around the rings, camping, parking and exercise areas)** at sanctioned tournaments. **REMOVE The tournament grounds include racing rings, spectator, parking and camping areas.** Any team/handler found to be in contravention of any of the above will be disqualified from the competition with the loss of all points and placing in that division and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

### Proposed by – Victoria Fraser

#### Explanation

Reworded to provide more clarity. It is unlikely anyone would use such items but by it being in the rules it highlights the BFA desire to put dog welfare first.

## Proposal 28

### D.2. Lamé dogs/Recovering from surgery

- 2.1 Lamé Dogs must not take part or continue to take part in a **REMOVE competition ADD tournament**. A Tournament Head Judge or Division Judge, in consultation with the Tournament Organiser, may exclude a dog that in their opinion is not in a fit state to race.
- 2.2 Dogs recovering from surgery or requiring bandages **ADD or support braces** to protect an injury may not take part in a **REMOVE competition ADD tournament**. Bandages do not include coats, sweaters or stop pad protectors. Protective **REMOVE covering ADD leg wrapping with cohesive dressing** may **ADD only** be used as a preventative but may not be used to protect an existing injury.

### Proposed by – Victoria Fraser

#### Explanation

Only physically able & fit dogs should be competing at tournaments. Yes protect the stopper pad from being burnt or injured with some bandage or a protective cover but if a dog requires a joint supporting it shouldn't be racing until that injury is fully healed.

## Proposal 29

### D.4. Pregnant bitches and puppies

- 4.1 A Bitch that is or maybe Pregnant (whether the pregnancy has been confirmed or not) is not allowed to compete at sanctioned tournaments, starters competitions or

fun events and for at least **Remove: 8 Add: 10** weeks after giving birth.

#### **Proposed by – Victoria Fraser**

##### Explanation

While pups are sucking the level of the hormone prolactin is raised. This hormone causes muscles & ligaments to soften (which helps for giving birth) but increases the likelihood of musculoskeletal injury if performing physical activity. The hormone returns to normal levels after weaning has finished (roughly 7 weeks after giving birth). A week doesn't give much time for muscles to tone up & ligaments to strengthen before the bitch could be back competing. I think an extra 2 weeks gives time for the muscles & ligaments to return to full strength and for fitness to be regained before competing, therefore minimising injury risk.

#### **Proposal 30**

4.3 Litters of puppies may not be **ADD brought to, viewed at or purchased REMOVE or sold** at a BFA tournament. **ADD No puppy under 6 weeks old are to be brought to a tournament.**

#### **Proposed by – Victoria Fraser**

##### Explanation

While there are justifiable socialisation benefits for older puppies, I feel over all, a litter of puppies needs are better met in a home environment (correct temperature, secure housing, ability to keep bedding clean, somewhere quiet to sleep, minimise disease exposure etc).

#### **Proposal 31**

4.4 BFA members selling puppies are permitted to display photographic advertisements. Puppies that have previously been sold may be collected at a show provided the BFA Committee and TO have been given prior notification. **Remove: Members bringing litters of puppies to tournaments must give prior notification to the TO in order to ensure that the puppies are sited in a suitable environment**

#### **Proposed by – Victoria Fraser**

##### Explanation

While there are justifiable socialisation benefits for older puppies, I feel over all, a litter of puppies needs are better met in a home environment (correct temperature, secure housing, ability to keep bedding clean, somewhere quiet to sleep, minimise disease exposure etc).

## Proposal 32

### D.6. Infectious and contagious diseases

6.1 BFA members must not bring to a tournament any dog which has been diagnosed or exposed to any infectious or contagious disease **Add either by direct contact (dog to dog) or by indirect contact (spending time in the same environment as an infected animal, sharing water bowls etc).** Symptoms could include but are not exclusive to, coughing, sneezing, ocular or nasal discharge, vomiting, diarrhoea, pruritis (itching) and alopecia (hair loss). If you are in any doubt seek your **Veterinary Surgeons** advice.

**This includes dogs who have received their Kennel Cough vaccine in the last 14 days or dogs who have been in contact with a dog who has received their Kennel Cough vaccine in the last 14 days.**

A BFA member who has a dog with an infectious or contagious disease **REMOVE must not attend a tournament and it** is strongly advised **REMOVE / recommended** not to train with other dogs until 21 days after symptoms have ceased or, where appropriate negative results have been received and must have the approval of the **REMOVE qualified vet ADD Veterinary Surgeon** who has treated the illness.

A BFA member's dog that has been exposed to but is without symptoms must not attend a tournament and it is strongly advised **REMOVE / recommended** not to train with other dogs for 14 days after their last exposure.

**REMOVE Note: Exposure is direct contact or spending time with an infected animal or the period of 14 days following vaccination (as per manufacturer's recommendations) – to avoid masking a contracted field strain.**

6.2 The BFA Committee, also upon consultation with a **REMOVE qualified vet ADD Veterinary Surgeon**, reserve the right to exclude dog/dogs from a tournament if it is deemed to present an increased risk of spreading infection throughout the association.

#### **Proposed by – Victoria Fraser**

#### Explanation

More a rewriting of the rule to provide more clarification.

# POINTS AND AWARDS

## Section E

### Proposal 33

#### E.1. Dog points and awards

- 1.1 **REMOVE** From 1st January 2007 each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time: under 22 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 25 points towards a Flyball title (Appendix 2); under 26 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 10 points; under 30 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 5 points; provided that a BFA Head Judge or Officer is present and at least four BFA Registered Teams compete. The teams must actually compete.

**ADD** Each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned flyball tournament with a recorded time, each dog that contributed to the time will earn points towards a flyball title (Appendix 2). This is provided that a BFA Head Judge or Officer is present and at least four BFA registered teams compete. The teams must actually compete. The amount of points awarded will depend on the time gained, as follows:

- under 17 seconds = 25 points
- under 20 seconds = 20 points
- under 23 seconds = 15 points
- under 26 seconds = 10 points
- under 29 seconds = 5 points

All four dogs on the team must, in the opinion of the BFA representative successfully complete a run in a reasonable length of time. The BFA representative shall determine what is reasonable. All four teams may be from within the same Team number provided all are registered with the BFA and were given an equal opportunity to enter but declined to do so. All team handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered, with owners who are current members of the BFA. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points.

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

#### **Proposed by – Alistair Kirk**

##### Explanation

Over the course of the last 11 years since the current points structure was introduced, flyball in the UK has developed and moved on considerably. The thresholds currently in place, no longer accurately reflect the times that teams are regularly achieving.

I propose adjusting the boundaries of points allocated so that there are five 3-second tiers spread equally across the range of times the vast majority of teams regularly achieve - this is opposed to the current 3 tier structure.

By introducing 2 additional tiers and making the incremental difference in points between those tiers a uniform 5 points, I hope to make the points system more equitable in that there is no longer a big jump from 10 to 25 points, and more reflective of the time that each team completes in.

I did consider changing the lowest tier to an open 'participation' tier - i.e. 5 points would be gained for any dog completing a run - however I fear that this would encourage a minority to re-run faulted dogs in the quest for points at the expense of dog welfare. To combat this, it is conceivable to introduce a 'clean only' policy that would mean only clean legs completed would earn points, however, given the practical implications of trying to enforce this (likely another additional thing for ring parties to have to fill in), I decided against this option.

I will (obviously) be at the AGM and I'm quite willing to discuss the proposal and amend it if cogent arguments can be presented, in favour of the participation tier, or anything else.

## **Proposal 34**

1.1 From 1st January 2007 each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time: under 22 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 25 points towards a Flyball title (Appendix 2); under 26 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 10 points; under 30 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 5 points; provided that a BFA Head Judge or Officer is present **REMOVE and at least four BFA Registered Teams compete**. The teams must actually compete. All four dogs on the team must, in the opinion of the BFA representative successfully complete a run in a reasonable length of time. The BFA representative shall determine what is reasonable. **REMOVE All four teams may be from within the same Team number provided all are registered with the BFA and were given an equal opportunity to enter but declined to do so**. All team handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered **ADD and registered to an owner/handler who is a current BFA member**. **REMOVE with owners who are current members of the BFA**. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points.

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

### **Proposed by – The BFA Committee**

#### **Explanation**

This is to clarify the rule as not all owners are BFA members, hence the addition of "handler". This means that the individual the dog is registered to must be a BFA member, this may be their owner or registered handler. Also, this rule contradicts *A.1.5 A Tournament may be limited but to no fewer than five BFA Registered Teams*

*and no more than 50% of the entries may be from any Team with the same Team Number (e.g. 0015, 0015A, 0015B, 0015C). Multiple entries from the same Team are to be treated as individual entries from each Team (i.e. Front Runners A team, Front Runners B team and Front Runners C team are treated as three different entries).*

## **Proposal 35**

1.1 From 1st January 2007 each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned Flyball tournament with a recorded time: under 22 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 25 points towards a Flyball title (Appendix 2); under 26 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 10 points; under 30 seconds each dog racing in that heat will receive 5 points; provided that a BFA Head Judge or Officer is present and at least four BFA Registered Teams compete. The teams must actually compete. All four dogs on the team must, in the opinion of the BFA representative successfully complete a run in a reasonable length of time. The BFA representative shall determine what is reasonable. All four teams may be from within the same Team number provided all are registered with the BFA and were given an equal opportunity to enter but declined to do so. All team handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered, with owners who are current members of the BFA. 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 going 'Not for Competition' (NFC) during racing will forfeit ALL points and placing's. If a Team is forced to withdraw, dogs in the Team will retain any points and placings gained up to the time of withdrawal, provided a representative of the team present themselves at the Ring for subsequent races.

ADD 1.3 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 dogs has run, then a no time (NT) will be awarded and no points will be gained.

ADD 1.4 All team captains, handlers (and registered owners if this is different to handler) and box loaders must be current members of the BFA (see also A.2.1.)

REMOVE (Moved to section E.2)

- a. If the team number and team name on the time sheet are incorrect or do not match, the points for that team may be lost.
- b. If the dogs are not circled, the points for that leg are lost.
- c. The dog's name and number are incorrect or do not match, the points may be lost for that dog.
- d. If the handler number and name are incorrect or incomplete, not valid or do not match, the points for that dog may be lost.

1.5 It is the responsibility of Team Captains and Members to check points allocated to their Dogs in good time 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 Coordinator. 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.

**Proposed by – Emma Foxton**

Explanation

To bring the rules up-to-date with the changes made to the website and improved validation checks when awarding points.

**Proposal 36**

**ADD E.2. Loss of points**

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

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

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

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

- If the handler 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 leg are lost.

**Proposed by – Emma Foxton**

## Explanation

To bring the rules up-to-date with the changes made to the website and improved validation checks. To give clarity on situations in which points will be withheld.

If this proposal is passed, the numbering of the subsequent sections would change accordingly

## Proposal 37

### E.3. Annual awards

**REMOVE: 3.4 Tony Hodge Award – Awarded to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier that has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Limited Open competitions**

#### **Proposed by – The BFA Committee**

## Explanation

The BFA Committee has received a written request stating that this award has been withdrawn

## 7. Any other business

Renewal period – the decision has been made to change the renewal period to 2 months prior to the date of renewal being due. There have been many issues regarding un-renewed members racing in January. Therefore, membership renewals will be available from early November and renewals must be completed prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year to avoid the £10 late fee. The membership forms will be updated accordingly.

Reclamation of Unused team names – any registered team which has not raced within 3 years of initial registration shall be removed from the BFA team records.

## 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)**

**David Murdoch (Funky Fidos Flyballers)**

**Val Currie (Muskerhounds)**

**Katie Burns (Carry Ons)**

One member has decided to retire;

**Ali Kirk (Black Adders)**

Seeking re-election to the Committee after 6 months as co-opted members;

**Jenni Wallace (Lomond Flyball Club)**

Proposed by Shona McNab and Seconded by Alison Hunter

**Rachel Short (Commandos)**

Proposed by Jeannette Shelley and Seconded by Sam Barraclough

**Will Whiteley (Yorkshire Bouncers)**

Proposed by Penny Charlton and Seconded by Wayne O'Rourke

The nominations for the remaining places on the Committee are;

**Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes)**

Proposed by Alicia Marsland and Seconded by Andrew Short

**Craig Burrows (FOCUS)**

Proposed by Andy Bolton and Seconded by Karen Mee

**9. Presentations of Annual Awards for 2017**

**10. Chairperson's closing speech.**