# British Flyball Association

## Hybrid Teams

Member Guidance Handout

**Purpose of this handout**

This handout explains how Hybrid Teams should be entered, identified, administered and recorded at BFA sanctioned tournaments. It is designed as practical guidance for members, team captains, tournament organisers, judges, scribes, ring parties and competitors.

⚠ **Hybrid Team arrangements are effective from 30 September 2026. The date was moved from 1 September to allow time for documentation, set-up and communication to clubs.**

### How to use this handout

- Start with **Changes at a Glance** for the headline process changes.
- Use the role-based sections to confirm what team captains, tournament organisers, judges, scribes and ring parties need to do.

# Introduction

Hybrid Teams allow dogs from more than one primary team to race together for a single occasion where specific circumstances make that necessary. They must be clearly identified before racing and must be managed consistently so that teams, officials and competitors understand how the entry affects paperwork, race administration, times, records and awards.

Each active primary team will have two Hybrid Team identifiers available: one for Hybrid Open and one for Hybrid Multibreed. These identifiers use the primary team TRN with the suffix **HO** for Hybrid Open and **HM** for Hybrid Multibreed; for example, Free Wheelers may use **157HO** and **157HM**.

# Changes at a Glance

The table below summarises the main practical requirements. Detailed guidance follows by topic.

| Topic | What is changing | When it applies |
|---|---|---|
| **Team identifiers** | Each primary team has Hybrid Open and Hybrid Multibreed identifiers using HO and HM suffixes. | 30 September 2026 |
| **C2 paperwork** | Hybrid entries should be identified automatically where the TRN ends HO or HM; late changes must be annotated manually. | 30 September 2026 |
| **Times and awards** | Hybrid Teams can compete but cannot set official times, earn seed times or hold records.The Stats team will use 99.99 where a seed time is required. | 30 September 2026 |

# SECTION 1 · Entering and Identifying Hybrid Teams

## 1.1 When a Hybrid Team may be used

- A Hybrid Team may be formed for a single occasion where specific circumstances mean the team needs to combine dogs from more than one primary team.
- The team should be identified as a Hybrid Team before racing wherever possible.
- Hybrid Teams can compete, but they do not set official times, earn seed times or hold records.

## 1.2 Team Captain responsibilities

- If entering a tournament with a Hybrid Team, the Team Captain should use the relevant Hybrid Team identifier at the point of entry.
- The Team Captain must make it clear to the Tournament Organiser that the entry is a Hybrid Team.
- Where a team changes to Hybrid after entry, the Team Captain must notify the Tournament Organiser as soon as possible, but at least half an hour before the division starts and update the entry to the correct Hybrid Team number. No other entry details should change, although a declared time may still be submitted if the deadline has not passed.

# SECTION 2 · Tournament Administration and C2 Paperwork

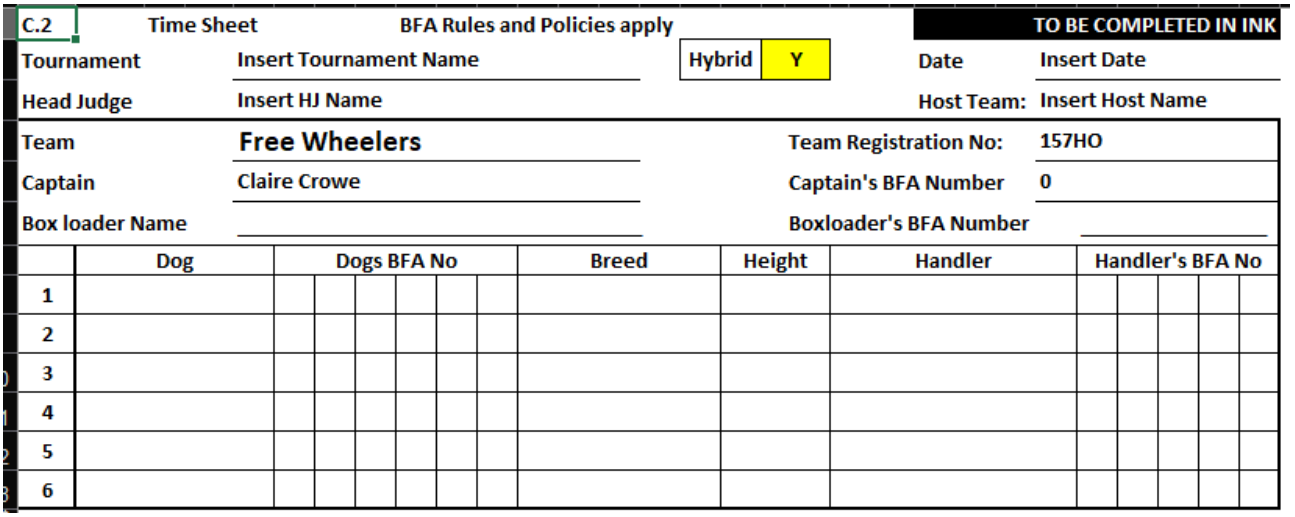
## 2.1 Tournament Organiser responsibilities

- Tournament Organisers should update entry schedules so that Hybrid Team is available as an option, in the same way as Open and Foundation are currently shown.
- Tournament Organisers should ensure judges, scribes, ring parties and competitors understand that the relevant team is racing as a Hybrid Team.

- Where a Hybrid change is made on the day, or after paperwork has been printed, the Tournament Organiser must manually annotate the C2 and ensure the judge is told before the team races.

## 2.2 C2 identification

- The C2 should include an indicator to identify Hybrid Teams.
- The indicator is formula-driven and should appear where the TRN in the Teams sheet ends with **HO** or **HM**.
- If the entry changes after the paperwork has been printed, the formula-driven field may be blank and the Tournament Organiser must annotate the C2 manually.



| C.2 | Time Sheet | BFA Rules and Policies apply | | | TO BE COMPLETED IN INK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tournament | Insert Tournament Name | Hybrid | Y | Date | Insert Date |
| Head Judge | Insert HJ Name | | | Host Team: | Insert Host Name |
| Team | Free Wheelers | | | Team Registration No: | 157HO |
| Captain | Claire Crowe | | | Captain's BFA Number | 0 |
| Box loader Name | | | | Boxloader's BFA Number | |

| | Dog | Dogs BFA No | Breed | Height | Handler | Handler's BFA No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |

# SECTION 3 · Race Administration, Results and Awards

## 3.1 Judges, scribes and ring parties

- The scribe should inform the Judge that the team is a Hybrid Team at the start of each session for that division.
- The scribe should remind the Judge each time the Hybrid Team enters the ring.
- Ring parties and competitors should be made aware where the Hybrid status affects timing, awards or records.

## 3.2 Results, seed times, records and awards

- Hybrid Teams may race and their actual race times should still appear in results.
- Where the system requires a seed time, the Hybrid Team should show **99.99**.
- Hybrid Teams cannot set official times, earn seed times or hold records.
- Statistics and awards calculations should be reviewed after implementation to confirm that Hybrid dogs and teams are being tracked correctly.

**Key point:** Hybrid Team status must be clear before the team races. If it cannot be shown automatically on the paperwork, it must be manually annotated and communicated to the Judge.

## Further Information and Member Reminder

This handout is intended to help members and officials apply the Hybrid Team process consistently at tournaments. It is guidance only and should be read alongside the relevant BFA rules and tournament administration documents.

**Final reminder**

**Hybrid Team arrangements apply from 30 September 2026. Teams, Tournament Organisers and officials should use the correct HO or HM identifier, ensure the C2 clearly shows the Hybrid status, and remember that Hybrid Teams can compete but cannot set official times, earn seed times or hold records.**

# Flyball Box rules from September 30th 2026

New rules concerning flyball boxes were voted in by the Membership at the 2026 AGM. The BFA Committee, after consulting with the relevant sub-committees, decided to delay their implementation until 30th September 2026. This document explains the new rules for flyball boxes following that date.

The following was added to the specification at the 2026 AGM:

g. **[Add] The angle of the pressure plate must be no more than 80°, it is to be measured in its static position.**

**h. Any face plate that holds the ball, whether fixed or part of the pressure pedal and any snub are excluded from the 80° angle limit.**

**i. The largest surface area to the front of the box must be the angled contact pedal and not the face plate (whether fixed or integral) or snub.**

## Box specification requirements

This consists of four main elements - Box Size, Ball Position, Box Angle and Contact Pedal Size.

### Box Size

The Flyball Box must not be taller than 20” or wider than 30” and there is no tolerance under the present specification. **These are absolute maximums.**

*Width*

The box is measured at its widest point on the landing surface, parallel to the base of the box. (Fig 1)

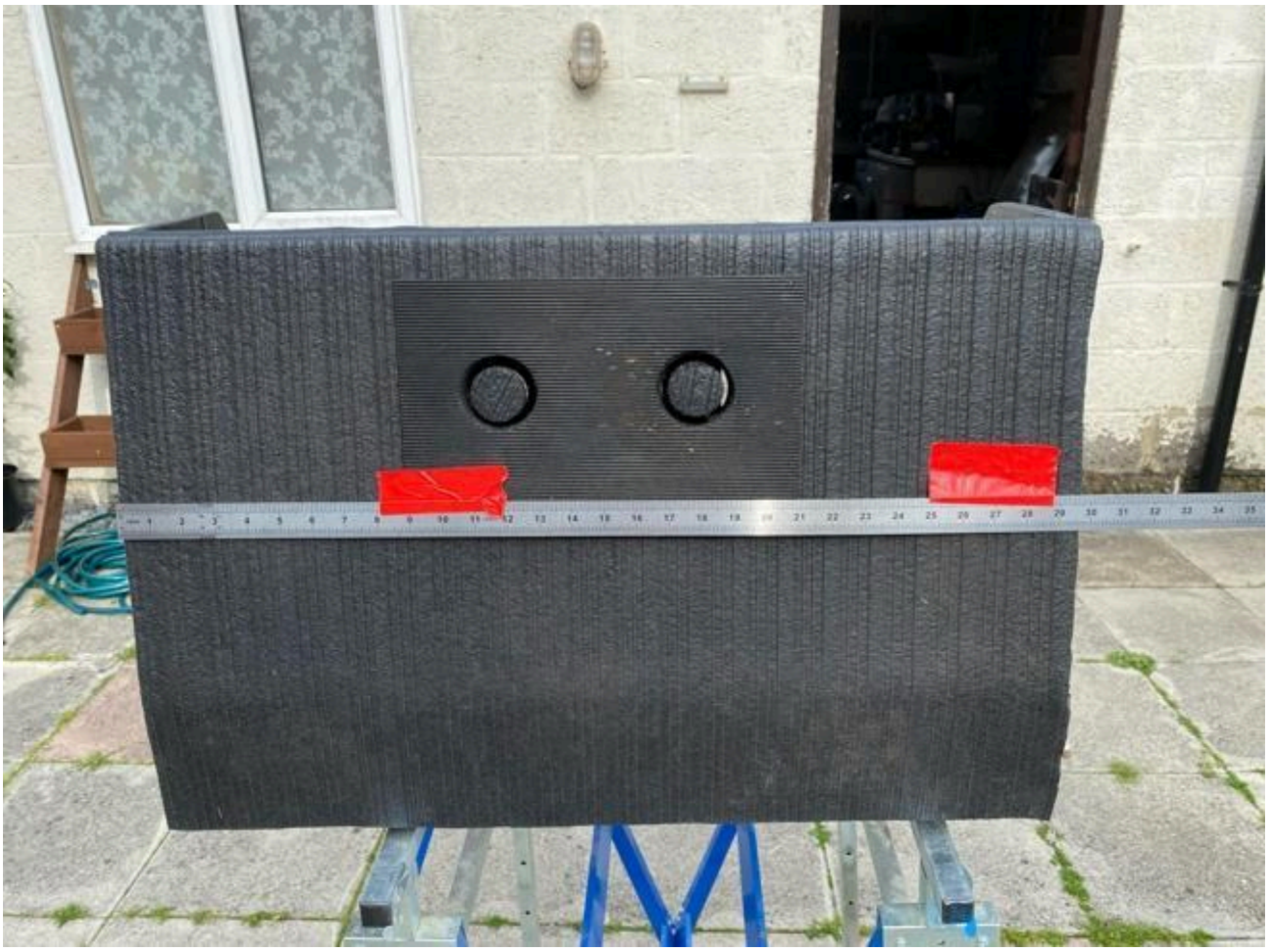


Fig 1

*Height*

The box is measured at the highest point on its landing surface with the ruler at 90° from the base. (Fig 2)

Fig 2

## Ball Position

When the ball is loaded into the box all of the ball must be behind the front of the box.

Checked by placing a straight edge against the leading edge of the box at a 90° angle to the base. (Fig 3)

Fig 3

## Box Angle

Only the Flyball box's pressure plate is included in the measurement of the angle.
Please look at the following example boxes.

Fig 4 - a total flat front box

Fig 5 - a flat front box with a fixed ball plate

Fig 6 - a flat front box with a fixed snub at the base

Fig 7 - an angled flat front box with an integral vertical ball plate and snub

The pressure plate is marked in red in all four examples.

If a box has a fixed ball plate and a fixed snub, then the ball plate and the snub are ignored and only the pressure plate is measured.

In those boxes where the whole of the landing surface moves when the dog lands on it and the landing surface is shaped to match the fixed plate box with or without a snub (Fig 7), the angle to be measured is the part of the landing surface which is measured on a standard fixed plate box.

*Measuring the Angle*

Fig 8 shows a 78° flat front box with a fixed 5” snub.

Fig 8

The snub which is marked in white is ignored and the angle of the pressure plate is measured.

*Measuring Angles*

Fig 9 shows the above box with a digital protractor set at 80° demonstrating that the box has an angle which is less than 80°. The box is placed on its side and the base of the protractor is lined up with the angle to be measured, it must be level with the base of the box, the arm is separated until it lines up with the landing surface. The protractor measures the angle of the landing surface in relation to the base of the box, not the ground.

Fig 9 - the protractor is set at 80°.
You can see a gap between the top of the protractor and the landing surface. This means the box is below the 80° limit. The actual angle of the box in the picture is 78°.

## Contact Pedal Must Be The Largest Surface Area

The new rules also state:
“The largest surface area to the front of the box must be the angled contact pedal and not the faceplate (whether fixed or integral) or snub.”
In other words, on boxes where there are multiple differently-angled surfaces on the front of the box, such as a fixed vertical ball-plate, an angled contact pedal, and a snub, then the largest of all these surfaces must be the contact pedal.

Examples:

Fig 11 - a total flat-front box. It clearly meets this rule as the entire front of the box is in effect the contact pedal.

Fig 12 - a flat-front box with a fixed ball plate. There are three areas on the front of the box: the fixed ball plate, the contact pedal (marked in red) and a very small snub. The contact pedal needs to be bigger than the fixed ball-plate to meet this rule, which here, it is.

Fig 13 - a flat-front box with a fixed snub at the base. There are two areas on the front of this box: the contact pedal with integral (and at the same angle) ball-plate; and a snub. The contact pedal with integral (and at the same angle) ball-plate must be larger than the snub to meet this rule.

Fig 14 - an angled flat-front box with an integral vertical ball plate and snub. There are three areas on the front of this box, an angled contact pedal, a vertical ball-plate that is integral to the contact pedal, and a snub. The angled contact pedal must have a larger surface area than the ball-plate, and it must also have a larger surface area than the snub. Note that the contact pedal does not need to have a surface area greater than the ball-plate and snub when combined together - it just needs to be the single largest single surface area on the front of the box.