

The British Flyball Association
Official Rules and Policies



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of the

B.F.A. Rules and Policies

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SECTION 1. - CONSTITUTION AND OFFICERS

1.1 Name and Objective

The Association shall be called The British Flyball Association (BFA) and its objective shall be to further the sport of International Flyball as instigated by the North American Flyball Association (NAFA) and to promote co-operation and good sportsmanship in the sport through its committees, rules and policies, tournaments and other activities.

1.2 Code of Ethics

- (a) One of the objectives of the BFA is to promote co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs. Co-operation and good sportsmanship should not be recognised in passive observance, but as a way of life in training and competition. Participants shall at all times be courteous and friendly. At no time should they show displeasure with a dog, a judge, exhibitor, BFA representative, sponsor, host or spectator in or out of the ring. Never conduct yourself in a manner that would bring discredit to the sport of Flyball. As a participant whether it be exhibitor, trainer, judge, host team or BFA representative, you typify the sport of Flyball. Alcohol is not permitted in the Flyball ring during competitions.
- (b) Training and exhibiting shall be carried out by such methods that are in keeping with the best interests of the dog and the sport of Flyball.
- (c) Abuse or severe discipline of a dog is not in the best interest of Flyball. Participants shall always follow the Rules and Policies, aims and objectives of the BFA, showing a full knowledge and understanding of the same.

1.3 Committee and Officers

- (a) The Committee shall be composed of 9 Officers, each of whom must be unrelated and from different Teams. Each of these 9 Officers must also be directly associated with different Teams which are in current and regular competition at Sanctioned Tournaments. If the above criteria cannot be fulfilled the Committee will form with the available members and the remaining positions will be left open, to be filled at a later date if possible. One shall be appointed from within the Committee to act as Chairperson and others shall be appointed from within the Committee by the Committee to act as (1) Secretary and (2) Treasurer.
- (b) The Committee shall be responsible for the enforcement of the Rules and Policies, promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship, discipline, setting and amending of the rules and guidelines for Tournaments, addressing any protest or complaint, interpreting the rules and other special activities as well as communicate with the membership and carry out their actions in a fair, even-handed and timely manner.
- (c) Election of Committee members shall take place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) following a postal ballot of the membership from nominations submitted. At each AGM half the Committee members (rounded down where the Committee is made up of an uneven number) shall retire. These members together with any other nominations received in writing 30 days before the AGM will be eligible for election to the new Committee. No Committee member shall remain on the Committee for more than two years without re-election. Committee members will be expected to attend 3 out of 4 Committee Meetings per year (AGM - AGM). Should it be necessary, the BFA committee reserves the right to ask for the retirement, resignation or expulsion of Committee members who do not attend the required number of meetings, or have been found guilty under the disciplinary procedure of bringing Flyball into disrepute whilst a serving Committee Member. The Committee may co-opt members onto the Committee in the event of a position becoming vacant and the criteria previously stated is fulfilled. These co-opted members will hold office until the next AGM and any co-opted member will assume full voting rights on the committee.
- (d) A quorum shall consist of a minimum of 5 members of the Committee. A quorum shall only convene if all members have been informed of a meeting and have equal opportunity to attend.
- (e) BFA members may be invited onto the Committee as assistants to the Committee at any time, these members may attend meetings at the Committee's request but will not assume voting rights.

- (f) The Committee may at its discretion amend the BFA Rules and Policies (except Sections 1, 2 and 3) at any time. Any such rule changes are to be published by the Committee with an implementation date, giving a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 28 days notice to:
- (i) All BFA registered Primary Team Captains/Managers.
 - (ii) All BFA Head Judges.
 - (iii) All BFA Regional Representatives.
 - (iv) All other BFA Officials.

The only exception to the above timetable will be safety issues that can be implemented with immediate effect.

NOTE- All rule changes will be published on the BFA website as soon as possible and in the next Flyball Record.

1.4 Regional Representatives

- (a) Regional Representatives must be members of the BFA and live within the region they represent.
- (b) The Regional Representatives must demonstrate knowledge of the BFA Rules and Policies and be in good standing with the Association. The Committee shall establish the number of regions and the area covered by each region. The Committee may decide that a region may have more than one representative, if for instance there are many members in that region or that the size of the region is large enough to warrant greater representation. The members in a region may nominate members to serve as Regional Representatives. In the event of there being more nominations than positions a ballot will be taken of the members in that region.
- (c) The Regional Representative will report to the Regional Representatives Co-ordinator and will be ex officio members of the Regional Representatives Committee. Regional Representatives shall be responsible for the following in his/her region:
 - (i) To advise and assist new teams and host teams.
 - (ii) Attend or be represented at all sanctioned tournaments (in his/her region).
 - (iii) Communicate regional business with the Regional Representatives Co-ordinator.
 - (iv) To report any violation of the BFA Rules and Policies and/or conduct prejudicial to the sport of Flyball.

1.5 Chairman

The Chairman shall:

- (a) Oversee and facilitate the activities of the Committee.
- (b) Head the discussions for Committee and General Meetings.
- (c) Decide the outcome of votes and if the result is tied, use a casting vote to finalise the decision.
- (d) Sign the Minutes of Meetings.

1.6 Treasurer

The Treasurer appointed by the Committee shall:

- (a) Collect and deposit funds.
- (b) Examine and certify expenditures.
- (c) Provide audited accounts and prepare an annual financial report for the AGM.
- (d) Report on the current financial standing of the BFA at each Committee Meeting.
- (e) Keep a register of all assets of the BFA over the value of £50.00.
- (f) Upkeep the Association's Insurance Policies.
- (g) Administer fiscal penalties for late race returns.

1.7 Secretary

- (a) The Secretary, appointed by the Committee, shall be responsible for the administrative duties of the BFA including but not limited to (1) Legal Counsel, (2) Minutes and Meetings, (3) Mailing and Correspondence, (4) Keeping relevant records of all the Associations dealings.
- (b) Upon request the Secretary will provide details of the BFA Rules and Policies and direct requests for information to the appropriate Regional Representative.
- (c) Maintain a record of all approved BFA Officials, i.e. Head Judges.

1.8 Records and Statistics Co-ordinator

- (a) The Co-ordinator appointed by the Committee will maintain all sanctioned tournament records and the BFA's statistics. He/she will issue tournament results, prepare seeding lists and ratify times/records.

NOTE: All this information relates solely to Sanctioned Events.

'Fun Events' will be exempt from records and statistics.

- (b) Make available to sanctioned tournament organisers all the necessary data to enable the same to comply with the requirements of the BFA.
- (c) Keep all relevant data up-to-date on the BFA Website.

1.9 Webmaster

- (a) Approved by the Committee, the Webmaster shall be responsible for the administration and technical maintenance of the BFA Website, including both web and mail servers.
- (b) On request advise the Committee on all aspects of the Website.
- (c) Liaise directly with Membership and Show Secretaries, Records and Statistics Co-ordinator and the BFA Secretary to ensure the smooth running of their respective areas.

1.10 Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary will:

- (a) Keep Team registrations, membership names, addresses and telephone numbers and maintain membership subscription details.
- (b) Allocate membership/team/dog numbers.
- (c) Transmit the appropriate details to the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator and to the Treasurer.
- (d) Keep all relevant data up-to-date on the BFA Website.

1.11 Regional Representatives Co-ordinator

The Regional Representative's Co-ordinator will:

- (a) Liaise with Regional Representatives.
- (b) Be able and prepared to offer advice and assistance.
- (c) Arrange regular meetings and report back to the Committee.

1.12 Training and Education Co-ordinator

The Training and Education Co-ordinator will arrange training days and seminars on a regular basis.

1.13 Show Secretary

The BFA Show Secretary will approve dates for sanctioned tournaments and ensure that event organisers receive all the necessary information to comply with the BFA requirements.

Keep all relevant data up-to-date on the BFA Website.

1.14 Awards Secretary

The Awards Secretary will maintain records of all awards, presentations, log assets and forward the asset information to the Treasurer.

1.15 Publicity Officer

To promote and publicise Flyball and BFA activities in general within an agreed Budget.

1.16 Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC)

The Disciplinary Sub Committee will be composed of any three current Committee Members. This should exclude the current Committee Chairperson and Secretary.

1.17 Lights Co-ordinator

The Lights Co-ordinator, appointed by the Committee, will be responsible for taking bookings and the maintenance of all BFA owned electronic timing equipment.

SECTION 2. - GENERAL MEETINGS

2.1 Annual General Meeting

- (a) The AGM will be attended by members and held for the following purposes:
- (i) To receive the report of the Committee and the Annual Financial Report and Balance Sheet.
 - (ii) To elect available members of the Committee. Any nomination must be proposed in writing to the Secretary by a current BFA member 30 days before the date of the AGM and seconded by at least one other current BFA member.
 - (iii) To vote on rule changes. Rules of the Association contained within Sections 1, 2 and 3 shall not be altered except at a General Meeting.
 - (iv) Approve appointments to BFA approved lists of credited officials.
 - (v) Discuss any other business duly placed on the Agenda of which prior notice has been given to the Secretary. Only routine matters or those that in the opinion of the Chairperson are urgent may be exempt from such notice.
- (b) The Secretary will give a minimum of 45 days notice of an AGM to current BFA members. Agenda items to be received by the Secretary 30 days before the date of the AGM. After the closing date for proposals and Committee nominations and as soon as the Agenda is finalised, it will be published on the Website for members to download.
- (c) No videoing or tape recording of proceedings will be allowed without prior consent from all members present.

2.2 Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time and shall be assembled within 28 days on the requisition of 30 members from 5 primary teams. Such requisition must state the purpose of such meeting which is required to be sent in writing to the Secretary of the BFA who is responsible for notifying all members at their home addresses. The business will be limited to the matter set out in the notice to convene the meeting. The Committee may call an EGM at any time at a reasonably central venue for the membership. Voting without proxy will take place at an EGM.

2.3 Voting

In general those current BFA members present at the AGM will decide all items that require a vote. All members should be actively encouraged to attend such meetings. However, if in the opinion of the Committee, an item in question is considered of sufficient importance that it should be decided by the whole membership, the Committee reserve the right to hold a postal vote of ALL current BFA members.

SECTION 3. - DISCIPLINE

3.1 Objective

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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, as described in Section 1.2 of the Rules and Policies, in order not to bring the sport of Flyball into disrepute.
- (c) Disciplinary procedures should only be used as a last resort. Arbitration and mediation should always be preferred as a way of settling disputes.

3.2 Misconduct

Misconduct shall include but not be limited to abusive or foul language, demonstration of dissatisfaction with a judge's decision, inhumane treatment of a dog, demonstration of poor sportsmanship, wilful violation of the BFA Rules, wilful intent to gain unfair advantage, physical assault on any person, or any behaviour that would leave a spectator, competitor, host or sponsor with an unfavourable opinion of Flyball.

3.3 Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC).

In the event of a charge of misconduct the Committee will appoint a Disciplinary Sub Committee (DSC) to investigate the matter, which shall comprise of three current Committee members, excluding the Chairperson and the Secretary.

3.4 Misconduct Charge

- (a) Any current BFA member may report another member or group of members for misconduct. 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 DSC. An administration fee of £50.00 should accompany each misconduct charge. This fee will be forfeited if the misconduct charge is not upheld or the fee returned if the charge couldn't be proceeded with due to the criteria not being fulfilled.
- (b) The BFA Committee may prefer charges against any member or group of members within 6 months of any alleged incident of misconduct. In this instance any administration fee will in be waived.

3.5 Disciplinary Procedure

- (a) Once the BFA Committee has received a complaint of misconduct and a DSC convened, the following procedure shall be observed.
- (b) The DSC shall appoint an Investigating Officer who will gather evidence and statement(s) in writing from the complainant(s), defendant member(s) and all witnesses to the alleged incident and ensure the relevant Tournament Organiser is aware of the said incident.
- (c) The defendant member(s) will be given the opportunity to make oral representation(s) if they so wish.
- (d) The DSC will then consider the misconduct charge(s) and either uphold or dismiss them. If the DSC upholds the charge(s) against a member or members, they shall be empowered to suspend from membership any member or member(s) found guilty of 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.
- (e) The complainant(s) and defendant member(s) shall be informed within 14 days of the DSC arriving at a decision.
- (f) A report will be sent to the BFA Secretary detailing the DSC findings and recommendations. The findings will be posted in official BFA publications if no appeal is received within 21 days.

3.6 Appeal

- (a) 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.
- (b) The BFA Committee will consider the appeal.

3.7 Appeal Hearing

- (a) 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.
- (b) The BFA Secretary shall immediately notify the appellant(s) of the Committee's decision.
- (c) The BFA Committee will prepare a report of the proceedings for record purposes.
- (d) The findings will be posted in official BFA publications.

SECTION 4. - SANCTIONED COMPETITION

4.1 Requirements

- (a) A BFA Registered Host Team must submit an application (BFA Form C.3) to the BFA Show Secretary, complete with a £20 non-refundable deposit (per Sanctioned Tournament), of which £10 will be deducted from the Race Registration fees after the tournament. The application should state the date, time and place of the tournament, the name, address and telephone number of the Tournament Organiser (and Tournament Secretary if different), any entry fee, whether the entries are limited and the closing date for entries. The Tournament Organiser should indicate on the Application Form the number of Races each Team might expect. The Tournament Organiser must also declare on the application form if he/she is aware of any other canine event to be held concurrently at the same venue. Applications for Sanctioned Tournaments are to be submitted at least ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries.

NOTE: A Sanctioned Tournament application received less than ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries may be approved. However, each late application will be judged on its own merit.

Applications may be approved for Sanctioned Tournaments in excess of 50 miles (as the crow flies - verified if necessary by use of the facility in RAC Route Planner) from an existing Sanctioned Tournament taking place on the same date. For applications for Sanctioned Tournaments within this 50 miles radius of an existing Sanctioned Tournament, the BFA will seek agreement from Tournament Organiser(s) of the previously approved Sanctioned Tournament taking place on the same date.

A Tournament schedule for all Open or Limited Sanctioned Tournaments should be submitted to the BFA Show Secretary, for approval prior to distribution, no later than 40 days prior to the closing date for entries of the Tournament.

- (b) Tournament Organisers who de-sanction a Tournament at short notice without good reason, or have a Tournament de-sanctioned, will not be allowed to apply for further Sanctions for a maximum of 12 months.
- (c) The Organiser must follow current BFA Rules and Policies.
- (d) All Seedings will be decided by a Seeding's List supplied by the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator. The times are to be those extracted from the latest available data on the 14th day before the Tournament date.
- (e) The Organiser must get written approval from the BFA Show Secretary for any and all special or unusual requests.
- (f) All schedules for BFA Sanctioned Tournaments will be available to download from the BFA Diary on the website. For Limited Tournaments advance warning must be posted on the Webboard giving the date on which the schedule will be available. This must be after the last post collection for that day to give all teams an equal chance to enter.

All Entry Forms must be submitted direct to the BFA Registered Host Team of a BFA Sanctioned Tournament by post, not e-mail, with accompanying cheque.

N.B. All queries should be directed to the Tournament Organiser in the first instance.

- (g) A Tournament may be limited but to no fewer than four 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).

The closing date for entries of an **OPEN** or **LIMITED** Tournament must be at least 28 days before the date of the Tournament. As soon as the Tournament is full all further applications may be placed on a reserve list and the Host Team must advise all Teams immediately of the status of their entry. All entries are to be taken strictly on date of receipt. At the closing date for entries the Tournament Organiser must appoint a Tournament Head Judge. If this is not possible they must contact the BFA Show Secretary immediately.

- (h) Prize money for any one team may not exceed £100 per event per day. In addition, a host or sponsor may offer expense money provided the same is distributed fairly among all participating teams based on actual expense.

- (i) If the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator is present at the Tournament, the original Time Sheets, Jump Height form(s) and Tournament Results form should be handed to him/her at the time. Otherwise, following the Tournament, the Organiser must post the original Time Sheets (BFA Form C.2), Jump Height form(s) (BFA Form C.9) and Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) to the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator within 2 days to ensure that the latter is in receipt of the same within 7 days after the Tournament. When timings are taken from a central console they must be recorded on Sheets (available from the Website through Admin, Online Forms, Racing Form Templates, Single Side Timers) separate from the Time Sheets used to identify dogs running heat by heat. All relevant separate Sheets are to be attached to the appropriate Time Sheets prior to hand over or posting to the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator. If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser.

The Records and Statistics Co-ordinator will advise the Treasurer if the Organiser has failed to meet the 7-day deadline.

The Organiser is to forward a copy of Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) together with a cheque for the Race Registration fees of £2 per team per class for all teams entered, including those running Not for Competition (NFC), (less the £10 deposit), to the Treasurer by the same 7 day deadline.

After the 7 days the Treasurer shall assess the Organiser's liability for a £25 late penalty.

- (j) The Tournament sanctioned by the BFA must use a BFA approved Tournament Head Judge, who should be a current member of either the BFA or other International Flyball body recognised by the BFA. An Organiser should not be the Tournament Head Judge at his/her own Tournament. The BFA will assist the Tournament Organiser by either training or making available a Tournament Head Judge.

4.2 Points

Points toward Flyball titles will be awarded provided a BFA Head Judge or Officer is present and certifies that at least four BFA Registered Teams actually competed.

4.3 Format

The Tournament format shall be round robin or double elimination. Other formats shall be approved in advance by the Committee.

4.4 Layout

The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible) each racing lane shall be matted at a minimum 4½' on either side of the racing lane centre line, for the length of the racing lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops.

Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area not less than 29' leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the Flyball box and in front of the backstops of not less than 7' beyond the front edge of the Flyball box. Tournament Organisers should endeavour to find flat ground. If the ground has an obvious incline, the Tournament Organiser must arrange racing lanes to ensure that dogs run 'uphill' to the box rather than 'downhill'.

4.5 Seeding

Teams should be seeded based on the information supplied by the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator. Seeding times for a tournament will be based on the fastest time recorded by a team during their last 3 sanctioned events and a seed list will be supplied from the latest available data on the 14th day before the tournament date. Any time recorded more than 4 months before this date is null and void. A declared time, to be used as the seeding time, may be submitted by the Team Captain at least 14 days prior to the Tournament, to be accompanied by a written justification for the change which may be referred to the Committee. A declared time may be submitted - if it is slower than the Team's seeded time it must be at least 1 second slower than that time and will be subject to the break-out rule. A declared time faster than the Team's seeded time will not be subject to the break-out rule. Teams not on the seed list must submit a time and will be subject to the break-out rule.

NOTE: Only BFA Registered Teams will be officially seeded. Non BFA Registered Teams may enter a Sanctioned Tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser if there are places available not filled by Registered Teams and be seeded by declared time. Any such non-registered teams shall run 'Not for Competition'.

4.6 Tournament Committee

- (a) Tournament Organiser - The Tournament Organiser has the overall responsibility for the proper planning, management, conducting and reporting of the tournament. He/she shall act as the liaison for the team/organisation and shall ascertain the requirements as to insurance, rentals, schedules, concessions, protest etc. Insurance must include Public Liability.
- (b) Entries - The Organiser shall be responsible for entries and any questions the entrants might have.
- (c) Grounds - The Organiser shall be responsible for the proper layout of the tournament, setting up and dismantling the equipment, traffic flow, crowd control, parking, securing the necessary equipment, clean up during and following the tournament.
- (d) Trophies - The Organiser is responsible for acquiring trophies, rosettes and if applicable cash prizes, setting up the trophy table and putting together a list of trophies, prizes and presentations.
- (e) Public Address - Flyball is a spectator sport. As such, it is important to announce races, explain the sport and announce times when spectators are present.
NOTE: Having a photographer available and raffles, catalogues and other special events that generate income or that add to the success of the tournament that are not in any way prejudicial to the best interest of Flyball should be considered.

4.7 Duration of Racing

- (a) 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 in one day. (5 divisions of 6).
- (b) 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.

4.8 BFA Assistance

The BFA will provide advice to assist individuals, teams or groups hosting BFA Sanctioned Tournaments, including advice on handling entries, preparing schedules, providing insurance, providing forms, judges, rules, and set up.

SECTION 5. - RULES FOR COMPETITION

5.1 Amateur Competition

The BFA encourages amateur competitions. Teams may accept up to £100 prize money per class and/or reasonable expenses incurred for promoting Flyball or competing in Flyball competition and/or trophies, uniforms and equipment that identify a sponsor or host team.

5.2 Teams

- (a) All Teams will appoint a Manager/Captain who must be a current BFA member and who will submit the Team name (and Secondary names if applicable) to the Membership Secretary for approval. If acceptable this name will be registered with the BFA and no other Team will be permitted to use it or derivatives thereof.
- (b) Dogs may not compete on more than one team at a BFA Sanctioned Tournament except where special or non-regular classes are offered, i.e. fun classes, etc.
- (c) Team members shall not be prohibited from training with other teams.
- (d) If a dog has raced with one Team in a BFA Sanctioned Tournament it may not race with another Team for **4 months**.

The only exceptions are:

- (i) Multiple entries of the same Team Registration Number.
 - (ii) A dog prohibited from competing with an existing Team.
 - (iii) The handler/dog has moved to another area and their previous Team accepts the transfer.
 - (iv) Their previous Team has dissolved.
 - (v) A new Team is formed - this new Team may race dogs from other teams in their first BFA Sanctioned Tournament without penalty. Once the Team has run its first Sanctioned Tournament race, the dogs involved may not run with another Team, new or existing, for a period of **4 months**.
 - (vi) A dog may be released by the registered Custodian/Manager of its current Primary Team at any time to compete with another Team. Written authority for such a release must be sent to the Membership Secretary. A dog so released from one Team to run with another Team may not be released again from the second Team for a period of **4 months**.
- (e) A BFA Registered team must comprise all BFA Registered dogs and all handlers and Registered Owners of these dogs must be current members of the BFA.
 - (f) Overseas Guest Teams must only include non-UK resident dogs.
 - (g) If a Starters Competition is run, dogs entered must be a minimum of 12 months old.
 - (h) Dogs may compete for fun or the experience. In such cases, all heats in which they compete will be forfeited and none of the dogs in the Team will be awarded Flyball points.
 - (i) In multi-breed only competitions, teams must consist of all different breeds recognised by any club or studbook, or one dog of mixed breed parents. Border Collies and Working Sheepdogs will be regarded as the same breed. Jack Russells will be taken to be a breed, as will each of the 4 groups making up Belgium Shepherd dogs. Any deviation from this will make the class a 'fun class'.

5.3 Protests

- (a) Protests pertaining to a Sanctioned Tournament should be addressed in the first instance to the Tournament Organiser in writing within 7 days of the Tournament and copied to the BFA Show Secretary.
- (b) Protests pertaining to safety should be directed through Team Captains/Managers to the Tournament Head Judge prior to submission in writing to the Tournament Organiser, within 7 days of the Tournament, with a copy to the BFA Show Secretary.
- (c) The Tournament Organiser should submit all correspondence on the protest to the BFA Show Secretary within 14 days of the Tournament. The BFA Show Secretary shall then inform the BFA Committee.
- (d) The BFA Show Secretary shall notify all parties of any recommendation or action taken. The individual or group making the protest may appeal to the BFA Committee.

5.4 Judges

- (a) Five judges shall officiate when two teams are running.
- (b) One Line Judge shall be positioned at each team's starting line, facing each other. Two Box Judges are to be located at the box end, with a good view of the box loader, but not standing so as to interfere with, or distract the dog. A fifth judge shall act as starter, Division Judge and referee.
- (c) The Box Judges and Line Judges shall remain stationary during each heat. If a ball goes around or bounces off a judge, it shall be deemed in play. The principle responsibility of each Box Judge and each Line Judge is to watch for violations in the racing lane to which they are assigned.
- (d) The Division Judge (starter and referee) who will wear a Black and White Rosette provided by the BFA shall be positioned between the racing lanes in an area between the start/finish line and lead dogs to start the heat. During the heat he/she should be in a position to observe the handlers for any violations. He/she shall maintain a consistent sequence for electronic starting. When starting manually, the Division Judge shall maintain a consistent cadence of approximately 1-second intervals throughout the tournament and he/she should be in a position to assist the Line Judges in determining winners of close heats. He/she should always confer with the Line Judges and the Box Judges before determining a winner. If necessary, a Division Judge shall reposition himself/herself in such a manner as not to distract the dogs competing.
- (e) Division and Line Judges shall indicate with a signal which dogs must re-run. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run his/her dog. If it is necessary to stop a heat, the Division Judge shall use a whistle.
- (f) When judging with approved electrical equipment accurate to 100th of a second. Ties should only be allowed when both electrical readouts are identical to 2 decimal places.
- (g) Unqualified individuals judging BFA sanctioned Flyball competitions shall be supervised by a qualified Head Judge.
- (h) Provisional judges desiring to be approved by the BFA must apply to the BFA Secretary to be considered as a trainee Head Judge. The date of application will be logged and they will be sent a Training Log Book and any other necessary paperwork. This Log Book should be used to record the successful achievement of the criteria, and returned to the BFA Secretary when completed, with an application to be approved as a Head Judge.
- (i) To be approved by the BFA, provisional judges must:
- (i) Be a competitor/dog handler with at least three years experience in the BFA.
 - (ii) Be in good standing with the BFA and a current member.
 - (iii) Within two years of the application have judged a division, at a minimum of five separate Sanctioned Tournaments, hosted by at least three different Teams and under three different Head Judges. Each Head Judge must provide a written report on the candidate's competency on the day, completing the sheet provided for the purpose in their Training Log Book. This does not necessarily need to be the tournament Head Judge but can be any Head Judge who is willing to write a report after observing the trainee Judge during a division at a sanctioned tournament.
 - (iv) Have competently carried out dog measuring in the presence of two Head Judges on separate occasions where they must measure at least six dogs in total, preferably of different breeds.
 - (v) On three separate occasions Box Judge, Line Judge (operating the light sequence), and Scribe, preferably for at least half a Division from start to finish.
 - (vi) Have attended a BFA Training Seminar within two years of the application, where they will take a written examination on the current Rule Book. Alternatively, this examination may be taken at a Sanctioned Tournament. Before taking the examination, prior arrangement must be made with the BFA Secretary who will forward the question paper to the supervising Officer, who will return the paper when completed to the BFA Secretary. The Secretary will mark the paper and indicate a 'pass' or 'not ready' in the candidate's Training Log Book.
- All the above duties must be recorded in the Training Log Book and each discipline when completed, must be signed by the Tournament Head Judge, Tournament Organiser or nominated Officer (where appropriate), who should be informed beforehand that the person concerned intends to undertake these duties. The applicant's name shall be published when he/she has qualified as a Head Judge. If the Committee rejects the applicant, he/she shall be notified and advised under what conditions he/she can re-apply.
- (j) The minimum age of a Head Judge is 18 years, except with the approval of the BFA.

- (k) To retain their status, qualified Head Judges must be current BFA Members, and attend at least one Head Judges' Seminar provided by the BFA in the last three years. This Head Judges' Seminar may be incorporated, as a separate half-day session, within a BFA Training Seminar.

5.5 Judges Guidelines

- (a) Judges should be friendly and courteous, even sympathetic, but above all impartial and firm. Judges must have a thorough understanding gained through personal experience. A Judge must be familiar with the regulations, rules and requirements.
- (b) The Judge's responsibility also extends to the exhibitors, to the host team, or organisation, to the spectators and sponsors. A Judge must be arbiter and diplomat. A Judge must leave exhibitors and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage.
- (c) A Judge is not to engage in conversation with a disgruntled exhibitor.
- (d) Upon arriving at the site a Tournament Head Judge shall immediately report to the Tournament Organiser. Judges should be at their ring at least ½ hour before the competition to check the ring, jumps, matting and backstops. If dogs are to be measured and boxes inspected before the competition, the Judge should allow additional time by agreement with the Tournament Organiser.
- (e) Judgement calls should be based on the experience, good character, and fairness of the Judge. The intelligent application of discretionary authority demands a Judge exercise common sense, fairness and initiative. Above all else, the safety and well being of the exhibitors and their dogs should be foremost.

5.6 Judging Procedures

- (a) Prior to the scheduled time for competition the Tournament Head Judge must inspect the ring. It should meet all the requirements of the regulations. Jump placement, jump heights, backstops, barriers and box location should be measured to make sure they meet these regulations. A deviation of a ¼" on the jump heights is considered minor and acceptable. Each box shall be inspected by the Tournament Head Judge and shall not be allowed if, in his/her opinion, it has been constructed or altered in a manner that does not meet the box specifications.
- (b) Two Head Judges shall measure dogs jumping less than 14" if time allows. Otherwise, it will be up to the discretion of the team whether to have their dogs measured or not prior to the competition. If the Judges are uncertain of the dog's height after 3 accurate measurements, the height shall be recorded as the lowest for the benefit of the dog.
- (c) If the Division or Tournament Head Judge later determines that the team is not jumping the proper height (in a round robin tournament), the team will forfeit any races won at the incorrect jump height. The team will be excluded (in a double elimination tournament). One of these Judges may at any time measure a dog. However, once measured, he/she is under no obligation to measure the same dog again. If in having the dog measured the Judge determines he/she has made a mistake, the team shall in no way be penalised, but will be required to jump the proper height for any remaining heats. Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally within 30 minutes of the heat in question. Height measurements are to be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by the measuring Judge and observing Judge. A copy of this completed document should be made available for viewing by the tournament participants. All measuring shall be carried out using only BFA authorised equipment. Only one handler per dog shall be allowed in the measuring area determined by the Judges unless he/she requires further assistance. A dog will be measured from the ground to the top of its withers. It shall stand with all four legs squarely on the ground, neither stretched nor crouched. The head is to be in a natural position. Aggression during measurement will not be tolerated and Rule 5.19 will be observed. A dog deemed 'NOT MEASURED' by the Head Judges will jump at the height of the smallest dog in its team (running, not standing by) if that dog measured less than 19" to the withers.

- (d) Height Cards - A handler may apply for a dog to be granted a Height Card and not be required to have the dog measured after having been measured at three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments, the dog's height having been agreed by two qualified Head Judges on each occasion. The signatories to the Application Form must be at least four different Head Judges.

A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least 30 months old at final measurement.

When a Height Card is issued and recorded it must be available for inspection at each Tournament entered. The Records and Statistics Co-ordinator will produce an up-to-date list of all issued Height Cards for each Tournament so that it can be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9. Jump Height Cards cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. However, in some circumstances an Owner can re-apply if the dog's measurement is considered to be incorrect. Before re-applying, an explanation must be sent to the Committee in writing accompanied by a completed Form C.13, meeting the criteria set out above in this Rule. Once the Committee have agreed, arrangements will be made for two Head Judges, selected by the Committee, who have not previously measured the dog and do not belong to the applicant's own Team, to re-measure the dog to confirm the height. Handlers who are unable to produce their cards may have their dog's jump height contested.

- (e) Jump heights shall be set at 4" lower than the dog's height at the withers with a minimum of 7" and a maximum of 14" adjusted to 1" increments to the lowest whole number (e.g. 12 3/4" becomes 12")
- (f) The Tournament Head Judge shall:
Reduce, delay or suspend racing due to inclement weather conditions (i.e. excessive heat, cold, rain, etc).
- (g) The Division Judge shall:
Stop the heat for interference in the ring.
- (h) Line Judges (who may have stewards to assist them with their duties) shall:
- (i) Keep track of the practice runs.
 - (ii) Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
 - (iii) Using BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2), record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied.
(NOTE: When appropriate, instead of a time, one of the following may be entered: No time = NT; Interference = INT; Break-out = BO).
 - (iv) When hand timing is used this must also be recorded on the Time Sheet(s) heat by heat as such times will be disregarded when calculating fastest times and therefore seeding times.
 - (v) Stop the race for the first false start for which the heat is to be restarted.
 - (vi) 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.
 - (vii) Advise the Division Judge if a Team that submits a time runs a 'break-out' time in a heat, (this being more than 1/2-second faster than that team's submitted time).
 - (viii) The Line Judges decision shall be unanimous with respect to determining winners of close heats. If they are not in agreement the Division Judge shall consult with them and either declare a winner or declare the heat to be a tie.
- (i) Box Judges shall observe the box loader/spectators for infringements, signal the Line Judge of a possible box malfunction and observe dogs for interference or missing a jump.

5.7 **Teams and Time Sheets**

- (a) At a tournament each team is to consist of a minimum of 4 dogs and 4 handlers, with a maximum of 6 dogs, and 6 handlers, **plus a box loader, all of whom must be current BFA members**. At their discretion a team may have a runner or two to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps and otherwise assist the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team.
- (b) 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. Each dog on the team, including the alternates, must be declared prior to the first race of the Division. Once the Division has begun there will be no substituting of the dogs entered on the team.

- (c) The Time Sheet (BFA Form C.2) shall include the team name and registration number, the team captain's name, address and telephone 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).
- (d) For multiple entries of the same team there will be no switching of dogs from one team to another once the competition begins.

5.8 Flyball Boxes

- (a) Each team shall supply its own Flyball box, which should be safe and fit for the purpose intended.
- (b) All boxes are to have a mechanical (not electrical) pedal release mechanism.
- (c) The boxes may be painted or decorated as the team wishes.
- (d) The ball, when released, must have a free unobstructed flight of not less than 24" from the box cup in a forward direction.
- (e) Boxes shall not exceed 24" in width, 18" in height or 30" in depth. The dimensions do not include any platform the box loader uses to hold the box in place.
- NOTE: Boxes should be constructed with the comfort and well being of the dog in mind. Sharp edges should be avoided and adequate padding and protection should be used.

5.9 Balls

Each team shall have its own supply of un-punctured, regulation tennis balls (any colour). Subject to the size and comfort of the dog, other smaller approved balls may be used.

5.10 Footing

At Indoor Tournaments the host team shall provide adequate non-slip footing on the racing lane, at the box and at the start.

5.11 Barriers

The host team shall provide a solid barrier/backstop (minimum 24" high) at the box end of the run, placed so as to prevent missed balls from rolling too far without preventing proper observation by the Division and Line Judges or obscuring the spectators view. A similar barrier shall extend between the boxes to minimise interference.

5.12 Jumps

- (a) 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.
- (b) The jumps shall be solid, white and are to have an inside width of 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 4" x 20" with a minimum 2" border. The tops of the jumps are to be flexible/breakable **AND** protected with foam or soft material.
- (c) 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 7" and a maximum of 14", this height to include any protective materials.

5.13 Set Up

- (a) There shall be a distance of 6' from the start/finish line to the first jump, 10' between each jump (4 in total) and 15' from the last jump to the front edge of the Flyball box.
- (b) The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 40' x 120' where the size of ground permits'. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible) each racing lane shall be matted at a minimum 4½' on either side of its centre line for the length of the lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. Between the first and last jumps the lane shall have at least 3' wide matting. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required. The length of the racing lane shall include an area not less than 29' leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the box in front of the backstops of not less than 7' from the front edge of the Flyball box.
- (c) If the ground has an obvious incline, the racing lanes must be arranged to ensure that dogs run 'uphill' to the box rather than 'downhill'.
- (d) At outdoor Tournaments only flexible stakes can be used to hold up netting at the end of the run back area.
- (e) If netting is used to divide the run back area a minimum gap of 25' must be implemented from the start line and a minimum gap of 4' must be implemented at the back of the run back area.

5.14 **Reporting For Races**

- (a) If one or more team member is more than 5 minutes late for the scheduled start of a race, all else being in readiness, the Division Judge may declare a forfeit by that team.
- (b) Teams that win by forfeit must complete the minimum required heats scheduled to qualify for points awarded in round robin or to advance in double elimination competition. If another team is not available to compete, the team shall race without an opponent.
- (c) Forfeiting teams that do not show just cause, may be excluded from the Tournament by the Organiser and may be subject to further discipline.

5.15 **Practice Runs**

- (a) Each dog on the team including alternates shall be allowed two practice runs prior to a race or the host team may prefer to designate a time period for warm ups, provided all teams are so informed prior to racing.
- (b) There shall be no practice or training in the ring for the duration of the Tournament except for the practice runs as permitted just prior to each race. Individuals may work with the Flyball box or on jumps well away from the ring provided they do not distract other teams.

5.16 **Tournament Format**

The tournament format shall be double elimination or round robin.

5.17 **Rules of Racing**

- (a) **The Start** - Dogs may start from a stationary or running start. When using a manual start, if any part of the dog's or handler's body is over the line before the race is started, it will be an infringement, to be called by the Line or Division Judge. When electronic starting lights are used, any part of the dogs' or handler's body breaking the beam will cause an infringement to be called by the Line or Division Judge. The heat is to be restarted. If a second such infringement is called against the same team (for that heat) the dog must run again. If a second false start is called coincidental with the opposing team's first false start the heat is to be restarted.
- (b) **The Run** - Each dog is to hurdle the four jumps in succession, trigger the box, 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. 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 in any order. 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.
- (c) **Knocked Down Jumps** - A dog that knocks down a jump or jump(s) during its run shall not be penalised, provided the following dog(s) clear the jump(s) as if it/they were standing. A 'runner' or handler may set up knocked down jump(s) if so doing does not interfere with, or guide the dog(s) in any way.
- (d) **Box Malfunction** - The box loader shall indicate to the Box Judge when there is a box malfunction and the heat shall be stopped. No one may tamper with the box after a malfunction, until it has been checked by the Division Judge. This Judge is to examine the box and if in his/her opinion, the box has malfunctioned, the heat shall be run again. If the box is found to be working, the heat shall be forfeited. If another box is not available and the original cannot be repaired in a reasonable time, the heat and any remaining heats of the race are to be forfeited. If the box malfunctions a second time (or the spare box malfunctions) in the same race the heat and all remaining heats in that race shall be forfeited.
- (e) **Out of Bounds/Out of Play** - The host team shall specify the race area boundaries. If a ball bounces out of bounds and the dog retrieves it unaided, there shall be no penalty. If a spectator, handler, box loader or other aids the dog, the dog is to run again. Out of play shall be the same as if the ball were out of bounds, for example, if the ball becomes lodged or trapped inside the box.

- (f) Conduct of the Box Loader - Except during the warm up, to retrieve a loose ball or get a fresh supply of balls to load, the box loader must remain in the upright position behind the box. He/she may offer verbal encouragement only, as long as such encouragement does not distract the opposing team. The box loader is to remain in position until the Division Judge determines the outcome of the heat. If, in the Judge's opinion, a box loader has violated any of these rules, his/her team may forfeit the heat. If, in the opinion of the Judge, a box loader assists a dog, except where provided for in the rules, the dog shall run again.
- (g) Interference - If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat, the team causing the interference will forfeit the heat. If a dog continually interferes with opposing Teams, at the Division Judge's discretion it may be excluded from racing and the Team be allowed to use a reserve if one is recorded on their Time Sheet. This includes interference in the racing lane, in all bound areas and in the area where dogs are waiting to run. Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dog from running/completing its race. A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference.
- (h) The Finish - The first team to have all four dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last of the four dogs reaches the finish line with any part of its body [and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat. A Heat may be won due to default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing.](#)
- (i) 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 nor throw any object for their dogs (i.e. balls, toys, frisbees, dummies, gloves or treats). Team members are required to pick up any loose balls. The first offence of these infringements shall receive a warning - a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat.
- (j) Broken Boards - The heat shall not be stopped for broken boards, unless, in the opinion of the Division Judge the dog(s) may be subject to injury. If the Division Judge stops the heat to prevent a possible injury, it is to be restarted.
- (k) Break-outs - A team running more than 1/2-second faster than its submitted time will be declared the loser of that heat. If both teams 'break-out' in a heat or one team 'breaks-out' and the other fail to finish, both will be declared losers. A team that 'breaks-out' three times in a tournament will be ineligible for any placement in that tournament.
If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply.
NOTE: This rule only applies to Teams that submit times.
- (l) Not for Competition - If a team introduces training aids (e.g. jump wings) during the course of a heat, they shall be declared 'not for competition' – NFC. They may continue to run but all their races will be recorded as lost. Their Time Sheet will be noted accordingly.

5.18 Aggressive Dogs

If a dog shows undue aggression towards another dog or handler at any time during the competition, the Division Judge may exclude the dog from competing and a standby dog can be used. The Division Judge is to determine the degree of aggression that warrants substitution. Any dog excluded from competition must be reported to the BFA Show Secretary. A second such report and the dog will be barred from future competitions. An application for reinstatement may be submitted to the BFA Committee after a period of one year.

5.19 Lame Dogs, Bitches in Season, Dogs Recovering from Surgery

If in the opinion of the Tournament Head and/or Division Judge a dog is lame, in season, recovering from surgery or for a related reason should not compete, the same shall be excluded from competition. Dogs that require bandages to protect an injury shall be excluded. The meaning of bandages shall not include 'coats, sweaters, or wrist bands'. Bitches in season are not to be allowed near the Flyball rings. Mating of dogs at Sanctioned events is not allowed.

5.20 Minimum Age

Dogs under the age of 18 months will not be allowed to compete at Sanctioned Flyball events.

5.21 Record Times

Videos of record-breaking times shall be reviewed by a minimum of two neutral members of the BFA Committee. The video shall be set on the start/finish line. Only video recorded record-breaking times can be reviewed by the Committee. Record-breaking times not recorded on video in the described manner will not be recognised as a BFA record. The Records and Statistics Co-ordinator will keep all record details.

5.22 Race Results

The host team must display results (fastest times and wins/losses) as soon as possible after the running of each race for competitors to view.

SECTION 6. - FLYBALL POINTS

6.1 Points

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; 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 must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be registered with owners who are current members of the BFA. Any Team voluntarily going 'Not for Competition' (NFC) during racing will forfeit ALL points and placings. 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 they present themselves at the Ring for subsequent races.

6.2 Titles

- (a) BFA will award a certificate of achievement and the title Flyball Dog (FD) to any dog receiving 200 points.
- (f) BFA will award a certificate of achievement and the title Flyball Dog Intermediate (FDI) to any dog receiving 1000 points.
- (g) BFA will award a certificate of achievement and the title Flyball Dog Graduate (FDG) to any dog receiving 3000 points.
- (d) BFA will award a certificate of achievement and the title Flyball Dog Advanced (FDA) to any dog receiving 5000 points.
- (e) BFA will award a Silver Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 10,000 points.
- (f) BFA will award a Gold Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 15,000 points.
- (h) BFA will award an 'Ice Blue Moon' Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 20,000 points.
- (i) BFA will award a Platinum Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 25,000 points.
- (j) BFA will award a Pearl Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 30,000 points.
- (k) BFA will award a Jade Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 35,000 points
- (l) BFA will award a 'Chica Chicana' Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 40,000 points.
- (m) BFA will award a Sapphire Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 50,000 points.
- (n) BFA will award a Diamond Milestone certificate to any dog receiving 60,000 points.

Each award above 20,000 points will, where possible, be named after the first dog to achieve that particular level unless a previous award already bears his or her name.

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

6.3 Points Queries

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 Co-ordinator. After this period enquiries will only be considered at the Committee's discretion. In such cases an administration fee of £10.00 must accompany the enquiry.

SECTION 7. - TOURNAMENT FORMAT

7.1 Round Robin Competitions

Each team races every other team entered in their division once. Each race shall have three heats or be of the best 3 out of 5 format. (the only exception, see rule 5.6 (f)).

If run-offs are required, Show Organisers will decide which method is used, provided that it is clearly displayed prior to the start of competition.

7.2 Double Elimination Competitions

This should be used if time does not permit the host Team to run round robin competitions. Copies of the format forms for double elimination may be obtained from the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator. Other classes offered may include Multi-breed, Veterans, Novice etc. and various 'Fun Classes'.

7.3 Tournament Duration Guidelines

(a) A 12-team round robin would require 66 races (12 teams x 11 races each - 2 teams per race). Allowing 6 races per hour with 3 heats per race would require 11 hours for the racing. However, each team would race 11 times.

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

(c) A 12-team round robin with 3 divisions would require 3 hours and each team would race 3 times.

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

7.4 Consolation Rounds

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.

7.5 Divisions

(a) If the host Team elects to offer divisions, teams should be placed in each division based on times. Teams may submit times for seeding purposes - otherwise the current BFA seeding will be used. Teams that submit times for seeding that are significantly different from actual times will be subject to the Break-Out rule.

(b) There shall be no less than 5 teams in each division. Ideally, there should be 5 or 6 teams in each division with a maximum of 7.

SECTION 8. - ANNUAL AWARDS

8.1 Flyball Dog of the Year

Awarded to the dog that has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Sanctioned Limited Open competitions.

8.2 Flyball Bitch of the Year

Awarded to the bitch that has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Sanctioned Limited Open competitions.

8.3 Border Collie/Working Sheepdog Flyball Dogs of the Year

Awarded to the top 20 Border Collies/Working Sheepdogs that have accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Sanctioned Limited Open competitions.

8.4 Cross Breed Flyball Dogs of the Year

Awarded to the top 15 Crossbreed dogs that have accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Sanctioned Limited Open competitions.

8.5 Best of the Rest Flyball Dogs of the Year

Awarded to the top 10 dogs not covered by the Awards detailed in 8.3 and 8.4 above that have individually accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Sanctioned Limited Open competitions.

8.6 Flyball Team of the Year

Awarded to the Team, that with 4 dogs, has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open or Sanctioned Limited Open competitions. When calculating Team of the Year award, only points accumulated whilst racing for a specific team will count. Dog's points may only be used in one team, the one in which the highest points are earned, per year.

E.g. Dog 0016B, total points earned in year - 6834

Break down of points earned for Team of the Year Award.

Buccaneers TRN 025 points earned whilst racing for this team 5011

Extrabuccs TRN 025A points earned whilst racing for this team 1823

Total Points earned during year 6834

Only the 5011 points will be taken into account for the Buccaneers Team (TRN 025), whilst the full 6834 will be taken into account for Flyball Dog/Bitch of the Year titles.

8.7 Multibreed Dog of the Year

Awarded to the dog/bitch of any breed that has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Multibreed or Sanctioned Limited Multibreed competitions. The calculation will be based on the principles applied to Flyball Dog/Bitch of the Year.

8.8 Multibreed Team of the Year

Awarded to the Team that, with 4 dogs, has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Multibreed or Sanctioned Limited Multibreed competitions. The calculation will be based on the principles applied to Flyball Team of the Year.

8.9 BFA Special Award

This award is presented by the BFA as a thank-you to the Team or group of Teams (PTN - Primary Team Number), that have contributed the most to the sport during the year. This is calculated by:

- (a) The number of Tournaments Hosted - 25 Points per Tournament.
- (b) The number of Tournaments entered
 - (i) 10 Points for the **first** team entered and
 - (ii) 2 Points for subsequent teams.
- (c) The Number of Qualified Head Judges within the Team - 5 Points per Judge.

8.10 BFA Junior Handler/Box Loader Awards

Awarded to the Junior Handlers/Box Loaders in age groups 7 to 11 and 12 to 16 who have gained the most points (1 point for handling a dog or dogs or box loading for a Team or Teams at each Tournament) from 1st January to 31st December. Handlers ages at 1st January.