

Summary of changes to rules of flyball racing 2025.

A.1. Sanctioned Tournaments

4. Tournament Seeding/Running Order

If a team captain thinks that a team has not recorded a representative time in the speed trials and will break out in the competition runs, they can request that their seed time is used rather than the time achieved in the speed trials. The seed time must be equal to, or faster than, the time registered in the speed trials. This request must be within 15 minutes of the completion of racing on the day of the speed trials.

Rule Number: A.1 Sanctioned Tournaments A.9

A.9 FLYBALL FOUNDATION EVENTS & RING-TIME TRAINING

Divisional judges for foundation divisions must ensure that both handlers and dogs meet the BFA Standard.

Handler – For both Flyball Foundation events and ring-time training, a handler must be able to safely release a dog into the racing lane and retrieve their dog under control.

Dog – To compete in a Flyball Foundation event a dog must also be able to go over 4 jumps and safely retrieve a ball from a flyball box/chute and return back over 4 jumps to their handler.

Safe Flyball – The over-riding principle is that dogs and handlers can compete or train safely. Should a supervising judge have any safety concerns they are to consult with the HJ and Club Captain in the first instance. Dogs or handlers deemed unsafe may be withdrawn from racing or training. The HJ's decision is final.

The Tournament Organiser and Team Captains should note that teams running less than 4 dogs at any time during the competition will receive a penalty of 25% off their final score - for example:

A team of two dogs scoring 12 runs out of 24 is 50%. As they are running with three or fewer dogs, that 50% will be reduced by 25% of that 50% - meaning they are now down to 37.5%.
(In other words, multiply their percentage score by 0.75)



A.2. Rules for Competition

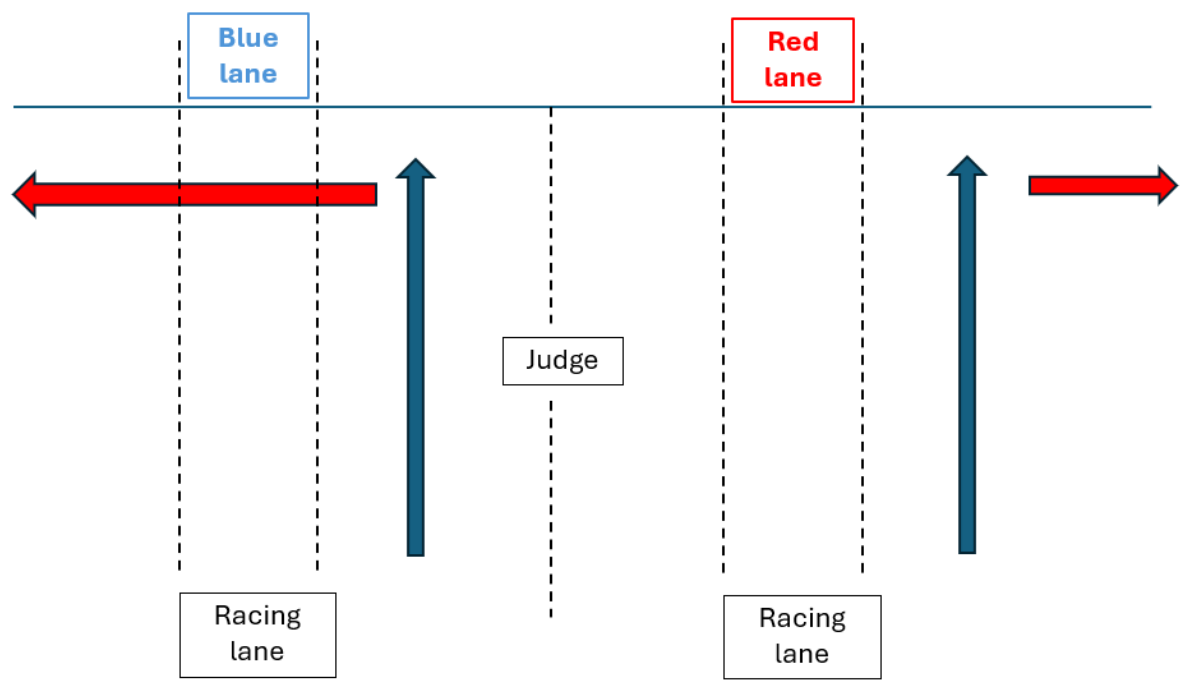
5. Teams

Team captains and Judges must ensure that both dog and handler safety are maintained if a team uses runners for any of their dogs. If a runner must step out of the way to the right in the red lane or cross the lane and move to the left in the blue lane. If the runner is running back towards the back of the lane, they must run back to the left of the racing lane, where the dogs normally run out.



See diagrams below.

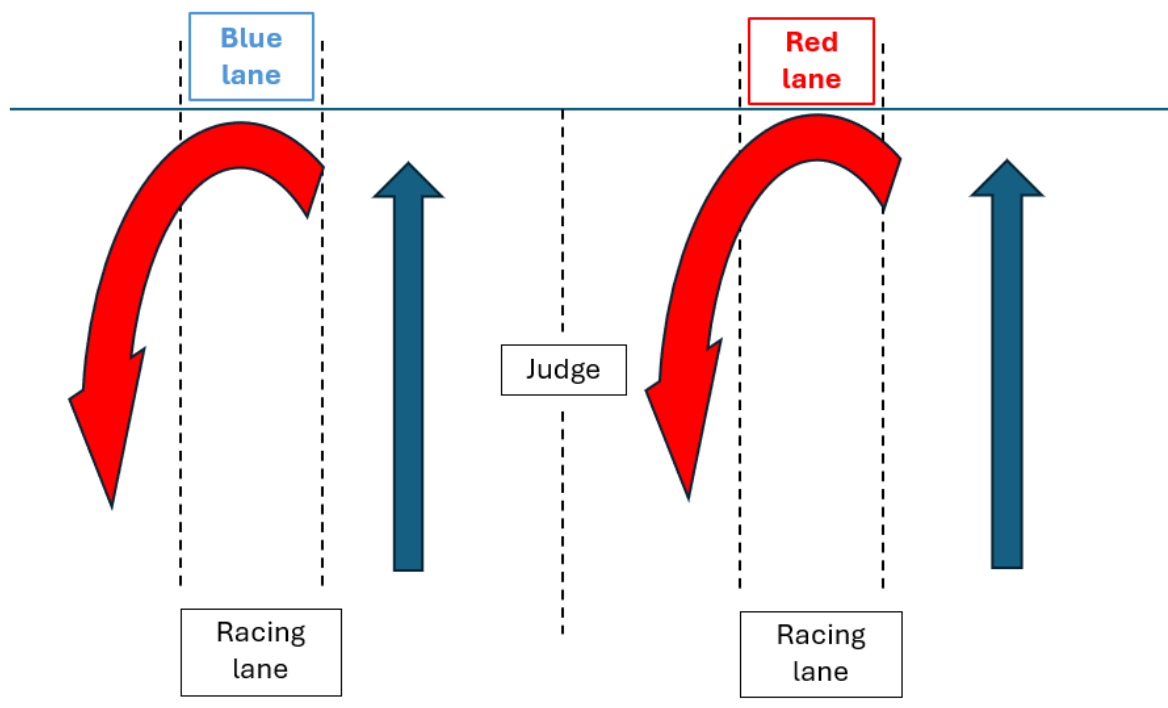
Running in and stepping out of the way:

Running in 
Stepping out of the way 



Running in and running back:

Running in 
Running back 



A.2 Rules for Competition.

7.1 Team Equipment.

Team captains should ensure that any balls fired from their boxes will travel at least 12” from the box cup. If, when checked, boxes do not conform to this rule, the box, or the hole failing to comply, cannot be used in the competition.

Team captains must ensure all boxes to be used in competition that day are presented at the ring at the time specified by the TO so they can be checked.

A.3. Rules of Racing

3. The Start

If the start dog crosses the line early the Divisional judge will not stop racing for the first false start – there will be no need for yellow pegs. The dog must run again for the team to complete. The line judge will leave the fault light on until the dog has been re-run. Team captains may ask the Divisional Judge for a count down sequence during the warm up time.

A.3 Rules of Racing

6. Box Malfunction

If a box malfunctions in a race and the box is adjusted, the divisional judge must check that the ball still fires at least 12” from the box cup in a forward direction, immediately after the adjustment.

A.3 Rules of racing

10. The Finish

Where three or more teams tie on points, the tournament organiser must ensure that placings are made based on the fastest times (excluding breakout times). If the times are the same, the second fastest times will be used, or subsequent times until there is a time difference between the teams.

JUDGING AND RING PARTY

Section B

To maintain Qualified Judge status, judges must be current members, attend at least one Head Judges’ and Qualified Judges’ Seminar provided by the BFA in the last two years and complete 3 divisional judging assignments per calendar year. The judging assignments may include the supervision of a Provisional Judge. They must also complete a Judges Survey Questionnaire published by the Judges Board. Judges Survey questionnaires will be published following new rule-changes. Responses must be submitted within the timeframe specified on the questionnaire. For a newly qualified Judge, this requirement starts from the first Judges Survey Questionnaire published after Qualification.

If a Qualified Judge does not complete the requirements, they must retake the judge’s exam, be supervised once for a full division on each of the ring party duties, and twice for a full division judging whilst being supervised by a head judge, before they can regain Qualified Judges status.

Measuring process.

Section C

C.1 Dog master height list requirements

Measuring officials cannot provide test measurements at a competition. All dogs measured must be recorded. Team captains and handlers should prepare dogs for the measuring process by getting them used to being handled by people they are not familiar with. Handling of the front legs may be practiced for ulna measures and the dog should practice being able to stand with a ruler or slat placed on their withers, for withers measurements.

Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures Section F

“Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures

Members are referred to the Complaints and Disciplinary Policy where full details may be found.”

Complaints arising at a competition.

If team captains or team members have a complaint they should initially raise this with the Head Judge or Deputy Head Judge. The Head Judge or Deputy Head Judge will explore the situation with all parties concerned and try to resolve the issue, Both the Head Judge/Deputy Head Judge and the member making the complaint must then complete and submit the online Complaints Form describing what actions have been taken and what any resolutions were.