



British Flyball Association

British Flyball Association Annual General Meeting 2018 Minutes

1. Chairperson's opening speech

Welcome to the BFA AGM 2018, and thank you all for attending.

After many years at our previous venue, we are about to commence this AGM here at Heath Lodge School. Many thanks to Ellen Stewart for offering her school for the AGM.

We have a very full agenda today, and I am sure that there will be some proposals that generate much discussion and debate. This is something that we actively encourage, as it allows members to share thoughts and ideas. However, we do have to be mindful of the time, so that we do, not only get through the agenda, but ensure that there are times for tea breaks and a lunch break as many members will have bought dogs along with them, and these will need to be exercised and checked upon.

It is important that members have the opportunity to raise points and ask questions.

Therefore, you may only have one chance to speak on proposals, so please aim to cover all the points and questions at that time.

Any discussion can be lively and we are entitled to form our own opinions from which we make our voting choice. A healthy discussion can be just that, without impoliteness or disrespect toward others. It is expected that members are allowed to speak without being interrupted, and respect, tolerance and courtesy are shown to each other throughout the day. It's important that we all get to speak and it's equally important that members are able to speak in an environment that reflects the ethics that BFA members are expected to conduct themselves.

It has been a very interesting year for the committee, with experiences that were very good, some not so good and some pretty ugly. Like in life itself, the best way to address the events that make such experiences, is to reflect, learn, acknowledge the negatives, embrace the positives and move forward with strength, purpose and confidence in your peers and the future of the Association.

As a committee, we continue to work on behalf of the BFA to promote, protect and encourage it's growth and development. We are 8 different people, with different

experiences, professions, skill sets and ideas. These have proved to be the right blend to enable us to ride the rollercoaster of committee life – with some staying on for the next ride. We are all here on the committee because we are all proud of the Association, it's members and the fantastic progress and development of the BFA – we've come along way in the past few years

- First Association in Europe to introduce Tuff Spun surface and staggered format
- One of the only Associations to offer 2 national championships, providing opportunities for all members to compete in a championships
- First Association to introduce a veterinary advisor
- Introduction of measuring officials
- Accessibility Advisor

We introduced the Rules Working Party, drawing on the skills and experience from BFA members, to review the rule book and generate ideas on how to have a rule book to reflect the Association how it stands now and moving forward into the future. As a committee, we believe that by embracing and utilising the knowledge within the membership, this allows the membership to take ownership of how the sport of flyball is played within the BFA. Members not on working parties still have the opportunity to influence how the sport is played by submitting proposals and the membership voting on these – that's the beauty of the democratic process.

It's easier to focus on the negatives, but by looking back at the closed door, you miss the open door in front and the opportunities that are waiting beyond.

So, enjoy the day, meet up with those you don't often see, listen to all viewpoints and vote –remember that your vote is for the Association as a whole, not based on individual teams or dogs. New rules voted in should reflect how we wish to play this sport and enable all to continue the enjoyment, friendships and racing that we all experience throughout the year.

Reminder – you have to vote today via voting paper. You will not be offered an online vote. As published, we are only discussing the agenda items.

- 2. Apologies** received from: David Warren, Fiona Chester, Val Stevens, Sharon Wise, Emily Murdoch, Magda Whiteley, Zoe Colling, Peter Bradburn, Jo Johnson, Chris Foxtton, Chloe Allcorn, Steph Gregan, Terry Condra, June Smele, Maria Casley, Margaret Cousins.

3. Minutes of last AGM – 2nd April 2017

Minutes of the last meeting accepted as an accurate record and signed by Sharon Allcorn, BFA Chair, in the presence of the attending membership.

4. Acceptance of Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing

The Constitution and Rules of Flyball Racing, as voted upon were accepted by the membership present and came into effect on this day, 21st April 2018.

5. Concise reports for the year 2017/2018 by:

BFA Officials

Chairperson – Sharon Allcorn (as noted above included in the opening speech)

Secretary – Rachel Short

The BFA has had a busy year, with many changes in the last 12 months.

First of all a massive thank you to all BFA Officials from the committee, and on behalf of the membership, for all the hard work you do, it does not go un-noticed.

We have seen some changes in BFA Officials

Following the EGM the committee had 6 members so 3 new committee members were co-opted: Jenni Wallace, Will Whiteley and myself. Thank you for accepting the offer of coming onto the committee, we have all liked it that much we have decided to stay 😊
Height Co-ordinator – Kate Sermon has taken over with an updated spreadsheet and Stats Officer – Emma Foxton. A massive role within the association and also a new system of validation has made Emma's job easier, but also not without its challenges. Huge thank you to Ron & Vera who have handed over the stats baton to Emma, Ron & Vera worked incredibly hard at keeping the points as up to date as humanly possible.

Judges Board have been joined by Chris Mace and Andrew Worrall to work with Alicia, Craig, Alison & Jason at constantly looking to improve judging standards and holding several judging seminars and a measuring seminar across the country.

Regional representatives have been joined by Chloe Allcorn and Jeannette Shelley. My fellow representatives and I thank you both for joining us. Big shout out to the reps for their continued work across the country.

Veterinary advisor is now Vicky Fraser, who has replaced Kate Gilding. Many thanks to them both for their advice and support

New Lights co-ordinator – Dave Long, who has returned to his previous role – must be a glutton for punishment

Our first ever Accessibility Advisor – Kerena Marchant, who has done an incredible job so far, the work she has put into the venue here and ensuring accessibility options has been invaluable. We have BSL interpreters and ballot papers in large print.

Webmaster – Ali Kirk, who has taken over from Ray Lewis since the migration to the new website. Both have worked hard, alongside Reece Marsland, to ensure we are providing a website fit for purpose. Hats off to the clever I.T. people.

And to Tony James, our previous secretary who has worked with integrity and honesty during his time on the committee, Mr Moneybags you are going to take some living up to. Those who continue to work tirelessly for the BFA are:

Pat Wadby, our membership secretary, who must get nearly as many emails as me (most of them probably signposted from me – sorry Pat)

Jeff Hughes, our awards secretary who continues to provide us with our certificates and glass awards in a timely manner

Lisa Ashwood, who works with us as media officer on all our promotional tasks

Also, a huge thank you to all the Head Judges, Judges, Measuring Officials and Tournament Organisers, without whom we would not be able to enjoy this fabulous sport with our human and canine friends.

The last 12 months has seen just under 500 new BFA members apply to join the association
Our current membership stands at just under 3000 members

We have received 3 official complaints.

EGM held in October 2017

We have formed 2 DSCs

4 BFA members have been suspended for varying lengths of time

1 BFA member has received a lifetime ban which also resulted in the de-registration of a team

British Flyball Champs saw:

Outdoor: 288 teams raced (compared to 280 in 2016) with The Jets Division 1 Champions

Indoor: 91 teams raced (compared to 72 in 2016) with WOW A Division 1 Champions

New British record set at indoor champs of 15.05 by WOW A

Since joining the committee as a co-opted member we have had weekly Skype meetings, held 3 Face to Face meetings and formed the rules working party, all part of working hard to move the association forward.

In the short space of time I have been secretary (3 weeks) there have been 71 email threads. As a committee we are working as hard as ever so please bear with us if we take a little longer than anticipated to answer your emails.

Treasurer – Val Currie

Before I begin my report proper, I would like to point out that all the amounts on the balance sheet are ex VAT. When I enter the breakdown amounts on the spreadsheet, they have to be the amounts less VAT and are summarised from there.

As the Association continues to move forward , the new website has given us the opportunity to change our system for taking membership renewals. It was decided that PayPal would give a more user friendly system than the original. It's easy to set up they said, well yes it is in some ways! Members certainly seem to find it easier and there have been very few refunds to be made. Unfortunately although I suspect small businesses find it fine, as an Association we have had to go through more hoops from an administration point of view. This took some while to accomplish, consequently although membership fees were coming in apace, they remained sitting in PayPal until the New Year waiting for me to be allowed to transfer the monies into the BFA account. Thus the membership fees that normally arrive in December (when renewals open) will be in next year's figures.

I'm aware that members have felt that there have been less tournaments available during 2017 but we have seen an increase in our income, possibly due to some increases in entries in some cases? The Committee decided to keep the racing fees to £2 per team racing and not add the VAT in order to encourage new tournament organisers. This of course means that the BFA receives 33p less per team racing as VAT still has to be paid to HMRC. It doesn't 'belong' to us, it belongs to HMRC. It remains to be seen what 2018 brings in, some regular tournaments have been lost but it's good to see new tournament organisers stepping into the breach, sometimes with new venues which is always a good thing but some other venues are being used more. Another bonus is a resurgence of the Flyball spirit with teams co-hosting tournaments, with either new venues or the use of existing.

During 2017 more of the lights systems held privately have been used thus the BFA sets have not been used as much and consequently there have been less expenses needed. It is logical to hire lights from Teams with their own that are attending your tournament, however teams that have privately owned sets do not have large enough incomes to require

them to register for VAT thus their fee is less. It does mean that some of these sets are beginning to develop the occasional faults which the owning teams have to finance. With no new light sets due to arrive during the year and very little maintenance to do the costs have been very slight.

Four complaints have been received this year with refunds given where appropriate. This seems a good point to explain how refunds work in the balance sheet. When we refund, although it's logged on the spreadsheet in a refunds column (this may change) but for balance sheet purposes the amount refunded is taken off the income as it's money the BFA no longer has.

As stated last year I have separated the Committee and Association expenses, which together they total £10,777.64. This is £3393.30 less than last year's total.

Website costs have inevitably risen as we updated. We have been having dual hosting of the two websites (old and new) so that there was still access to both during the updating time with data etc having to be moved gradually from the old to the new.

The awards remain at roughly the same level, there has been no increase in the cost of the glass blocks for milestone awards.

The Outdoor Championships saw the introduction of a traffic light system for crossing the road from the B camping field to the event field at a very modest cost for the safety of our members of £500 and appears to be welcomed by members. We also purchased an event shelter for the First Aid team (£203.92) as the expected division in the big marquee wasn't forthcoming as expected and will no doubt be used for other purposes as required.

In 2016 we were unable to use our normal toilet providers but with a return to our original providers we paid £2144.10 less.

The marquee was a little smaller this year but actually gave us better use of the space and the bonus was a small reduction of £1153.58.

Although we still use the same First Aid providers they have become a new company with the same personnel, however costs are now more.

The PA system was slightly less as we were not able to have the big tower in field A, it being deemed too noisy.

Other items were around the same prices as last year with small increases which of course all add up.

Two items of equipment were purchased this year both for the Outdoor Champs, one concluding the purchase of backboards and the other being the event shelter mentioned previously.

The teams that withdrew from the indoor Champs reduced our income by £915.83 plus having to use a courier service to collect the rosettes from where they had previously been stored and then deliver them to Newark at a cost of £127.80. This makes the approximate deficit from last year to this more or less the same.

The cost of the venue remained the same as last year.

The Judges board have held more seminars this year and have expanded the area's in which they are held. One being in Scotland and another being at Padworth with the inevitable one at Wythall.

Due to so many members wishing to attend the EGM we had to move the venue to accommodate everyone (and even then more than expected arrived) which increased the venue costs. An independent chairperson was sourced and obviously was paid for his services. However all in all there wasn't an enormous cost to the association. Following the outcome of the meeting, it was necessary to retrieve items belonging to the Association, the most efficient way to do this was by use of a courier.

Bank charges were slightly lower this year. Paypal do charge a small amount for each transaction, so we will have to see if there's any change.

Paying the VAT is a little complicated as the returns cover a three month period, the return is submitted by the end of the following month and actually paid the month after that! So our end of year payment is actually taken out of the BFA account in the following year. As I have set up a direct debit during the year so that HMRC take the payment from the current account this means that the amount in the VAT account then remained stable as I have no need to transfer money in order to pay.

Webmaster – Ali Kirk

Ali talked through a presentation about the new website and subsequent validation checks (see attached)

6. AGM Proposals

All rule proposals are listed in rule number order. This summary is to enable members who did not attend the AGM to have an insight into the discussions surrounding the proposals. Please note that SEVEN proposals were amended during the course of the AGM, **these are highlighted in yellow**

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.

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion:

- asked about insurance if weights being lifted. Proposer stated the weights are to be provided but do not have to be used, wants dogs and boxloaders to be safe.
- all shows should have insurance which would cover for public liability.
- Suggested “safe handling guide” to lifting weights on notice board

Proceeded to vote

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

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

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 rule has been condensed as there is no difference in number of races per ring regardless of format.

Discussion: no questions/comments

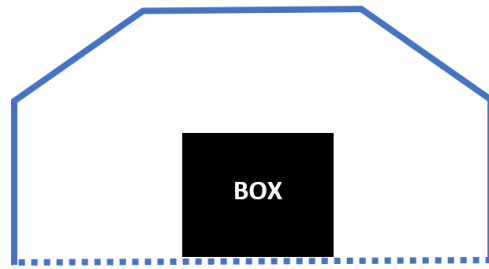
Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

Proposal 7 – This proposal was amended at the AGM

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.

Discussion:

- regards jump width, is it really dog safety, concerns re going from 24-30 is going to cause more hazards than will fix, 3 crashes in last 7 years, seen dogs cross within 24" dogs, see jumps knocked down more frequently, is it safety? We need to be doing for the right reasons. If minimum of 24" or max 30" needs to be fixed rather than adjustable. If goes through, would like to see not implemented immediately as only a few people make jumps.
- we need it to be fixed width, worried about pulling dogs in is a training issue
- dog confidence if passing within jumps, less confident dogs would run out, wider jumps may make it harder for a less confident dog to run out
- If wider then slats go wider and if slats ping out then bigger space for dogs to get legs stuck in. Is it worth the risk? We've seen the wider slats pinging
- 30" with 12' centre would be problematic as there would be no run out space for dogs with lights in centre of race lanes. Sensors would need to be adjusted?
- Runs a larger dog that takes most of the lane, feels wider jumps would be better for dogs to be able to pass
- no right or wrong answer. What about doing a study/pilot to see what would work, what wouldn't? Working party to get it right first time.
- doing flyball for 10 years, seen one collision over a jump but seen 2 of her dogs have a collision in the start gate at 4' wide. Where do we draw the line?
- would there be a possibility of an amendment to set the width rather than adjustable?
- main objection to the change isn't the width but the surface area. 30" increased the size of slat by 25%, indoors not so much a problem, outdoors more of a problem, jumps may be pegged if so unstable and this is much more of a hazard. Cost issue to all TOs and clubs. Every club has to change jumps
- jumps being changed and cost implication should not be a consideration if regarding dog safety
- any evidence that it is safer? – LA – no but have seen more than one crash
- finances shouldn't be an issue with regards to dog safety. We need to make sure that we do it right first time before spending money and realising it wasn't the right thing to do
- concerns about weight of jumps. More crashes in start gate than in the lane, slats pinging out and catching legs within slats, jumps falling on dogs would be a concern. Would like a study done, ?call upon vet advisor
- LA are you happy to amend to change jump to fixed 30" jumps? LA – YES
- can we change the proposal that much? A – yes as the proposer is present

Reworded proposal

7.2 Rule proposal: 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 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.

Rewording read out and agreed by proposer

Proceeded to vote

A.2. Rules for Competition

Proposal 8 This proposal was amended at the AGM

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.

Discussion:

- the problem with 6' is that smoke / vapour are airborne and carried by the wind into the ring anyway. Suggest an amendment "not permitted where it will blow into the ring"
- can't see how it can be policed, how can you stop someone smoking next to the ring?
- the same as you stop people in public places
- don't think you can do as suggested as the wind might change direction or start blowing. How do you police as a big outdoor show?
- as a smoking member it is about being a responsible, considerate smoker. Previously had smoking circles for smokers to go to
- concentrating on rings but many smoke at presentation
- designated smoking area
- as a smoker I take myself out of the way, we mentioned a designated area but will it start to affect camping areas if people complain? Suggest a designated distance from the ring and no smoking at presentation.

- Distance and designated area
- would be people be happy to have a designated area?
- if designated area it probably won't go through as people will feel aggrieved at having to leave racing. A designated distance
- As a vaper (ex-smoker) it would be hard for me to stand with the smokers
- would EF be happy to change to 15-20' within ring?
- doesn't mention presentation in this part of the rule. Could be on TO schedule
- why not just "within or around" the ring
- nothing to stop TOs putting their own rules in the schedule
- Rule amended as below by EF

Reworded proposal

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 15 feet of the flyball ring during competitions.

Rewording read out and agreed by proposer

Proceed to vote

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 1st April 2016 so it is free to race with Team B on 1st October 2016). The owner/handler must inform the membership secretary of any such change.

The only exceptions are:

- REMOVE Multiple entries of the same Team Registration Number.**
- A dog prohibited from competing with an existing Team.
- The handler/dog has moved to another area and their previous Team accepts the transfer.
- Their previous Team has dissolved, and the Membership Secretary has been informed.
- 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.

Discussion:

- when does the 6 months start? Is it from when a dog gets points?
- when the dog is on a team sheet.
- as ex-membership sec/ex-committee. It was always intended the individual contacted the membership secretary to inform them of the move and the six months started then
- Validation check on website will only pick up on when the dog has raced.

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion:

- if I have two dogs who normally share a spot would not be able to have me as handler for both
- all it says is responsible member, no change to rule, just moved from a different area.

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion

- **currently all C2s are returned before racing starts, this states division.**

- Explained that this has not changed from current rule.
- we don't always have a set boxloader.
- clarified it is your intended boxloader
- small team, 5 dogs and handlers and often a handler ends up being boxloader when their dog isn't racing – clarified this is ok to have boxloader and handler as same person
- part of the rule states C2 details cannot be changed.
- need to go to HJ to change
- putting boxloader on is a validation check, where do you stop? Line person, video, ball shagger?
- boxloader is a necessary member of the team

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion: no questions/comments. Simply a move of a rule to make more chronological
Proceeded to vote

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

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

A.3. Rules of Racing

Proposal 14 This proposal was amended at the AGM

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.

Discussion

- does the dog have to trigger with it's front feet or back feet?
- as long as the dog triggers to release the ball – it is unlikely to do this with it's back feet.
- feels the rules should stay as it is.....the start line is an infinite line.
- the difference between indoor and outdoor racing means that the start line is not consistent. Indoor between sensors, outdoors the width of the ring
- the white line is there to judge spat balls
- no current light system is going to judge a spat ball. Line judge is always going to have to call if a dog runs out and whether the incoming dog was early
- an unfair advantage as if the first dog doesn't come through the start gate then the rest of the team can't run so can rest their dogs.
- as long as the dog which has run out passes the gate the next dog can go
- need line in as well. Clarified that line is in the next sentence
- if lights fail and no gates. Advised would use something alternate (stakes etc) as gates.

Proposal reworded and agreed by proposer

Reworded proposal

5. Amended: *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 **REMOVE the start/finish line** **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).*

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion:

- concerns about integrity of the jump, stability
- asked why extra strengthening needed. A - it is a modification that you could add for more stability. Q - can't tell if the stability is because of the blocks as not the same on both jumps, only on 24" wide
- concern is dropping the height by another 1" affects every single dog in the association. The other proposal about dropping main height. Agility has set heights and if dog is not able to jump then it does not compete. Asked if proposer would be happy to have a trial/assessment period. Proposer doesn't think

necessary

- stated that this proposal does not affect all dogs, only the small dogs
- Current baseboards are 5.5", if this goes through the baseboards would have to be 4.5", the 6" jump wobbles more and there are 2 jump makers in the room who cannot agree
- So dog welfare will support this rule. We are penalising the very small dogs, not accepting them into the sport. We keep reducing the height for bigger dogs
- not penalising, people run their dogs knowing the minimum height is 7". If the dog can't meet the height, should they do the sport?
- inclusivity is a big thing in our sport, agrees we can't keep reducing the height down. Has a dog who would measure 5", only trained at 6" as will run out over 7".
- stability for racing more of a concern outdoors, consider the ground whether at 7" or 6" the jumps may be blown over. Reducing the jumps will benefit the smaller dogs for a change.
- if dog can't comfortably clear 7" it shouldn't be doing flyball. I don't like FH dogs over 14" but don't think 12" is enough. If can run over 12" and not need a height dog, what is the value of height dogs. You need a balance. Feel we should have to have a height dog that is capable of running over the jump
- contradicted himself, states if a small dog can't clear 7" but then says he doesn't like dogs over 14". if last div, 7" dog might be running over theoretically higher height if there are grooves in the floor
- where do we draw the line? Next year someone might come along with a smaller dog
- jumps look relatively stable, personally wouldn't put some dogs over 6", Chihuahua who would measure 4.5" but can clear 7" without a problem.
- the teams considering dropping heights, have they considered changing the holes on the box
- height dog brings the jumps down for bigger dogs. If they can prove jump stable then why not keep reducing height. Small dogs lose momentum in the way they jump.
- look at jumps and where they are cut makes the weak point, if the uprights slide over a solid baseboard, rather than the baseboard slotting in, the weak point is not there

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

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

Discussion

- **when a small team it can sometimes be difficult to have different judges as always down for own team judge as ring party**
- **we have 3 QJs in our team and it might be difficult to have PJs get logbook signed.**
- **states that can RP for other teams**
- **ask HJ to watch and sign**
- **received a message from a member asking to do RP for her in advance of competition. As ex- JB member, the JB need to see comments from several different people to ensure the candidate has more experience, see the same comments from the same people does not help the JB make a decision**

Proceeded to vote

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 will be issued.

Proposed by – The BFA Judges Board

Explanation

Applicants apply to the judges board to become a measuring official

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

MEASURING PROCESS

Section C

Proposal 19 This proposal was amended at the AGM

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

Discussion

- Judges Board suggested reword immediately. We don't want to dwell on the past but need to learn from the past.

Reworded proposal

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 One of these measures must be video recorded and then submitted to the judges

board, for future reference.

- agree with proposal but who will be responsible for the videoing
- who will be review the videos? If JB are they all MO/HJ – Yes
- carry lights and a laser, would need to then be issued with a GoPro. Who is responsible for downloading the video? If lights custodian then concerns around not always getting measuring equipment back, losing SD card, just things to consider.
- would this need to be done for all dogs who have a height card? Answer – no, just for those who are still going through process
- would like to see an amendment that the camera should be fixed in order to not have any variation in video angles when filming
- what if borderline measure? Measure recorded is 8” but it ends up getting a 7” card there is possibility of challenge
- video for checking and reference in case of future complaint. We are speaking too much about details when this is really about voting yes or no to the video being taken.

Reworded proposal accepted by proposer

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion

- 1 SA clarified that this is simply about whether we want height cards back
- 2 If a height is challenged and you can't access master sheet then how do you check? CB Record sheet states height card should be produced.
- 3 Vote

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.

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

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

Discussion:

- **concerns regarding Scottish teams as not many measurers**
- **it won't work in Scotland**
- **English teams travel to Scotland and vice versa.**
- **Don't have to be measured at a tournament**

Proceeded to vote

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 wither, 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.

Discussion

- do all dogs who measured 12 or more need to be measured?
 - Clarified that any dog who did not have 3 measures at the same height would need to be continued to be measured
 - Much of this discussion was included in proposal 15
- Proceeded to vote

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 This proposal was amended at the AGM

- 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.

Discussion

- a dog who has a height card for 5 years and someone holds a grudge and the dog has built up muscle it may measure higher.
- only once per dog suggested
- once videos are in the process these can be reviewed in relation to a concern
- could it be that only complaints can be considered from members. Discussed about concerns from HJ/MO being acceptable
- added that HCC may notice anomalies. Amendment suggested

Reworded proposal

a. 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 from a member, or concerns from Head Judge/Measuring Official/Height Co-ordinator regarding measuring, reserve the right to challenge a dog's height and request further information and a re-measure, if deemed appropriate. Only one challenge per dog.

Reworded proposal accepted by proposer

Proceeded to vote

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

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

Proposal 25

C.3. Appeals

3.3 If the Committee agree to a re-measure, 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.

Discussion:

- will the video equipment be provided by BFA rather than on phone
- if passed, equipment will be provided by BFA

Proceeded to vote

DOG WELFARE AND VETERINARY GUIDANCE

Section D

Proposal 26 This proposal was amended at the AGM

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

Discussion

1. Amendment due to comment from Rules Working Group to allow for any change in legislation

D.1. General dog welfare

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, or any subsequent legislation regarding animal welfare, 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:

- f. For a suitable environment (place to live)
- g. For a suitable diet
- h. To exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- i. To be housed with, or apart from, other animals REMOVE (if applicable) ADD (as appropriate)
- j. To be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease

Reword accepted by proposer
Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion: no questions/comments
Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion: no questions/comments

Proceeded to vote

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).

Discussion

- plenty of puppies bred and always taken to tournaments, never any issues and feels the puppies have benefitted from being at shows
- concerns that the puppies needs are not being met, access to clean bedding, hygiene, temperature management etc
- not everyone is as careful with their puppies, at a show in the past she has known a puppy pen have a puppy removed by a passer by.
- breeders responsibility for their puppies, if anything happened to them it would be breeders responsibility. Not sure we have to have a rule for this when puppy care is the breeders responsibility
- have to legislate for the lowest point
- suggests that amendment to puppies not permitted in racing area, more responsibility placed on breeder so that the minority do not affect the sensible actions of the majority
- challenged SA point that it more about someone stealing a dog. SA states that it was more about the puppies being left unsupervised
- where does the line get drawn, if BFA responsibility then do children come under that?
- how does it get policed?
- is there a cut off age on when the risks are lowered regarding KC and other infectious diseases? Welfare – more likely to have issues if exposed to
- if puppies left at home and competing dogs go to show, there is still risk of taking KC home.
- habituation starts as early as 4 weeks, most puppies at flyball are likely to do the sport. Feels benefits outweigh the risks and responsibility of breeder
- Proposer wishes to leave proposal as written

Proceeded to vote

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).

Discussion

- if sold 4 out of 5 puppies sold, can I not bring the other one.
- cannot be actively sold/advertised

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion

1. Concern that rules states alopecia and her dog has alopecia that is not contagious.
2. Clarified that this is one of the potential contagious diseases as could be scabies.
3. have letter from vet.....proposer suggests that would be a good idea
4. can also contact committee who can make Vet Advisor aware that not contagious disease

Proceeded to vote

POINTS AND AWARDS

Section E

Proposal 33 This proposal was amended at the AGM

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.

Discussion

- agree but don't, like idea of the slower teams getting more points. When getting <20 secs they are getting 20 points so reducing points they currently getting. Should get same as current, others should get 30 points. Slower teams should get 10 points
- if increase slower teams points may devalue others.
- I think every dog deserves 25 points and should get extra for winning a division. Any additional points for div wins etc won't be added in today
- amendment of scale
 - under 18 seconds = 30 points
 - under 21 seconds = 25 points
 - under 24 seconds = 20 points
 - under 27 seconds = 15 points
 - under 30 seconds = 10 points
- devaluing teams who run 21-21.99
- what about teams going under 15 secs? Proposer declined this option.

Reworded proposal accepted by proposer with new scale of points

Reworded proposal

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 18 seconds = 30 points
- under 21 seconds = 25 points
- under 24 seconds = 20 points
- under 27 seconds = 15 points
- under 30 seconds = 10 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.

Proceeded to vote

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).*

Discussion:

- if a BFA member is banned and others are running dogs does this affect that.
- stated that the new website makes it easier to have a handler (the person whose name is on the certificate) in addition to owner

Proceeded to vote

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.

Discussion

- **if a team gets interfered with and the combo never run again do they get no time**
- **Penalising the dogs when not their problem. Can points be allocated based on seed time?**
- **can't allocate points when not sure what the time would have been**
- **how many times does a team get AVG 4 in a day?**
- **very rare that a team would go all day and not get a time**
- **this happens.....it's hard luck, it happens rarely, it can affect potential club records etc.**
- **if new dog and new handler and they start losing points they might stop coming but experienced handlers might not be so bothered**

Proceeded to vote

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

Discussion

- if this is now being proposed, does that mean it has never been in the rules and can there be an amnesty and reallocation of points to those teams who have lost their points?
- Reference was made to the rules quoted in webmaster presentation which states that not completing information is against the rules. These have always been in the rules, therefore no amnesty.

Proceeded to vote

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 1st 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

Discussion

- who has asked for it to be removed?
- Eileen Hodge

Proceeded to vote

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 31st December each year to avoid the £10 late fee. There will be no one month grace period. 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.

GDPR – General data Protection Regulations – due to new data protection regulations, the BFA will be ensuring it acts in line with this.

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

The BFA Committee following the AGM is made up of the following BFA members:

Sharon Allcorn

Katie Burns

Craig Burrows

Val Currie

David Murdoch

Justin Shearing

Rachel Short
Jenni Wallace
Will Whiteley

9. Presentations of Annual Awards for 2017

Flyball Open Team of the Year

1st	WOW A	15.05 seconds	Indoor Championships 30/9/17
	Icon, Tactic, Oz, Nimbus,		
2nd	Aces	15.25 seconds	Indoor Championships 30/9/17
	Amber, Ella, Shoots, Hustle		
3rd	Critical Impact	15.30 seconds	Indoor Championships 30/9/17
	Lunatic, Flame, Orb, Ripple		

Flyball Multibreed Team of the Year

1st	Aces High Multi	15.65 seconds	NSRA Bisley 28/8/17
	Nano, Amber, Senka, Hustle		

Claire Gristwood Award (JRT of the Year – Open Points)

1st	Tia owned by Rachael Minnikin	Commandos	7530 points
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Tony Hodge Award (SBT of the Year – Open Points)

1st	Lady owned by Sam Bawden	Mad Mutts	4235 points
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(This award had already been withdrawn prior to the AGM)

10. Chairperson's closing speech.

Thank you all very much for attending, there has been some great discussions, great ideas, all shared in a friendly manner with many laughs along the way. There are those who say that the spirit of flyball has gone - I would say that the flyball spirit is still very much there but some chose to look in the other direction. There has been many changes in the last 12 months – there is another organisation and this is a good for the sport and it provides a choice, again a positive thing. However, we are proud of our association and all of it's members, we are proud of our history, we are proud of the achievements and we proud of where we are going in the future and it's important that we keep our own identity, whilst being part of global flyball.

Enjoy the rest of the flyballing year, safe journey home and we will see you all on the circuit.



BFA Website - 2018 Update

Looking Back



- New website launched 30-3-17
- Feedback and tweaks
 - Much has been implemented
 - Some still outstanding
- 6 months bedding in/debugging/getting used to it

Looking Back



- Oct started work on first major project moving online renewals 'in-house'
- Went live on Dec 4th with new system
 - To date handled approx. 1600 completed transactions with minimal issues
 - Largely positive feedback from members
 - Vast improvement over previous in an administrative sense

Points Validation



- Automated membership process now meant offline database/stats laptop system used for the points calc & validation process useless as of 1st Jan
- Ron and Vera had of course also informed in Nov of their intention to retire at end of 2017
- Dec – Jan therefore opportune time (necessity!) to bring the points C&V process onto website

Points Validation



- Old system had some limited checks :
 - Team details
 - Captain's details
 - Dog's details and owner details based on dog's number (nothing on handlers)
 - Breeds (MB)

...but relied heavily on manual inputting and checking

Points Validation



- Brief worked to for new system was implementing validation checks for information on the C2's against all that was required by the rules, for racing in a sanctioned competition

Points Validation



The relevant rules therefore include:

- A.2.2 - Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during sanctioned competitions
- A.2.3.1 – Dogs must be at least 18 months of age for racing in sanctioned comps
- A.2.5.1 – Team Captain's must be a current member
- A.2.5.2 – Open or MB registered teams can only be used for their registered class
- A.2.5.4 – 6 month rule (moving teams)
- A.2.5.5 – Dogs must be BFA registered and handlers must be current members
- A.2.5.8 – Different breeds for MB
- A.2.6.3 – C2 completed before start of racing and to include team name and TRN, captain's name and BFA Number, dog's Names, BFA numbers, breeds and heights, and handler's names and BFA numbers
- E.1.1.1 - 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.

Points Validation



- What is now validated (autocompletes):
 - Team Name and TRN Match
 - Team is correct for class (Open or MB)
 - Captain's details (name and number match each other, current member, and against the registered team capt. for team)
 - Dog's Details (name, number and breed all match what's on record)
 - Dog's Age (old enough to be racing in open)
 - Owner is current member
 - Handler details (name, number, current member)
 - 6 Month rule
 - Breed combo (MB)

Points Validation



C.2 Time Sheet		BFA Rules and Policies apply		TO BE COMPLETED IN INK			
Tournament	Insert Tournament Name	Date	Insert Date				
Head Judge	Insert Head Judge Name	Host Team:	Insert Host Team				
Team	Team 2	Team Registration No:	0				
Captain	0	Captain's BFA Number	0				
	Dog	Dogs BFA No	Breed	Jump Height	Handler	Handler's BFA No	Points (BFA use only)
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

- Stickers made available in downloads
- Change of renewal period (27%)
- Access to members details (35%)

Server Issues



- Throughout the year, work on the site and implementing improvements has been hampered by server issues (crashes!)
- We worked with our (now old) host to try and increase resources to solve issues, but still had problems through no fault of theirs – they just weren't set up for what we required
- Also scope for improving hosting SLA if specific to a Drupal based site

Change of Host



- Earlier this year we therefore started exploring options and gathering quotes for moving to a Drupal hosting specialist provider
- We managed to procure a new provider that met our needs and subsequently the site was migrated to the new host's servers on the 5th April

Opportunities await!



- Since the move we are in a much better position to implement improvements and open up long-planned increased capabilities on the website including:
 - Archive pages live
 - User tweaks (search by surface, teams shown on list of MO's, QJ's & HJ's)
 - Dog points at each comp summary
 - **Members sign in - Profiles and details (will require email address per member!)**
 - Dog details (photos)
 - Captains Page (manage members, team page details - website etc)
 - Online entry
 - Division / Running order generators
 - Reminders for schedule release
 - Measuring Database incorporated

Farewell....sort of



- Whilst I am obviously standing down as a Committee member...
-I will still be staying on as webmaster
- My heartfelt thanks to some truly wonderful people who I've had the pleasure of working with