

European Flyball Championships

Rules of Racing

Policies & Procedures

Racing Schedules

version 1.12

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

When a translated version of the “EFC Rules of Racing” and “EFC Policies & Procedures” leaves room for another interpretation of these rules, this, the English version, is the definitive and binding version

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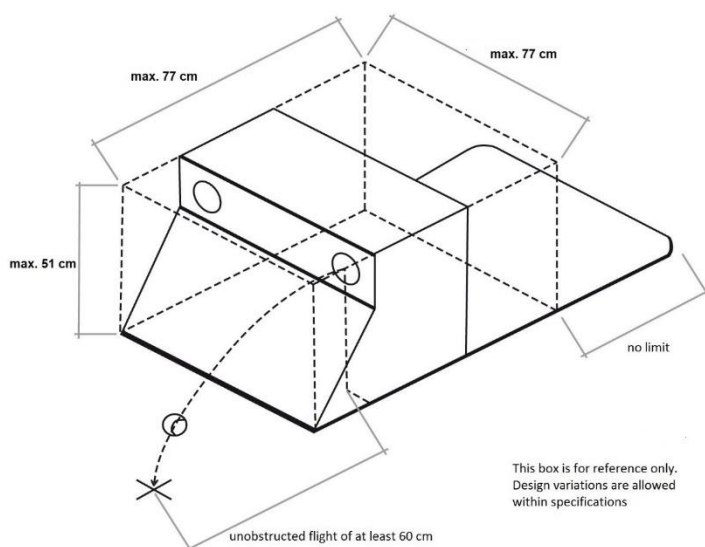
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Amendments or Additions in version 1.11 (March 2022)

1.1.1 Flyball boxes

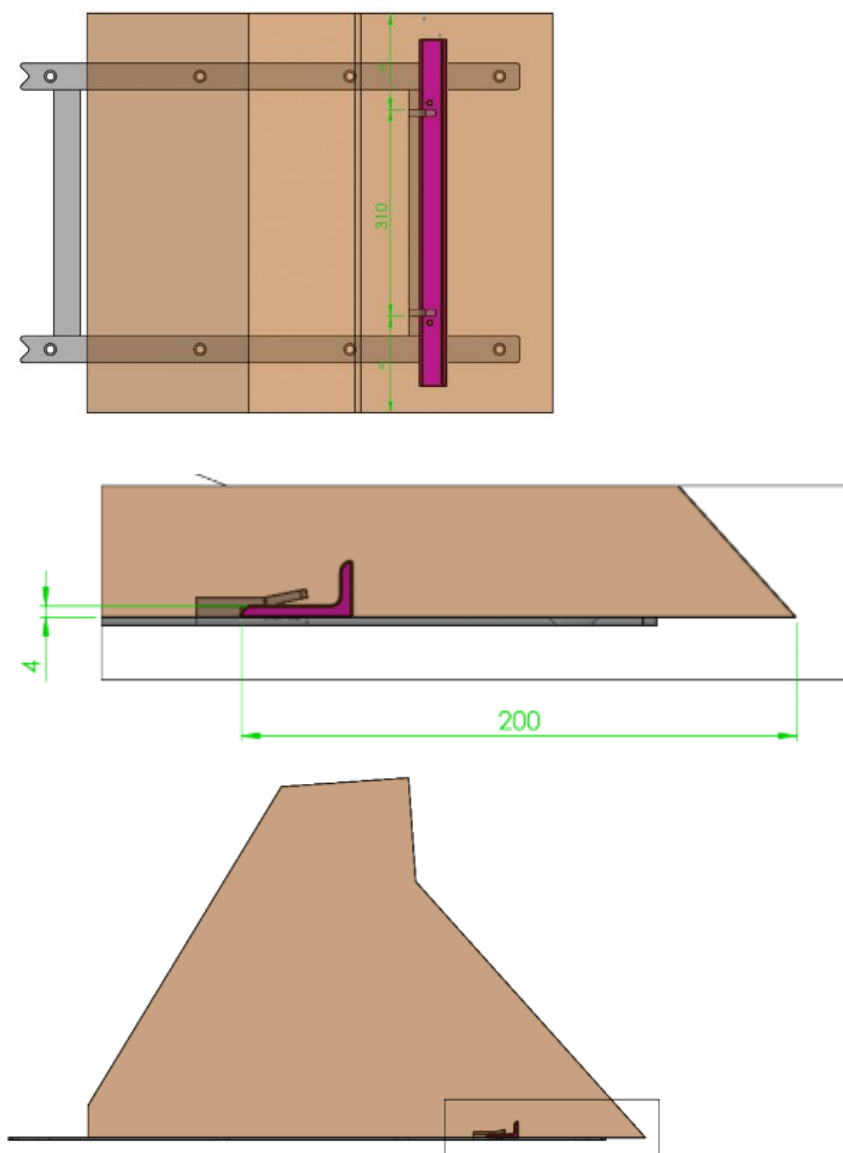
e) Boxes:

- Shall not exceed 77 cm in width, nor 51 cm in height from the bottom surface of the box excluding mat grabbing devices/materials and outdoor staking devices.
- The body of the box shall not exceed 77 cm in depth.
- The base of the box upon which the boxloader stands may exceed 77 cm in depth.
- Mat grabbing devices/materials shall not raise the box by more than 12,7 mm.
- The box shall not exceed these dimensions at any time during racing (including any permanent attachments to the box, i.e. carrying handles, cocking devices).



f) Box mounting frame:

- It is mandatory for the box to be able to fit onto the box mounting frame
- The EFC organiser is responsible to place the box mounting frame in such a way that it will be thoroughly secured in place so it will not move if dogs jump onto the box. And that the frame is in the centre line of the lane.
- It is recommended to design the box so it automatically aligns itself with the centre line of the box mounting frame.



1.2.3 Jumps

b) The jumps shall be white except for the uprights, which may be any colour. The jumps shall have an inside width of 61 77 cm, with uprights not more than 91,5 cm high, nor less than 61 cm high.

1.4 Measuring

g) A dog will be measured by at least two (2) judges. Each judge has to measure a different front limb. If there is any difference in the jump height result, both judges will switch sides. If it turns out that there is a clear difference, then the lowest jump height should be taken into account. If both judges keep measuring different jump heights, the dog should be measured by a third (3rd) judge for the final jump height. The result is only valid when it is measured by at least two (2) judges.

p) Before a dog can be measured it must be identified by its chip-id (or visible tattoo) and its European passport or vaccination card.

1.8.3 The heat

b) False start

- When a team makes a false start, the first dog of the team will get a fault light.
- Practice start: Only during their first two (2) races of the tournament, upon entering the ring, teams will be allowed to request a practice start from the judges before the warm-up period is over. The practice start will

take place immediately after the warm-up period and prior to the first heat of the race. Only one dog per team may run a practice start, props/training aids are not permitted during practice starts.

c) Box Malfunction:

The box loader shall indicate to the Head Judge when there is a box malfunction by standing in front of the box or by crossing their arms into an "X" above their head.

2.5 Code of ethics

j) The judges nor the participants will use stimulants (alcohol, drugs, etc) during the competition.

1 - RULES OF RACING

1.1 - EQUIPEMENT

1.1.1 - Flyball boxes

- a) Each team shall supply a Flyball box.
- b) All boxes are to have a mechanical (not electrical) mechanism.
- c) The boxes may be painted or decorated as the team wishes.
- d) The ball, when released, must have a free unobstructed flight of not less than 60 cm from the point that the ball is released, in the direction of the start/finish line from all holes.
- e) Boxes:

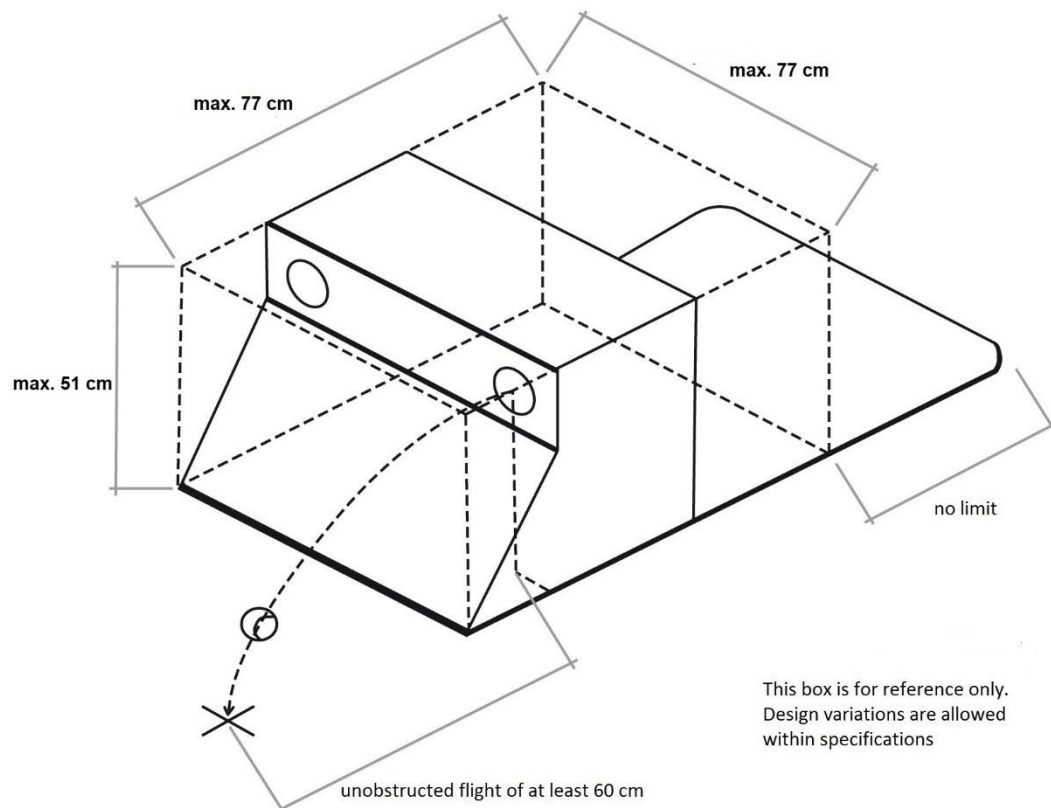
Shall not exceed 77 cm in width, nor 51 cm in height from the bottom surface of the box excluding mat grabbing devices/materials and outdoor staking devices.

The body of the box shall not exceed 77 cm in depth.

The base of the box upon which the boxloader stands may exceed 77 cm in depth.

Mat grabbing devices/materials shall not raise the box by more than 12,7 mm.

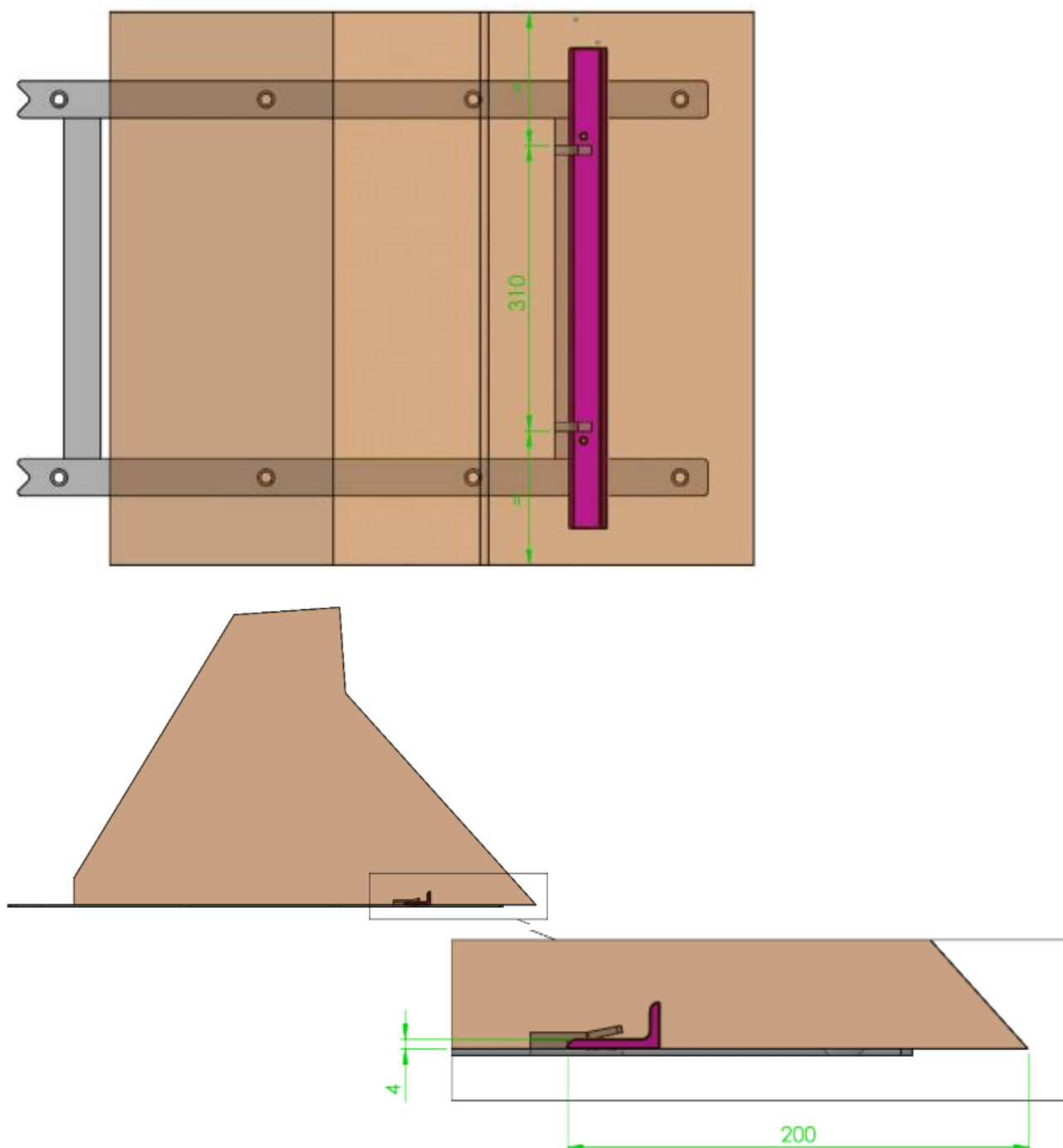
The box shall not exceed these dimensions at any time during racing (including any permanent attachments to the box, i.e. carrying handles, cocking devices).



- f) Box mounting frame:

- It is mandatory for the box to be able to fit onto the box mounting frame

- The EFC organiser is responsible to place the box mounting frame in such a way that it will be thoroughly secured in place so it will not move if dogs jump onto the box. And that the frame is in the centre line of the lane.
- It is recommended to design the box so it automatically aligns itself with the centre line of the box mounting frame.



1.1.2 - Balls

- Approved balls must function like a tennis ball, i.e., they must bounce and roll.
- Each club shall have a supply of non-punctured approved balls (any colour).
- Subject to the size and comfort of the dog, tennis balls, racket balls, or other approved balls may be used.

1.1.3 - Collars

- a) It is recommended that all dogs wear a suitable harness and/or collar. Flat collars and/or harnesses are the only accepted type of collar in the racing ring. Halters, including “haltees”, will not be allowed in the racing ring.
- b) Competitors are forbidden to use electronic, electronic dummy collars, and pinch/prong collars on the tournament grounds. The tournament grounds include racing lanes, spectator areas, and the crating area.
- c) It is noted that it is impossible to control spectators with prong collars or other unapproved devices on their dogs who are not part of the tournament.

1.2 - RING SET-UP

1.2.1 - Footing

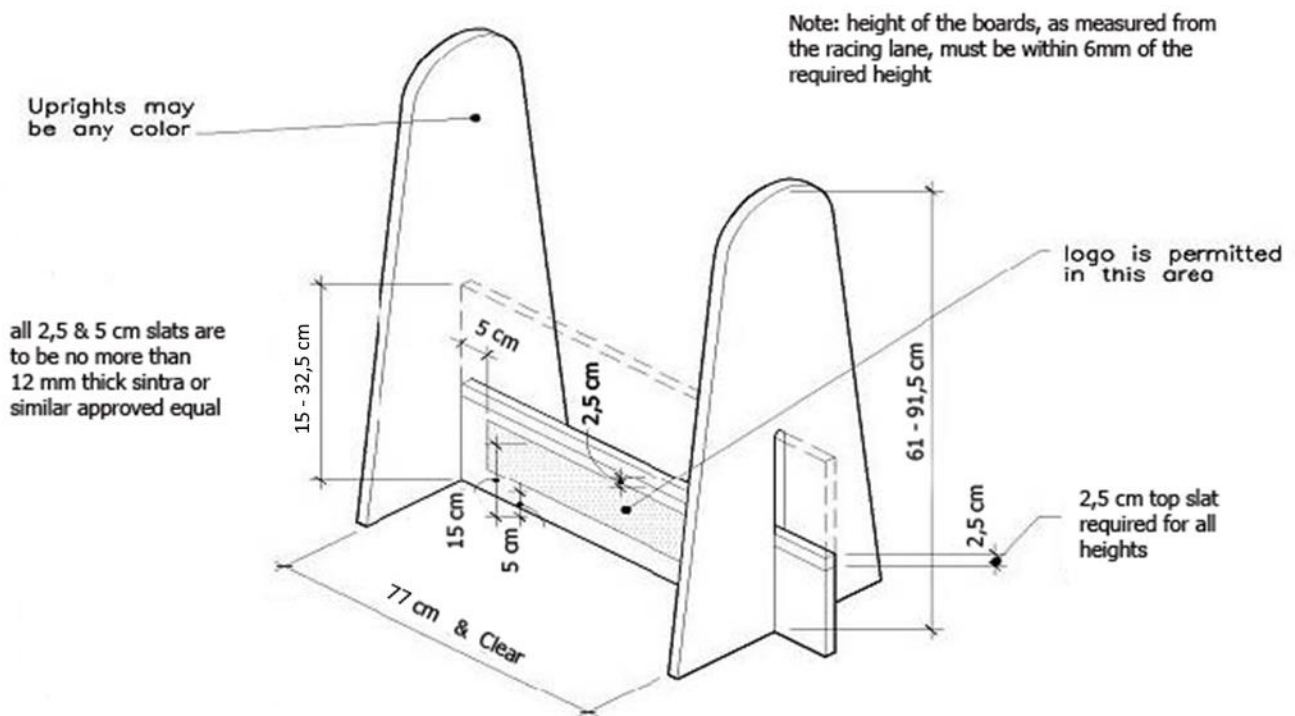
- a) The Tournament organisers shall provide adequate non-slip footing on the racing lane, at the box, and at the start.
- b) In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible), each racing lane shall be matted at a minimum 1,37 m on either side of the racing lane centre line for the length of the racing lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available, matting shall not be required. All racing surfaces must be free of apparent contaminants.

1.2.2 - Barriers

- a) The Tournament organisers shall provide an opaque barrier/backstop - minimum 61 cm high - at the box end of the run, placed as to prevent missed balls from rolling too far but placed as not to prevent proper observation by the judge or to obscure the spectators' view.
- b) The opaque barrier/backstop shall extend between the boxes, up to 61 cm in front of the box placement line, and a minimum of 152,5 cm behind the box placement line to minimize interference.

1.2.3 - Jumps

- a) The Tournament organisers shall provide two sets of regulation Flyball jumps for each ring for the duration of the tournament.
- b) The jumps shall be white except for the uprights, which may be any colour. The jumps shall have an inside width of 77 cm, with uprights not more than 91,5 cm high, nor less than 61 cm high.
- c) Logos and/or lettering on the cross-boards will be permitted but must be located between 5 cm and 15 cm high, and 5 cm inside of each upright.
- d) The jump height shall be adjustable in 2,5 cm increments, with a minimum of 15 cm and a maximum of 32,5 cm.
- e) All 2,5 cm and 5 cm jump boards shall be no thicker than 12 mm, be made from a flexible material, such as sintra (PVC Foam) or a similar approved material.
- f) At whatever height a jump be set, the topmost board shall be a 2,5 cm board.
- g) Jump slats made of any material that are broken or bent must be removed from competition.
- h) Jumps shall be within 6 mm in tolerance for height.

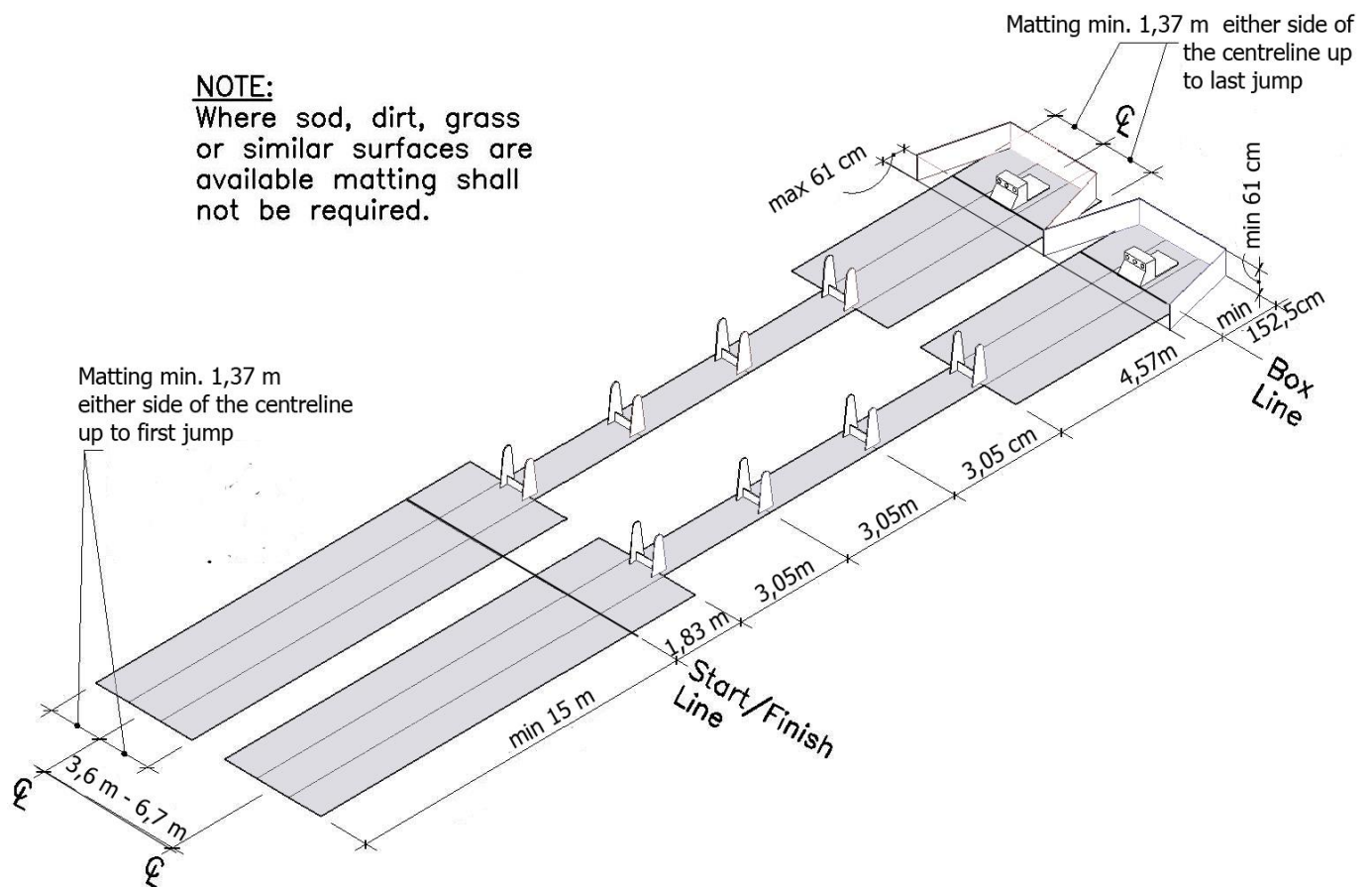


1.2.4 - Ring Layout

- a) The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately 10 m by 35 m.
- b) There shall be two racing lanes set a minimum of 3,6 m from centre to centre and a maximum of 6,70 m centre to centre.
- c) There shall be a distance of 1,83 m from the start/finish line to the first jump; 3,05 m between each jump (four total), and 4,57 m from the last jump to the box placement line.
- d) The length of the racing lane shall include an area not less than 15 m leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the box placement line and in front of the backstops to a minimum of 152,5 cm.

NOTE:

Where sod, dirt, grass or similar surfaces are available matting shall not be required.



1.3 - TEAMS AND TIMESHEETS

a) The timesheet information shall include:

name of the team,

Name of the team captain, boxloader, and handlers.

name, breed and jump height of the dogs

Height card: If a competing dog has a valid and EFC recognized height card ,it will be noted on the team's timesheet

Registration: If a competing dog has a CRN (Competition Registration Number) with a Flyball Governing Body (FGB),it will be noted on the team's timesheet. If the team is registered with a FGB, its registration number will also be noted on the timesheet.

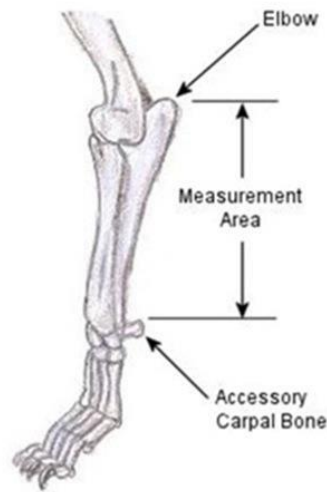
Note: It's up to the individual FGB's whether or not to take the results of the EFC in account for its statistics (titles, points, rankings, records,...) [See also EFC Policies 2.9](#)

- b) Each team is to consist of a minimum of four dogs and four handlers, with a maximum of six dogs and six handlers, plus a box loader and at the discretion of the team, a runner or two, to pick up loose balls, to set up knocked down jumps, or to otherwise assist the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the judges or the opposing team and does not in any way assist the dogs or violate the rules.
- c) Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of two alternates as standbys. The alternate(s) may be used at the team's discretion. Substitutions may only be made at the end of each heat. Each dog on the team including the alternates must be declared prior to the first race of the division. Once the division has begun, there will be no substituting of the dogs entered on the team.
- d) The current EFC timesheet shall be used.

1.4 - MEASURING

See also EFC policies 2.8.2

- a) The measurement area will be determined by the Measuring Judges. Prior to measuring the first dog, and any time it is moved, the measuring device shall be calibrated to ensure accuracy.
- b) If the judges determines that an approved measuring device is not available, measuring shall be for the EFC only and not for consideration of a Height Card Application with a Flyball Governing Body.
- c) Measurements are to be open to public observation.
- d) Only one (1) handler per dog shall be allowed in the measuring area.
- e) A measurement is taken of the dog's front leg. The length of the ulna is measured from the elbow to the pisiform bone, the bony protrusion just above the stop or carpal pad with the foot at an angle of 90°.



The jump height is derived from the length of the ulna according to the following table. An ulna length that equals the exact limit of the jump heights results in the lower jump height, e.g. ulna length of 125,0 mm results in jump height of 20,0 cm, but ulna length of 125,1 mm results in jump height of 22,5 cm.

ULNA length		Jump height
From	To	
-	100,0 mm	15,0 cm
100,1 mm	112,5 mm	17,5 cm
112,6 mm	125,0 mm	20,0 cm
125,1 mm	137,5 mm	22,5 cm
137,6 mm	150,0 mm	25,0 cm
150,1 mm	162,5 mm	27,5 cm
162,6 mm	175,0 mm	30,0 cm
175,1 mm	-	32,5 cm

- f) The measurements of the ulna shall be done with a digital device, with a precision of 0,1mm. If the device measures more accurately, the measurements will be rounded down to the nearest 0,1mm.
- g) A dog will be measured by at least two (2) judges. Each judge has to measure a different front limb. If there is any difference in the jump height result, both judges will switch sides. If it turns out that there is a clear difference, then the lowest jump height should be taken into account. If both judges keep measuring different jump heights,

the dog should be measured by a third (3rd) judge for the final jump height. The result is only valid when it is measured by at least two (2) judges.

- h) Aggression during measurement will not be tolerated and [Rule 1.8.4 \(Aggressive Dogs\)](#) will be observed.
- i) A dog deemed to be "NOT MEASURABLE" by the measuring Judge will have its jump height set to the max. jump height (32,5 cm)
- j) Height measurements are to be recorded - On the timesheet and the Jump Height Form - and signed by the measuring Judge. A copy of the Jump Height Form must be posted for view by the tournament participants.
- k) Where there is more than one judge measuring, once a dog's height has been measured by one judge and the jump height recorded on the Team's timesheet and Jump Height Form, the dog cannot be presented for measuring to another measuring judge. The recorded jump height shall be the dog's official jump height for that tournament, regardless of which ring the dog may run in.
- l) Once the dog is measured, or has a valid EFC recognised height card, the judge is under no obligation to re-measure the same dog. If a dog is re-measured and the measuring Judge determines that the previous recorded height is incorrect, the team shall not be penalized. However, the team shall be required to jump the proper height for any remaining heats.
- m) Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be verbalized to the Head Judge within 30 minutes of the heat in question by the Captain of a competing team in that division.
- n) After a protest, or if the head judge determines a team is not jumping at the proper height:
 - In a round robin format, the team shall forfeit any heats won at the improper jump height.
 - In the case of an elimination format, the team shall be eliminated.
- o) [Height cards: see EFC Policies 2.8.1](#)
- p) *Before a dog can be measured it must be identified by its chip-id (or visible tattoo) and its European passport or vaccination card.*

1.5 - JUDGES

[See also EFC Policies 2.3](#)

- a) Five (5) judges shall officiate when two teams are running.
- b) One judge (*Line Judge*) shall be positioned at each team's starting line, facing each other; one judge (*Box Judge*) is to be located at the box end in each lane, with a good view of the box loader, but not positioned so as to interfere with or distract the dog; and a fifth judge, the Head Judge, shall act as starter and referee.
- c) The Box Judges and Line Judges shall remain stationary during each heat; dogs may go around judges and balls bouncing off of a judge shall be deemed in play. The principal responsibility of each Box Judge and each Line Judge is to watch for violations in the racing lane that they are assigned.
- d) The Head Judge (starter and referee) shall be positioned between the racing lanes in the area between the start/finish line and the lead dogs to start the heat. If necessary, the Head Judge (starter and referee) should be in position to assist the Line Judges in determining winners of close heats.

The Head Judge may confer with the Line Judges and the Box Judges before determining a winner. If necessary, a Head Judge shall reposition themselves in such a manner as not to interfere with competing teams.

If no approved EJS is available, the Head Judge shall maintain a consistent starting cadence of approximately one (1) second intervals throughout the tournament.

- e) Judges shall indicate with a signal – *fault light/flag* - which dogs must rerun. It's the handler's responsibility to note the signal –*fault light/flag* - and rerun their dog.
- f) The Head Judge shall stop the heat for interference, fouling in the racing ring, or undue aggression by dog or competitor and award that heat to the competing team.
- g) Line judges shall:

Record which dogs participate in every heat and record time & win or loss (W/L) using the EFC's Time Sheet.

Indicate with a signal (*fault light/flag*) when an infraction has occurred.

1.6 - REPORTING FOR RACES

- a) If a team is more than three (3) minutes late from the conclusion of the designated warm-up period, the Head Judge will declare a forfeit of that race by that team unless an excused ring conflict exists. Any ring conflicts must be reported to the Head Judge or the Head Table prior to the race in question.

Note: This is a discretionary rule, since its main purpose is to avoid undue delays at the tournament for spectators and competitors alike. The tournament director can also decide shorten, or even cancel, this 3 minute grace period to insure the swift progress of the tournament.

- b) Teams that win by forfeit must complete the minimum required heats scheduled to qualify for points awarded in round-robin or to advance in elimination competition. If another team is not available to compete, the team shall race without an opponent.
- c) Forfeiting teams that do not show just cause may be excused from the tournament by the Tournament Director. Forfeiting teams may not run any dogs in the heats that are forfeited. If a team forfeits a heat and then subsequently runs a dog(s) in violation of this rule, they will automatically be considered as For Exhibition Only (FEO).
- d) If a team has to forfeit when its "A" and "B" teams are in the same race, the faster seeded team must run and the slower seeded team must forfeit.
- e) For Exhibition Only (FEO)
- Once a team declares itself For Exhibition Only (FEO), the team cannot return to regular competition. From that point on, the team can no longer obtain tournament points or win races.
 - FEO teams may not run if the opposing team raises an objection with the judge.
 - Once teams declare themselves For Exhibition Only, they are ineligible for placement and shall be placed in the lowest seed of any eliminations.
 - A club cannot enter a team at the EFC For Exhibition Only.
 - A team running For Exhibition Only is subject to all the rules of competition with the exception of the following:
 - 4 dogs or less may be run in a heat.
 - False starts are not in effect.
 - Any jump height from 15 cm to 32,5 cm is allowed at the discretion of the team.
 - In the event a dog receives a fault light (flag), it may complete its run but not rerun.
 - The Head judge may excuse the team from the race for failure to comply with these conditions or other Tournament rules.

1.7 - WARM-UPS

- a) There shall be a designated time period for warm-ups, set by the Tournament Director.
- b) There shall be no practice or training in the ring for the duration of the Tournament, except for the warm-up as permitted prior to each race. Training in the ring during the competition will mean a forfeit of the heat.
- c) When a team is delayed by an excused ring conflict, warm-ups shall not begin until both teams are present in the ring unless warm-ups have been waived. Teams already present and waiting may set their jumps and place their box.
- d) Only dogs listed on the team's timesheet are allowed to warm up. Any dog(s) that warm up in violation of this rule will cause the forfeiture of any tournament placement of the team with the dog that violated this rule.

1.8 - RULES OF RACING

1.8.1 - Break-out Rule

[See also EFC Policies 2.7.2](#)

- The Break-Out rule does not apply for Division 1.
- In all other divisions, a team running faster than the divisions Break-Out-Time will “breakout” of the division, and will be declared the loser of the heat.
- If the Electronic Judging System fails, this rule does not apply.
- Time sheets should be marked “BO”, show no time, and indicate a loss (L).
- In the event both teams in a heat break-out, both teams will be awarded a loss.
- If one teams runs a break-out and the other doesn’t finish correctly, the team that ran the break-out will lose the heat.
- If the line judge (and the head judge) fails to note that a team has broken out before end of the race, any heats recorded as won with a break-out time shall be amended to show losses. If this leaves the race undecided, additional heats shall be run to complete the race.
- When a team exceeds the Break-Out-Limit, that team becomes ineligible for placement. ([see EFC Policies 2.7.2](#))
- In elimination rounds, where seeding is determined by Round Robin, a team ineligible for placement shall be seeded last.
- In elimination round heats, where a team ineligible for placement competes against a team eligible for placement, the ineligible team shall be awarded a loss.
- In the event a team deliberately slows down their dogs or runs with late passes in order to avoid breaking out of the division’s break-out time limit, the judge will at first offence warn the team. At any next offence and in the presence of a second judge as a witness, the judges may decide after deliberation to award the win to the opposing team.

1.8.2 - Jump Heights

- a) Jump heights shall be set to the jump height of the smallest dog on the team (running, not stand-by), to a minimum of 15 cm. Maximum jump height shall be 32,5 cm.
- b) Jump heights shall be adjusted in 2,5 cm increments, to the lowest applicable multitude of 2,5 cm.(34,2 cm becomes 32,5 cm)

Possible jump heights : 15 - 17,5 – 20 – 22,5 – 25 – 27,5 – 30 – 32,5 cm.

1.8.3 - The Heat

a) The Run:

Dogs may start from a stationary or running start.

Each dog is to hurdle the four (4) jumps in succession, trigger the box, and return with the ball in its mouth over all four (4) jumps and the start/finish line.

Only when the first dog has reached the start/finish line with any part of its body (on the ground or in the air) may the second dog reach the start/finish 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.

b) False starts:

When any part of the dog's body, whether in the air or on the ground, or any part of the handler's body or their objects passes the start/finish line (*breaks the EJS' sensor beam*) before the timing of the heat begins, an infraction will be called by the line judge and/or the head judge.

When a team makes a false start, the first dog of the team will get a fault light.

Practice start: Only during their first two (2) races of the tournament, upon entering the ring, teams will be allowed to request a practice start from the judges before the warm-up period is over. The practice start will take place immediately after the warm-up period and prior to the first heat of the race. Only one dog per team may run a practice start, props/training aids are not permitted during practice starts.

c) Box Malfunction:

The box loader shall indicate to the Head Judge when there is a box malfunction by standing in front of the box or by crossing their arms into an "X" above their head.. The heat shall be stopped.

The Head Judge is to examine the box. If, in the opinion of the Head Judge, the box has malfunctioned the heat shall be run again. The box is not to be touched until the head judge has examined the box.

If the box is found to be working, then the heat shall be forfeited.

If another box is not available and the box cannot be repaired in a reasonable time, the heat and any remaining heats in that race are to be forfeited.

If the box malfunctions a second time - or the spare box malfunctions - in the same race, the heat shall be forfeited and all remaining heats in that race shall be forfeited.

d) Fouling:

If a dog urinates or defecates in the racing ring during a heat, the judge will stop that heat and award that heat to the opposing team.

If a dog urinates or defecates in the racing ring at any time prior to the first heat or between heats, the judge will award the next heat to the opposing team. The head judge can decide to have the other team run that heat unopposed, or award the win with a NT (No time)

e) Conduct of the box loader:

Except during the warm up, to retrieve a loose ball, or to get a fresh supply of balls to load for the current heat, the box loader must remain in the upright position behind the box, and may offer verbal encouragement only, as long as such encouragement does not distract the opposing team. The box needs to be loaded and the boxloader needs to be in the upright position if a dog is at the box.

As a courtesy to opposing teams, the box loader is to remain in position until the outcome of the heat is determined by the Head Judge.

If, in the judge's opinion, a box loader has violated any of these rules, their team may forfeit the heat.

Should the ball bounce back in the cup as the dog tries to catch it, the box loader may re-set the box for the dog to trigger it (without penalty). This is the only time at which the box loader is permitted to signal a dog to push the pedal.

f) Inside Interference:

Interference is defined as impeding the other team's dog from running its race.

If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat, the team causing the interference will forfeit the heat. This includes interference in the racing lane, in all in bound areas, and in the area where dogs are waiting to run.

A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference.

In the event of interference:

the judge will assign a Win with a No Time(NT) to the team that was interfered with.

the interfered dog is allowed to run again on its own.

the interfering dog is allowed to run again on its own

the interfered team is allowed to rerun on its own to get the chance to set a time for the speed trails.

If a dog interferes two (2) times in the same race it has to be changed. The dog is allowed to run again in the next race. If there is no other dog available to swap with that dog, e.g. if the team only has four (4) dogs or the other dog is injured, the interfering dog will be put as the last running dog of the team and is only allowed to run if the other team is already finished.

g) Distractions:

Team members shall not distract the opposing team by any means, nor throw any object for their dogs (i.e. balls, toys, Frisbees, dummies, gloves, treats,...).

Team members are required to pick up any loose balls.

The first offense of these infractions shall receive a warning.

A second offense and any offense thereafter during the tournament will result in the loss of the heat.

h) Safety Hazards/Outside Interference:

If, in the opinion of the head judge, a safety hazard exists during the running of the heat, the heat shall be stopped and restarted.

Outside Interference is defined as a factor from outside the racing lane, not involved in the current heat or teams, interferes with a team during a heat, the heat shall be stopped and rerun.

Line-ups may be changed without penalty.

i) Fault lights (Flags):

Dogs that receive a fault light (*flag*) must be rerun after the initial four dogs in the order they originally ran. Racing infractions requiring the rerunning of a dog include:

Early passes will be indicated by the EJS and confirmed by the Line Judge and/or the Head Judge. When running without an EJS system, the line judge will indicate an infraction.

Missed jumps.

Dog not carrying the ball over each jump in succession.

Dog takes the ball from the cup without first triggering the box.

Dog does not carry the ball over the start/finish line.

Inappropriately assisted by the boxloader, spectator or handler.

A handler or their object crosses the start/finish line during the dog's run (with the exception of resetting knocked down jump(s) or retrieving loose ball(s)).

Team members are not permitted to cross the start/finish line between the sensors of the EJS. If they do, the dog on the racing lane receives a fault light has to rerun.

j) Knocked down jumps:

A team whose dog(s) knocks down a jump(s) during its run shall not be penalized, provided all dog(s) clear the jump(s) as if it were standing.

A "runner" or handler may set up knocked down jump(s) if so doing does not interfere with either team or guide the dog in any way, and one does not go between the EJS sensor stands.

k) The finish:

The first team to have all four dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last of the four dogs reaches the finish line with any part of its body (in the air or on the ground), and the Head Judge has declared the winner of the heat. A Heat may be won due to default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing.

l) Determining the winner of a heat / Calling a tie:

When a heat is judged using the Electronic Judging System, the winner of close heats shall be determined based on the Electronic Judging System times.

Note :Due to there being several Electronic Judging Systems in use with different specifications, the tournament Director shall prior to the first race instruct Judges and participants on how to interpret the EJS times for calling a tie.

When a heat is judged with manual judging (in the absence or failure of the Electronic Judging System), the line judge's decision as to the winner of the heat must be unanimous and shall be based on their visual view of the finish line, not on the clocks. If the Line Judges are not in agreement, the Head Judge shall consult with the Line Judges and either declare a winner or declare the heat to be a tie.

1.8.4 - Aggressive Dogs

- a) If a dog shows undue aggression toward another dog or person at any time during the competition, the Head Judge may disqualify the dog from competing. Dogs that are so disqualified, may not be presented to compete for the remainder of the Tournament.
- b) The degree of aggression that warrants disqualification is to be determined by the Head Judge.
- c) The Head Judge must report any dog disqualified from competition to the Tournament Director who – if applicable - shall inform the Flyball Governing Body (FGB) of the mentioned dog. It is up to the concerning FGB whether or not to take further action. [See also Policies & Procedures 2.2.d](#)

1.8.5 - Condition of Dogs

- a) To compete, a dog must be safely able to complete the course.
- b) A handicapped dog may compete if the Head Judge determines that the dog meets the criteria in 1.8.5.a.
- c) The Head Judge has the right to inspect any dog at any time during the tournament. If in the opinion of the Head Judge a dog is
 - lame
 - in season
 - recovering from surgery
 - or cannot safely competethe dog shall be disqualified from competition. The Head Judge must report any dog disqualified from competition to the Tournament director.
- d) Protective wrap on a dog's legs may be used.
- e) Minimum age of competing dogs: see [EFC Policies: 2.4.e](#)

1.8.6 - Race Results

The organisers must post race results (heat times and wins/losses, tournament points,...) for competitors, as soon as possible, following the running of each race.

2 - EFC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

2.1 - EFC ORGANIZERS

The EFC organizers are a group of people that harbour an extensive experience in organising Flyball tournaments and have a thorough understanding of the rules and policies. Typically this will be- but is not limited to - an established Flyball Club, a collaboration of Flyball Clubs, or a FGB.

If there is more than 1 candidate for hosting the next EFC, and these candidates cannot come to a mutual understanding, there will be a vote amongst the EFC Council after consideration of both or all presentations from competing candidates to decide who will host the next EFC. Every represented country entered at the current EFC has one (1) vote.

The EFC organizers will appoint a Tournament Director.

2.2 - TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

The Tournament Director is the executive in charge of the tournament.

The Tournament director must have a thorough understanding of the rules and policies, and a comprehensive knowledge of the organisation of Flyball tournaments, gained through personal experience.

The Tournament Director can require teams or individuals to leave the Tournament for breach of the code of ethics. If applicable, the Tournament director will report this to their FGB. It is up to the concerning FGB whether or not to take further action

The Tournament Director can disqualify dogs from the tournament for acts of undue aggression on the tournament grounds. (The tournament grounds include racing lanes, spectator areas, and the crating area). Disqualified dogs will, if applicable, be reported by the Tournament Director to their Flyball Governing Body (FGB). It is up to the concerning FGB whether or not to take further action. [See also Racing Rules 1.8.4.](#)

2.3 - JUDGES' GUIDELINES

[See also Rules Of Racing 1.5 Judges](#)

- a) Judges must be in good standing with the EFC organizers and are accredited by a FGB. Provisional judges can be allowed to judge at the EFC by its organisers, but will be under constant supervision of an official, experienced judge.
- b) Judges should be friendly and courteous, even sympathetic, but above all impartial and firm. Judges must have a thorough understanding of the rules and policies gained through personal experience.
- c) The judge's responsibility also extends to the exhibitors, to the tournament organizers, and the spectators and sponsors. A judge must be an arbiter and diplomat. A judge must leave exhibitors and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage.
- d) A judge is not to engage in conversation with a disgruntled exhibitor.
- e) The Head Judge may dismiss any person for breach of the [Code of Ethics](#).
- f) Upon arriving at the site, a judge shall immediately report to the tournament director. Judges should be at their ring at least one half hour before the competition to check the ring, jumps, matting, and backstops. If dogs are to be measured and boxes inspected before the competition, the judge should allow additional time as directed by the tournament director.
- g) The Rules of Racing and EFC Policies & Procedures are a basic guide. They should not be considered a manual containing explicit direction for every possible situation. Judgment calls should be based on the experience, good character, and fairness of the judge. The intelligent application of discretionary authority demands that a judge exercise common sense, fairness, and initiative. **Above all else, the safety and well beingwellbeing of the dogs and exhibitors shall be foremost.**
- h) A judge is allowed to make a reasonable accommodation and/or exceptions to the Rules of Racing for the needs of a handicapped dog and/or handler so long as these accommodations do not interfere with other competitors.
- i) Judges shall not assist teams during warm-ups.

2.4 - Teams

Flyball is a sport for all dogs. The EFC is open to all dogs without regard to whether the dog is a mixed breed, a pure bred or any particular breed.

A team does not need be registered with a Flyball Governing Body (FGB) to compete at the EFC. Due to its unique, ultimate open character and intention to promote International Flyball, the EFC historically welcomes a lot of mixed teams, and teams from countries without an established FGB.

- a) As the EFC is a unique, open tournament, it also allows dogs without a CRN issued by a Flyball Governing Body to compete.
- b) No dog under the age of 15 months may be listed on a timesheet for the EFC, or compete at the EFC.
- c) Dogs may not compete in more than one team (per class) entered at the EFC.

2.5 - Code of Ethics

- a) One of the objectives of the EFC is to promote cooperation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs. Cooperation and good sportsmanship should not be recognized in passive observance, but as a way of life in training and competition. Participants shall at all times be courteous and friendly and never conduct themselves in a manner that would bring discredit to Flyball. At no time should they show displeasure with a dog, judge, exhibitor, FGB representative, sponsor, EFC host, or spectator in or out of the ring.
- b) Training, exhibiting and competitions shall be carried out by such methods that keep in the best interest of the dog and Flyball.
- c) Abuse or severe disciplining of a dog is not in the best interest of Flyball.
- d) Misconduct shall include, but not be limited to:
 - abusive or foul language
 - demonstration of dissatisfaction with a judge's decision
 - inhumane treatment of a dog, demonstration of poor sportsmanship
 - wilful violation of the rules with the intent to gain an unfair advantage
 - any other behaviour or altercation that would leave a spectator or exhibitor with an unfavourable opinion of Flyball.
- e) Participants and judges shall always follow the EFC Rules of Racing and EFC Policies & Procedures, showing knowledge and an understanding of the same.
- f) Any individual or club in good standing with the EFC organizers may file a protest or prefer charges against another individual or club for alleged misconduct, in or out of the ring, prejudicial to the best interest of flyball. Protests filed during competition should be done to the Tournament Director and in such a manner as not to bring discredit to flyball.
- g) Each participant is to put the wellbeing of his/her dog above the competition results.
- h) The use of stimulants for the dogs is prohibited.
- i) Handlers will clean up after their dogs.
- j) The judges nor the participants will use stimulants (alcohol, drugs, etc) during the competition.

2.6 - Hosting the EFC

2.6.1 - General organisation

- a) The EFC is traditionally a multi-day tournament held during the Pentecost weekend. The organizers may choose to hold the EFC at another time.
- b) The EFC is Open Class tournament. For organisational reasons the EFC organisers can limit the number of entries, but not to less than 50 teams. The EFC organisers will use a transparent and fair system if entries have to be rejected because the limit is reached. EFC organisers may offer different classes which are limited.
- c) The entry fee shall be set by the EFC organizers.
- d) The closing date for the EFC shall be set by the EFC Organizers.
- e) The EFC organisers shall inform the European Flyball community about the EFC through a website, personal mailings,..
- f) Trophies: The EFC organizers will provide trophies for at least the winners of each division. If team members are to be awarded a memento, the EFC organizers will provide 8 per team.
- g) The EFC organizers shall take precautions to cope with bad weather conditions.
- h) As an EJS is essential for current day Flyball racing, the EFC organisers shall provide an approved EJS for each racing ring for the duration of the tournament.

2.6.2 - Classes of Competition

- a) At the publication date of this edition of “ EFC Racing Rules & Policies and Procedures (2009)”, only one (1) official class of competition is recognized for the EFC: the Unlimited Open Class. The EFC Open class of competition includes teams made up of any breed(s) of dog and/or mixed breeds.
- b) Other classes, that may have already official status with certain FGB's, like there are Multi-breed, Veterans,..., or a semi-official status, e.g. Mixed Pairs, ,Singles,..., may be offered at the EFC organizers discretion.
- c) If other classes are offered at the EFC, the additional rules for these classes are at the discretion of the EFC Organisers who will inform potential participants through the usual channels in a timely fashion.

2.6.3 - Format & Schedule

- a) The tournament format and schedule shall be published before racing commences.
- b) The Racing Schedule shall allow for ample time to rest the dogs between races.
- c) The tournament format includes:
 - Teams in each division along with the seed time of each team and the Break-Out time assigned to that division.
 - Racing format: e.g. Speed Trials (ST), Double Elimination (DE), Single Elimination (SE) or a combination of these. Whether a fixed number of heats/race, Best of 3 (Bo3), or Best of 5 (Bo5)
 - Scoring : how wins and placements are determined; and how tie scores would be broken.
- d) The EFC tournament format consists out of:
 - Single division Speed Trials
 - Double Elimination (DE) final, Best of 5 (Bo5) format, seeded by the result of the ST preliminary.
- e) Single division Speed Trials (ST):
 - In Speed Trials each team races a number of races with a fixed number of heats. The object is to set a single fast time. Wins and Losses are recorded, but the winner of the Speed Trials is the team that set the fastest time. In case of a tie, the second fastest time is the tie breaker, and so on.
 - Speed Trials are not a proper tournament format, and can only be used as Preliminary to an Elimination – Double or Single – final.
 - Each team is allowed to declare a faster time when the speed trails are completed. This however must be done within half an hour and before the double elimination is set up. Only the team captain can declare the new time at the tournament office in writing. This schedule is subject to the discretion of the EFC Council/organisation.
 -
 - In order to qualify as a valid time, the time needs to be realised without reruns.
 - In case a team has not realised a valid time by the end of the Speed Trial, every dog shall run another heat and the sum of the individual net times of the 4 fastest dogs will be registered as the teams fastest time.

2.7 - EFC SEEDING & BREAK-OUT RULE

2.7.1 - EFC SEEDING & DIVISIONS

- a) Teams entered at the EFC will be seeded by the times submitted with the team's entry. Multiple entries from the same club for the same class may not use the same seed times.
- b) After the closing date seeding times cannot be changed and the Tournament Director will divide the entered teams into divisions.
- c) No Division shall have less than four (4) teams.

2.7.2 - EFC Break-Out Rule

[See also Rules Of Racing 1.8.](#)

- a) Except for division 1, each division's Break-Out Time will be calculated as the fastest team's seed time minus the Break-Out margin:
- If the seed time of the fastest team in the division is less than 18 seconds, the Break-Out margin will be 0,3 seconds.
 - If the seed time of the fastest team in the division is 18 seconds but less than 20 seconds, the Break-Out margin will be 0,4 seconds.
 - If the seed time of the fastest team in the division is 20 seconds or more, the Break-Out margin will be 0,5 seconds.
- b) Break-Out-Limit : A team that breaks out two (2) times in a tournament, exceeds the Break-Out-Limit, and is ineligible for any tournament placement.

2.7.3 - EFC Net Break-Out Rule

- a) The net break-out of the division is 0,3 seconds lower than the break-out time.
- b) The net time is the time recorded by the EJS minus the start time and crossings.
- c) If the net time run by the team is lower than the net break-out time the line judge will notify the head judge and the team will lose the heat. It will be written down on the timesheets as NBO + the total time and lose (L). If both teams run a NBO both teams will lose.
- d) This rule is only applicable if a valid EJS is used that can indicate the net time.

2.8 - STANDING RULES OF COMPETITION

2.8.1 - Height Cards

- a) The EFC Organisers will recognise height cards, issued by the respective FGB's to dogs participating in the EFC if these conform the following international standards:

The measuring method is similar and on par with the method described in the [Rules of Racing 1.4 Measuring.](#)

The Height Card is valid at the date of the EFC and is confirmed by the issuing FGB.

- b) If the jump height is calculated by a different method than the standard EFC method - i.e. jump height in imperial measurements, or the jump height is height of the withers minus another amount than the international 12,5 cm standard— all else being in compliance with EFC Policies 2.8.1.a, the EFC organizers will recognize the height card and the jump height will be recalculated to the proper EFC jump height for the EFC.
- c) The EFC organizers are free, but in no way obliged, to recognize height cards issued on less stringent requirements than stated in EFC Policies 2.8.1.a.

- d) Prior to the EFC, the EFC organizers will publish a list of which FGB's height cards they will recognize for the EFC.
- e) Dogs with a valid EFC recognized height card, can be presented for measuring at the EFC. Hereby the handler wavers its dog's Height Card! It's jump height for the EFC then shall be the then measured height.
- f) From countries that use EFC measurement correctly, dogs without final jump height have to be measured. Also 2 dogs from those countries with a lower final jump height as the maximum will be re-measured the same way. If both measured values differ from the declared jump height, all dogs with a lower final jump height from that country shall be re-measured.

2.8.2 - EFC Measuring Policy

[See also 1.4 Measuring](#)

- a) Dogs jumping less than 32,5 cm without a valid and EFC recognized Height Card, are to be measured by a measuring Judge officiating at the EFC during times designated by the Tournament Director.
- b) A dog must be entered in the EFC in order to have its height recorded on the team's timesheet, the EFC Jump Height Form, and/or - if applicable - a Height Card Application of its Flyball Governing Body (FGB).
- c) Measuring judge:
 - The tournament director shall appoint the measuring judge for the tournament.
 - The measuring judge is in charge of the measuring procedures.
 - Ideally the measuring judge is assisted by a second judge officiating at the EFC.
 - The Tournament Director can decide to appoint more Measuring Judges to speed up the proceedings.
- d) Contesters will agree to the microchip number and ULNA measurements being recorded in a EFC database. This data will be used to limit the annual remeasurements at the EFC.

2.9 - EFC results and Flyball Governing Body statistics.

- a) It is up to the individual Flyball Governing Bodies whether or not to take the EFC results/times/measurements of their member teams/dogs/handlers in account for their statistics concerning jump heights measurements/height cards, awarding points, titles, rankings, records,...
- b) If a team sets a time that is a possible (national) record, the team will inform the Head Judge of this. The Head Judge will perform the proper formalities, needed for the possible recognition by the concerning FGB of the record.
- c) It is up to the individual teams to present their results to their respective FGB for consideration for its statistics.

2.10 - FLYBALL CHARTER

The largest European Flyball Governing Bodies have on the initiative of the BFB come together to publish the following charter:

“Each organisation/federation commits itself never to deny a team entry on their tournaments, when the team is a member of an organisation/federation who signed this charter. The participating teams accept and respect the rules and judges of the organising organisation/federation.”



The idea to tighten the relationships between the European Flyball family grew at the European Championship in Great Britain, organised by the BFA and where about 100 teams participated. Apart from the “British Flyball Association”, a large number of Belgian, German, French and Czech teams, enthusiastically welcomed this charter.

The purpose of this charter is to stimulate an open and tolerant European Flyball Family. A nice perspective for the future of the European flyball Championship.

Interested Flyball Governing Bodies who want to undersign this European Flyball Charter, can contact the BFB at: info@flyball.be

3 - RACING SCHEDULES

3.1 - Round Robin

4 TEAM ROUND ROBIN

Allow 1:00
for races

RACE 1 4 vs 1
RACE 2 2 vs 3

RACE 3 1 vs 3
RACE 4 4 vs 2

RACE 5 3 vs 4
RACE 6 1 vs 2

6 TEAM ROUND ROBIN

Allow 2:10
for races

RACE 1 2 vs 3
RACE 2 6 vs 1
RACE 3 4 vs 5

RACE 4 3 vs 6
RACE 5 4 vs 2
RACE 6 5 vs 1

RACE 7 2 vs 6
RACE 8 1 vs 4
RACE 9 5 vs 3

RACE 10 6 vs 4
RACE 11 2 vs 5
RACE 12 3 vs 1

RACE 13 5 vs 6
RACE 14 4 vs 3
RACE 15 1 vs 2

7 TEAM ROUND ROBIN

Allow 3:00
for races

RACE 1 1 vs 4
RACE 2 2 vs 5
RACE 3 3 vs 6

RACE 4 4 vs 7
RACE 5 5 vs 1
RACE 6 6 vs 2

RACE 7 7 vs 3
RACE 8 1 vs 3
RACE 9 5 vs 7

RACE 10 2 vs 4
RACE 11 6 vs 1
RACE 12 3 vs 5

RACE 13 7 vs 2
RACE 14 4 vs 6
RACE 15 7 vs 1

RACE 16 2 vs 3
RACE 17 4 vs 5
RACE 18 6 vs 7

RACE 19 3 vs 4
RACE 20 5 vs 6
RACE 21 1 vs 2

8 TEAM ROUND ROBIN

Allow 4:00
for races

RACE 1 4 vs 8
RACE 2 3 vs 7
RACE 3 2 vs 6
RACE 4 1 vs 5

RACE 5 6 vs 1
RACE 6 8 vs 3
RACE 7 2 vs 5
RACE 8 4 vs 7

RACE 9 3 vs 6
RACE 10 5 vs 8
RACE 11 7 vs 2
RACE 12 1 vs 4

RACE 13 8 vs 2
RACE 14 4 vs 6
RACE 15 7 vs 1
RACE 16 3 vs 5

RACE 17 6 vs 8
RACE 18 2 vs 4
RACE 19 5 vs 7
RACE 20 1 vs 3

RACE 21 8 vs 1
RACE 22 6 vs 7
RACE 23 4 vs 5
RACE 24 2 vs 3

RACE 25 7 vs 8
RACE 26 5 vs 6
RACE 27 3 vs 4
RACE 28 1 vs 2

9 TEAM ROUND ROBIN

Allow 5:10
for races

RACE 1 1 vs 9
RACE 2 7 vs 5
RACE 3 8 vs 4
RACE 4 6 vs 3

RACE 5 9 vs 7
RACE 6 2 vs 8
RACE 7 5 vs 3
RACE 8 1 vs 6

RACE 9 4 vs 2
RACE 10 9 vs 5
RACE 11 8 vs 6
RACE 12 1 vs 7

RACE 13 3 vs 2
RACE 14 5 vs 4
RACE 15 1 vs 8
RACE 16 7 vs 6

RACE 17 2 vs 9
RACE 18 4 vs 3
RACE 19 2 vs 7
RACE 20 5 vs 1

RACE 21 3 vs 9
RACE 22 6 vs 4
RACE 23 9 vs 8
RACE 24 7 vs 3

RACE 25 4 vs 1
RACE 26 6 vs 2
RACE 27 8 vs 5
RACE 28 9 vs 6

RACE 29 7 vs 4
RACE 30 5 vs 2
RACE 31 3 vs 1
RACE 32 4 vs 9

RACE 33 8 vs 7
RACE 34 6 vs 5
RACE 35 3 vs 8
RACE 36 2 vs 1

5 TEAM ROUND ROBIN

Allow 1:20
for races

RACE 1 5 vs 2
RACE 2 4 vs 1

RACE 3 3 vs 5
RACE 4 2 vs 4

RACE 5 1 vs 3
RACE 6 4 vs 5

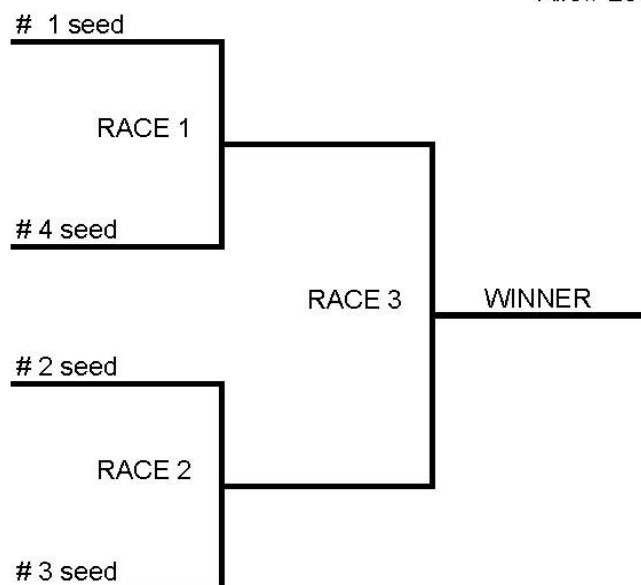
RACE 7 2 vs 3
RACE 8 5 vs 1

RACE 9 3 vs 4
RACE 10 1 vs 2

3.2 - Knock-Out (Single Elimination)

4 TEAM KNOCK OUT

Allow 25 minutes for racing (30 minutes with Consolation Round)



- 1ST Winner Race 3
- 2ND Loser Race 3
- 3RD Loser Race 2 /
(Winner Consolation Race)
- 4TH Loser Race 1 /
(Loser Consolation Race)

Optional Consolation Race for places 3 & 4
If ran, ran after race 2



5 TEAM KNOCK OUT

Allow 30 minutes for racing (40 minutes with Consolation Race)

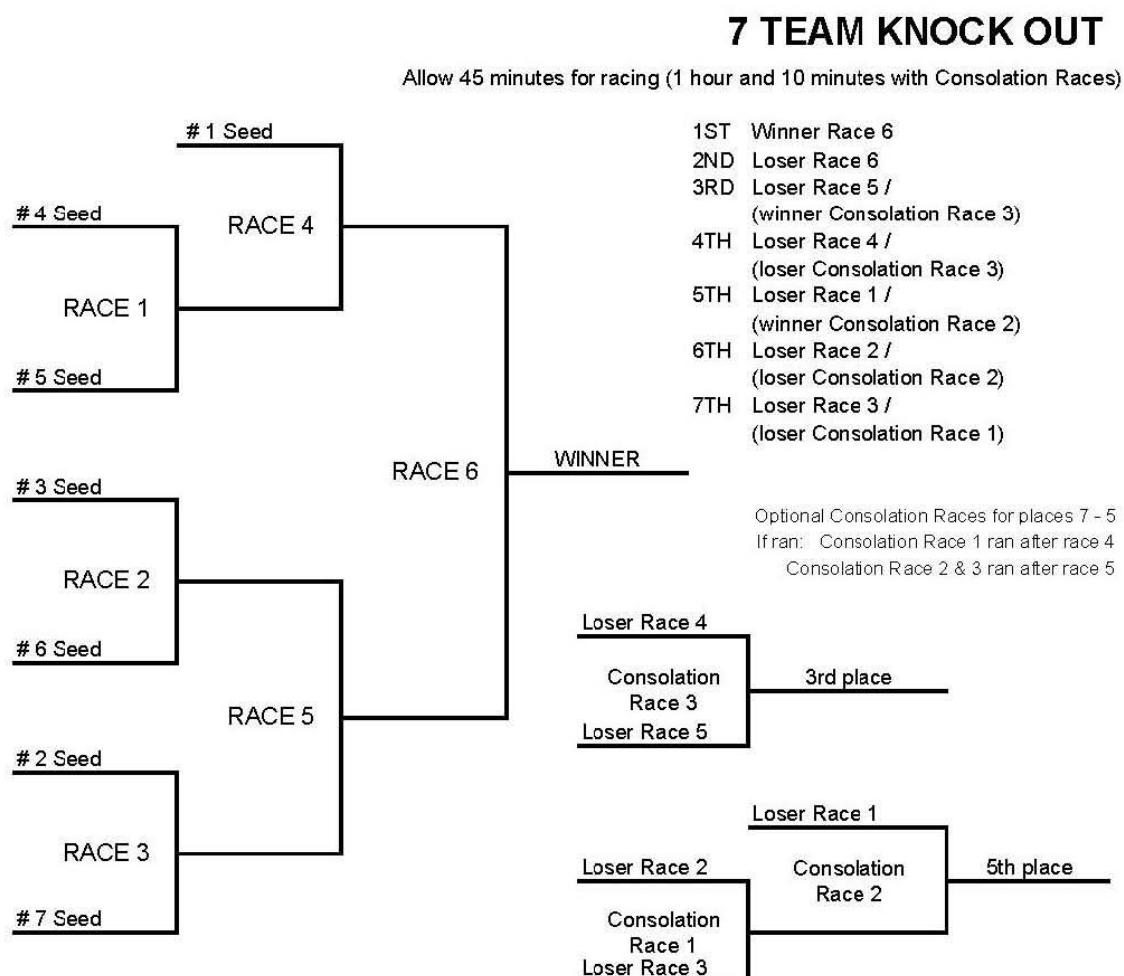


- 1ST Winner Race 4
- 2ND Loser Race 4
- 3RD Loser Race 2 /
(Winner Consolation Race)
- 4TH Loser Race 3
(Loser Consolation Race)
- 5TH Loser Race 1

Optional Consolation Race for places 3 & 4
If ran, ran after race 3

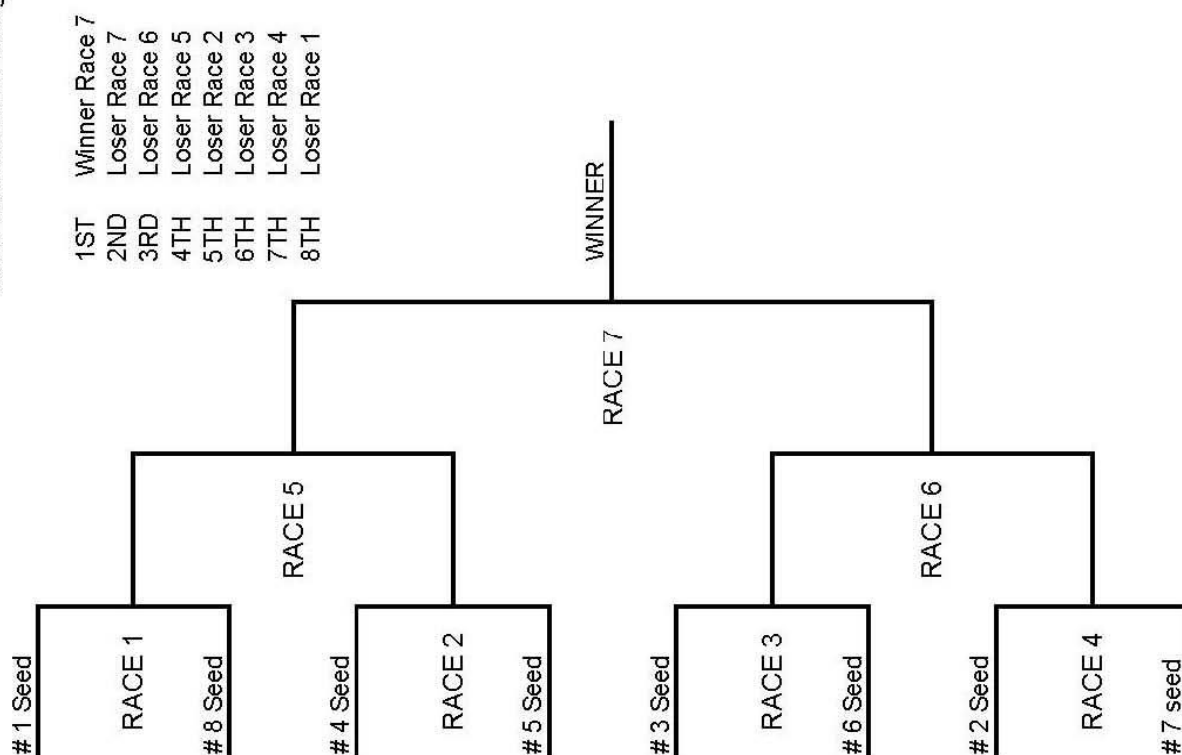


3.2.3 - 6 team Knock-Out



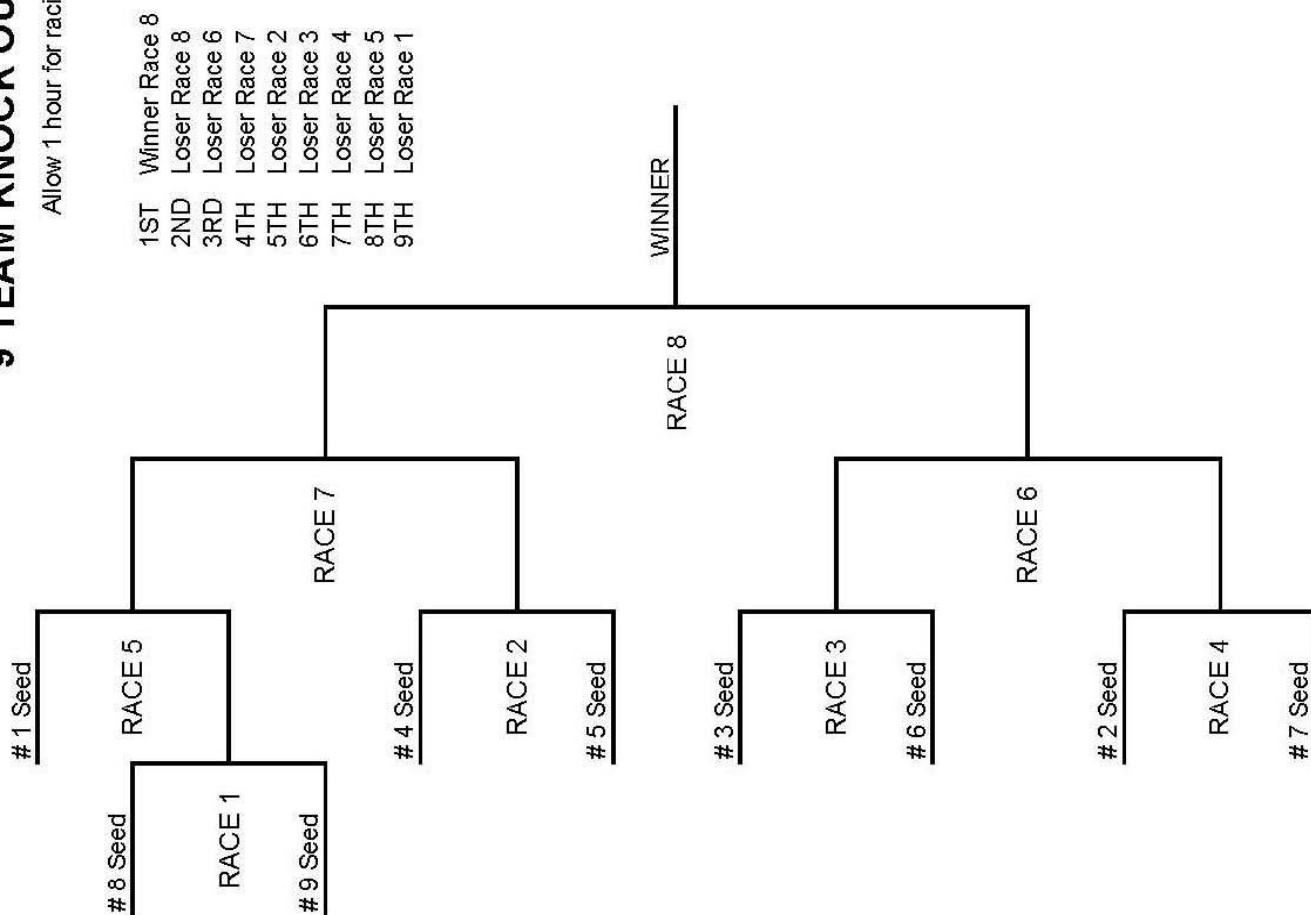
8 TEAM KNOCK OUT

Allow 55 minutes for racing



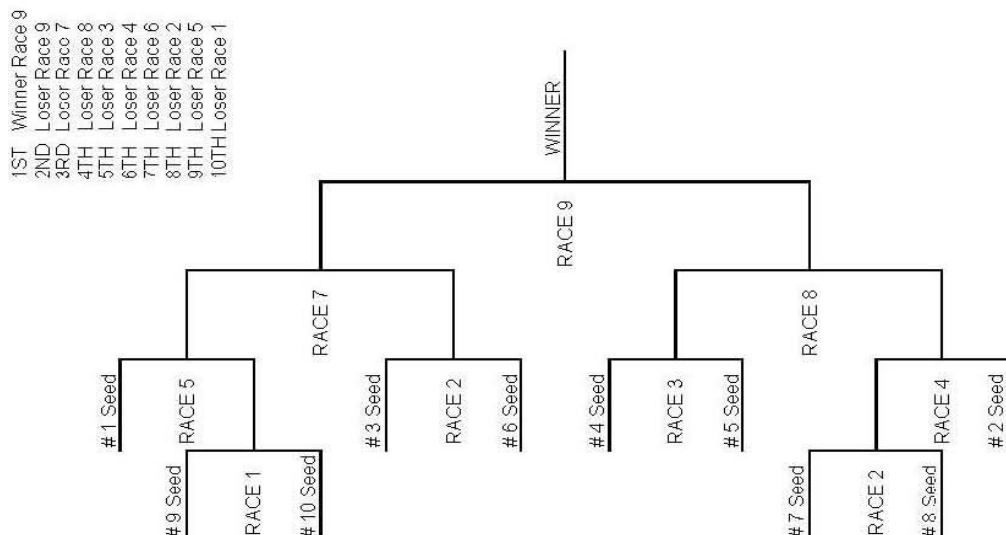
9 TEAM KNOCK OUT

Allow 1 hour for racing



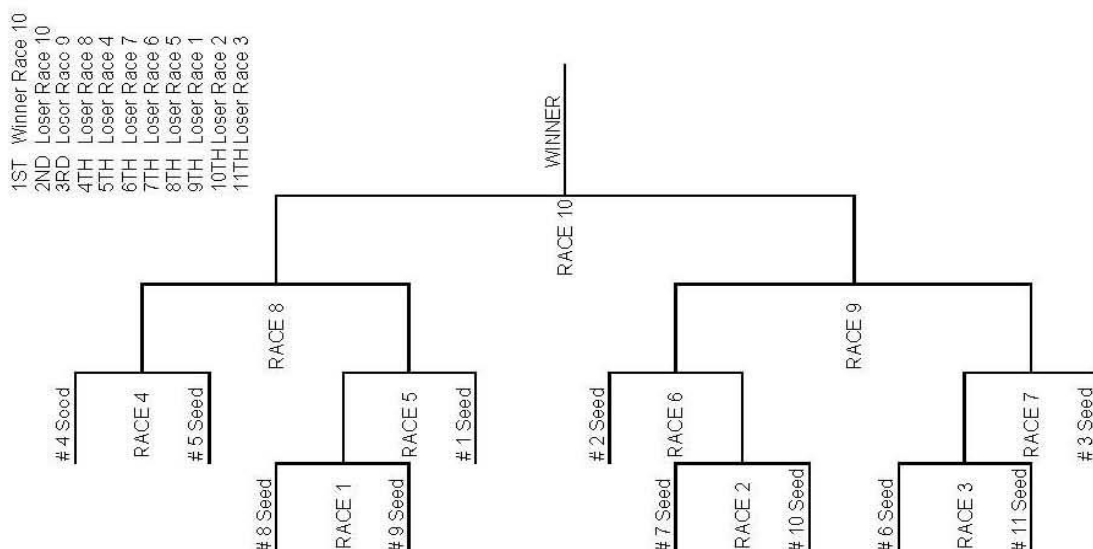
10 TEAM KNOCK OUT

Allow 1 hour and 10 minutes for racing



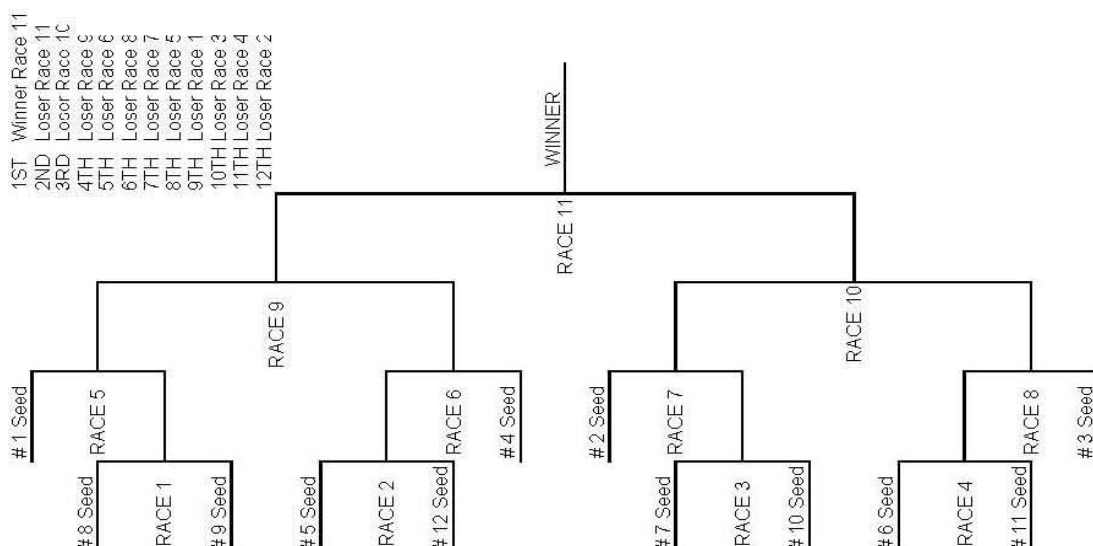
11 TEAM KNOCK OUT

Allow 1 hour and 15 minutes for racing



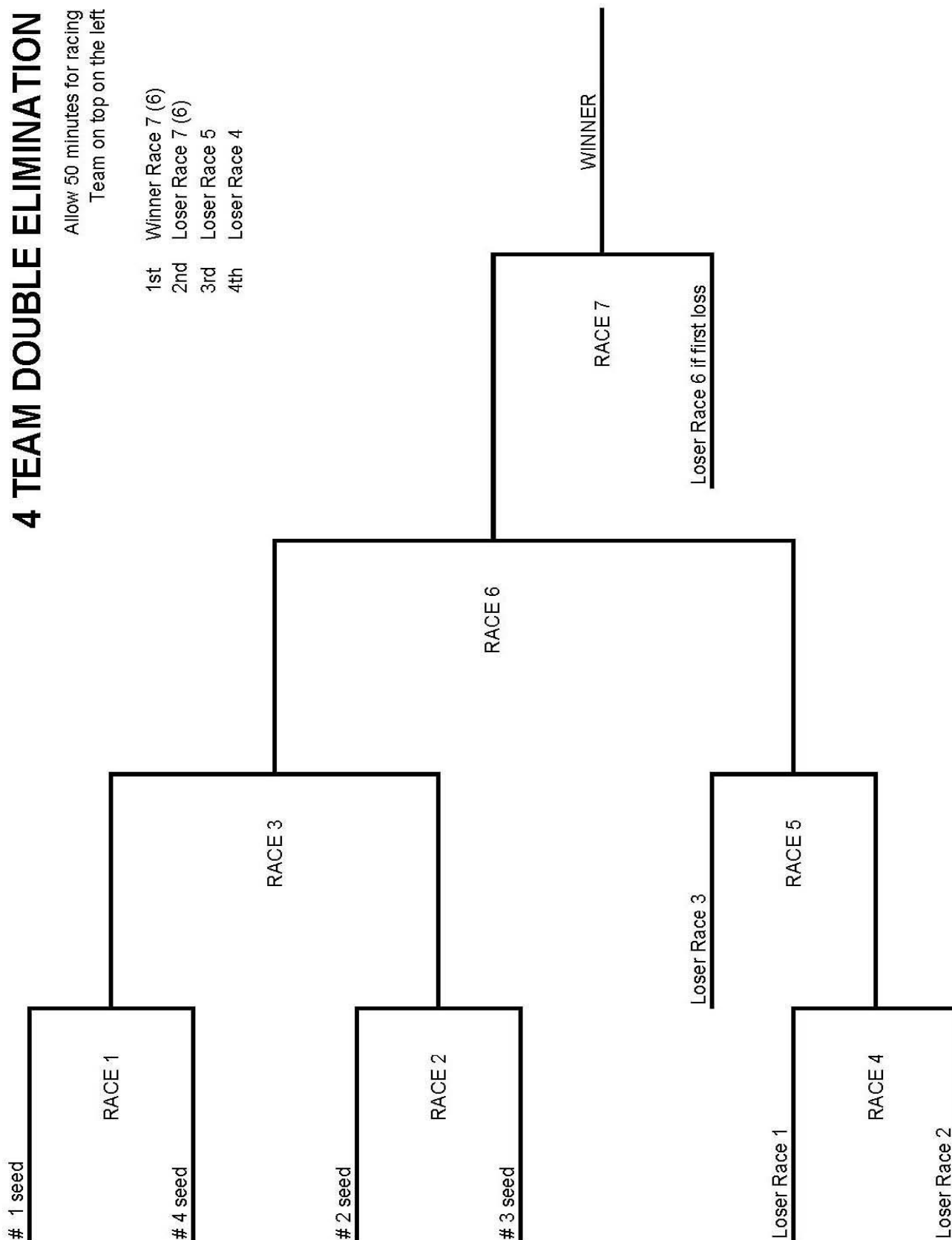
12 TEAM KNOCK OUT

Allow 1 hour and 25 minutes for racing



3.3 - Double Elimination

3.3.1 - 4 team Double Elimination

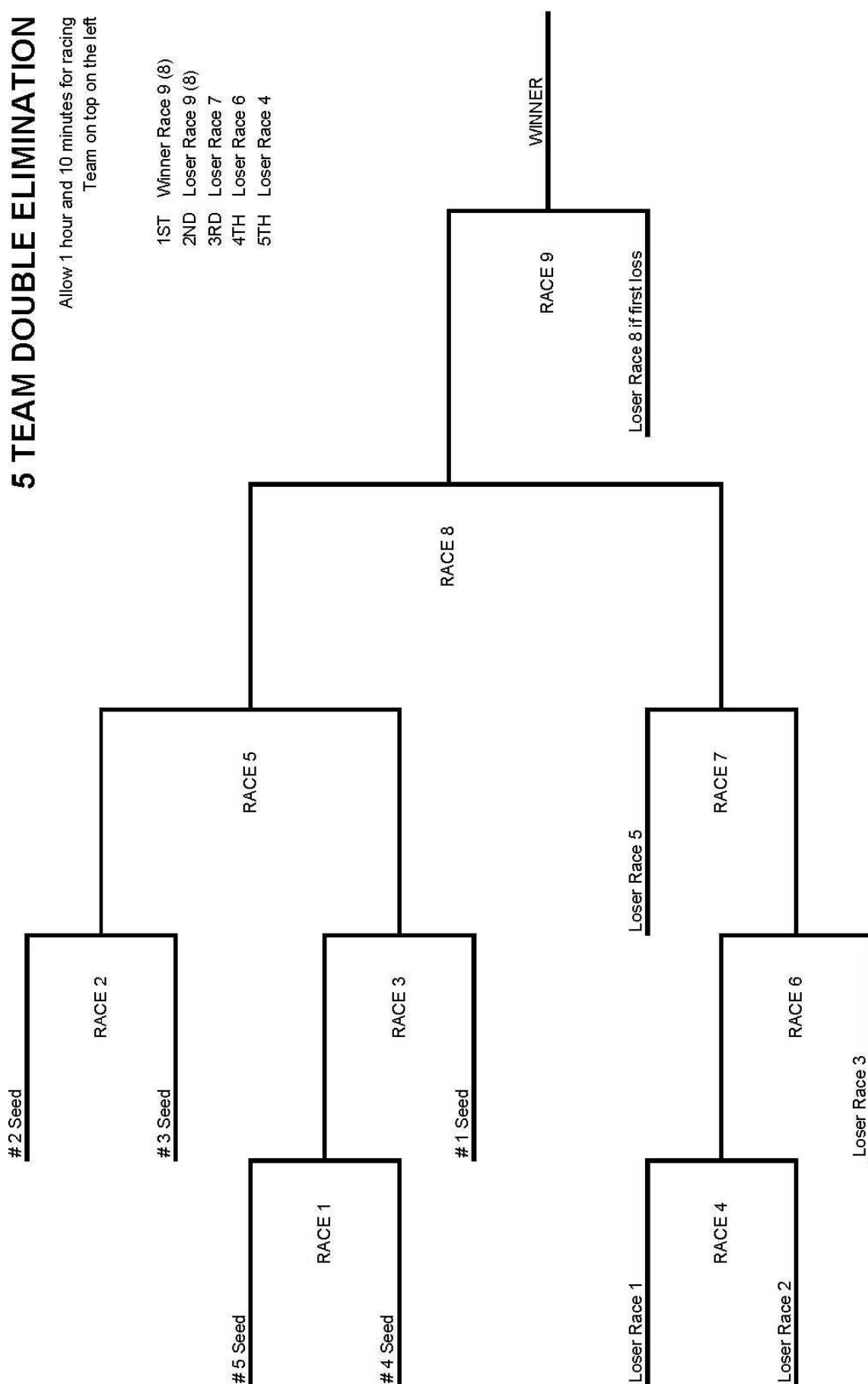


3.3.2 - 5 team Double Elimination

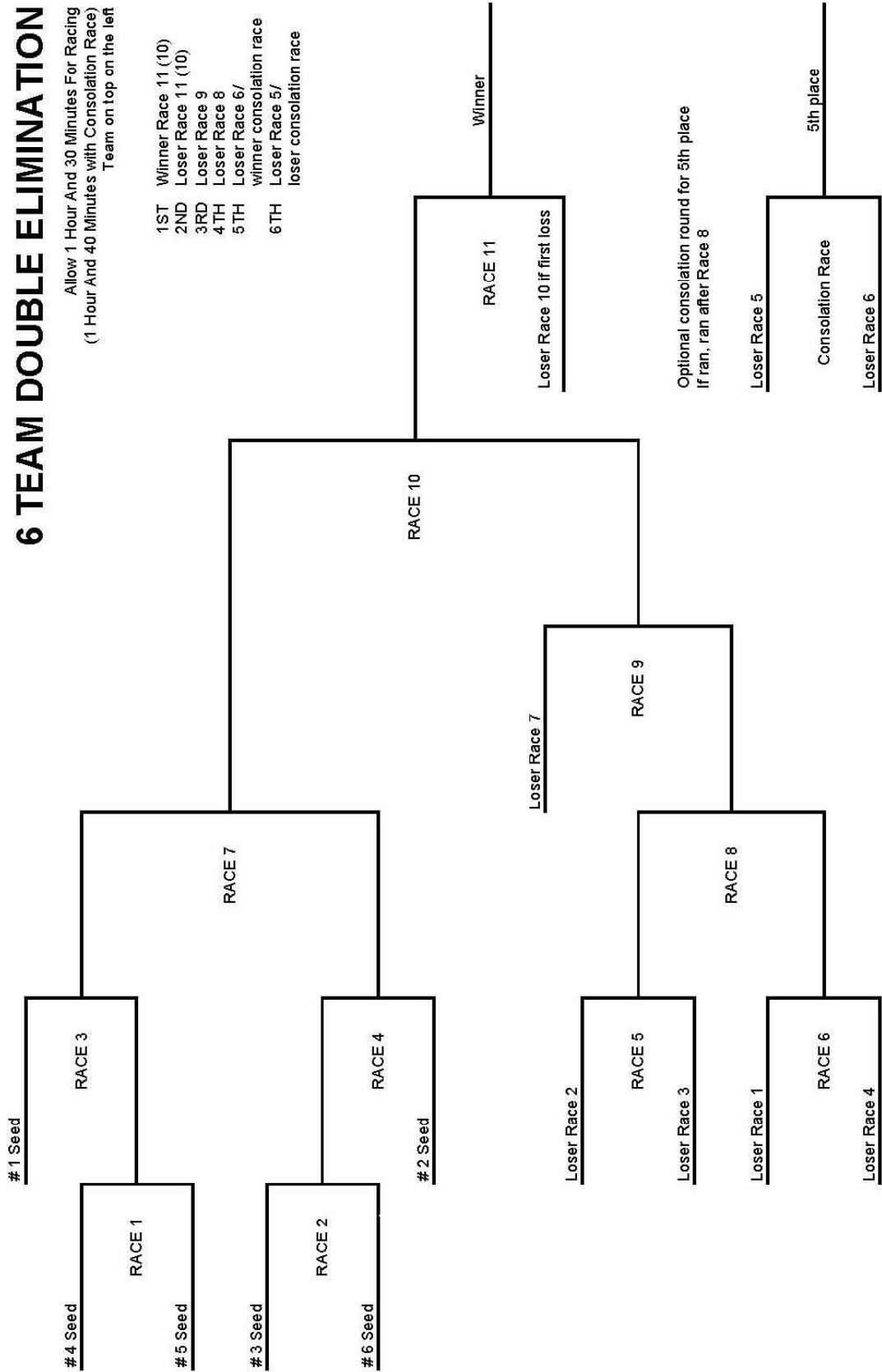
5 TEAM DOUBLE ELIMINATION

Allow 1 hour and 10 minutes for racing
Team on top on the left

1ST Winner Race 9 (8)
2ND Loser Race 9 (8)
3RD Loser Race 7
4TH Loser Race 6
5TH Loser Race 4



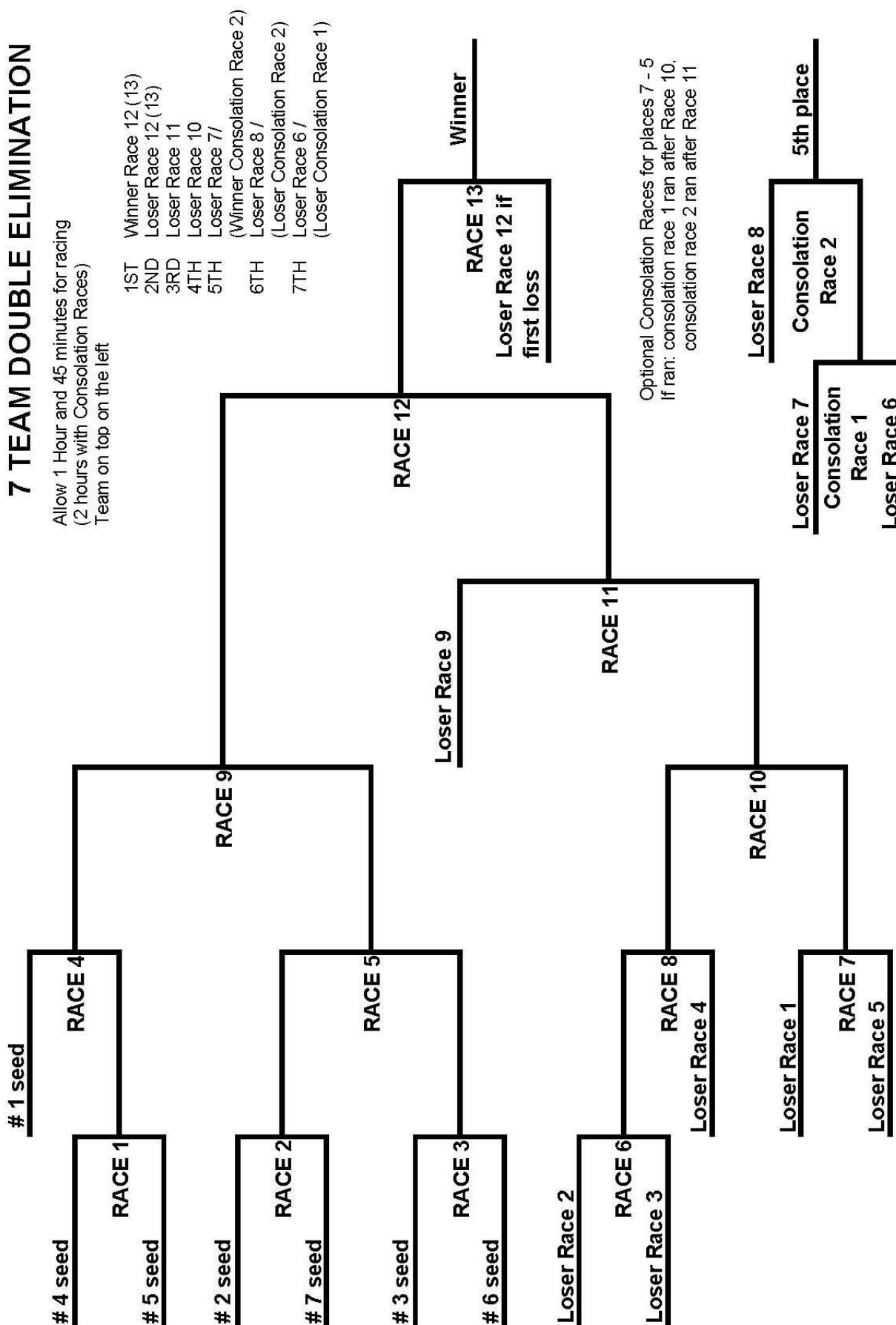
3.3.3 - 6 team Double Elimination



3.3.4 - 7 team Double Elimination

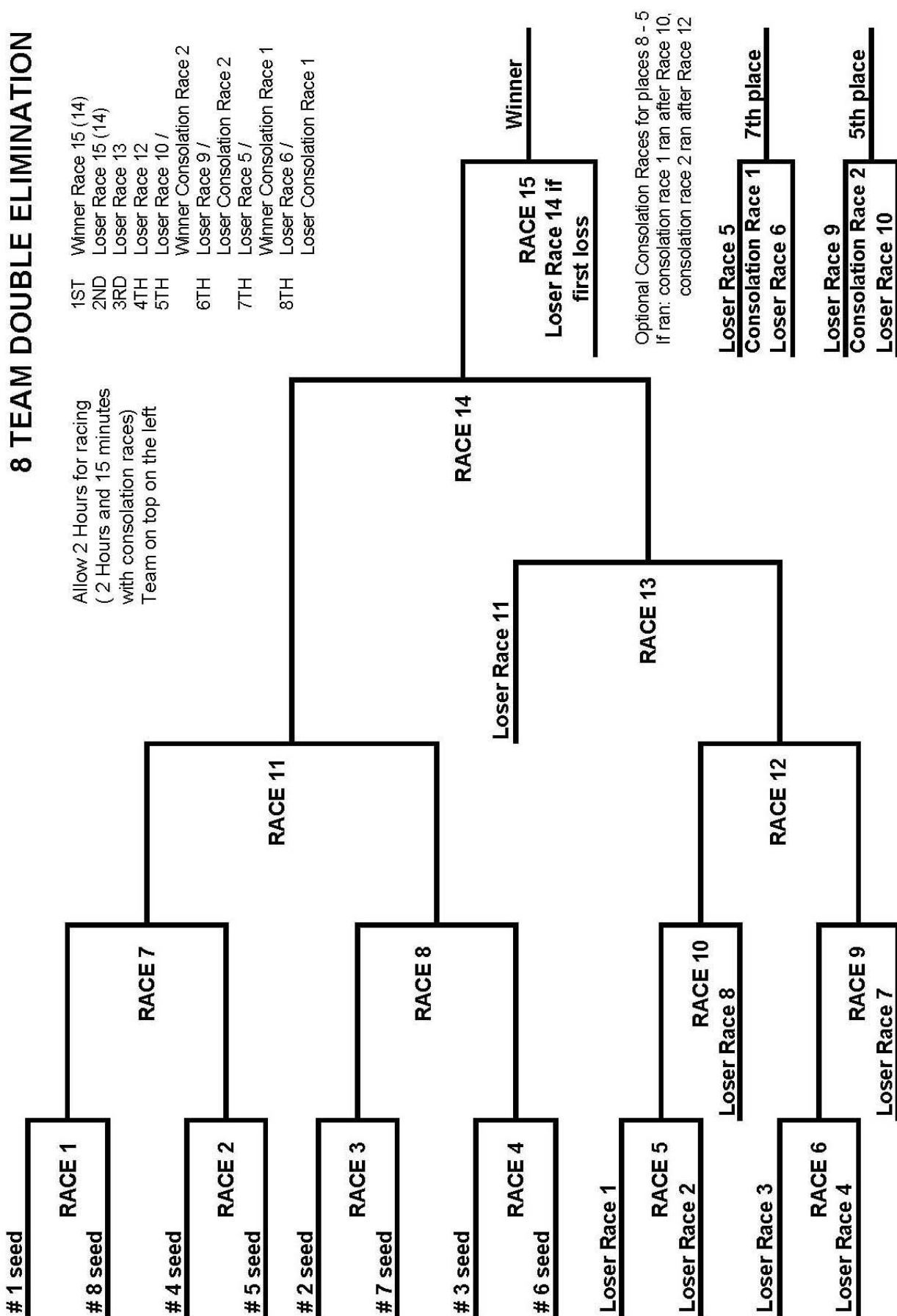
7 TEAM DOUBLE ELIMINATION

Allow 1 Hour and 45 minutes for racing
(2 hours with Consolation Races)
Team on top on the left

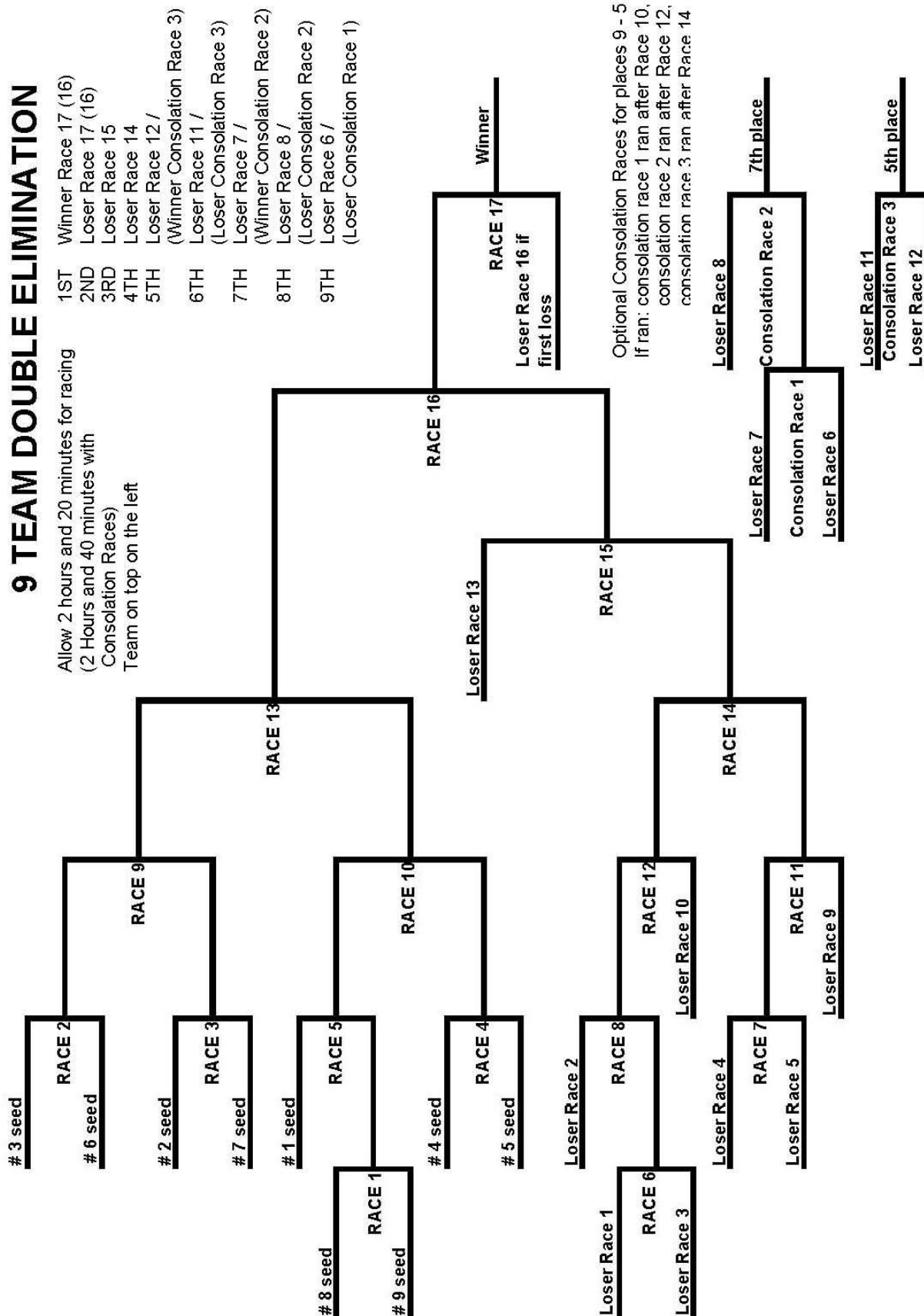


3.3.5 - 8 team Double Elimination

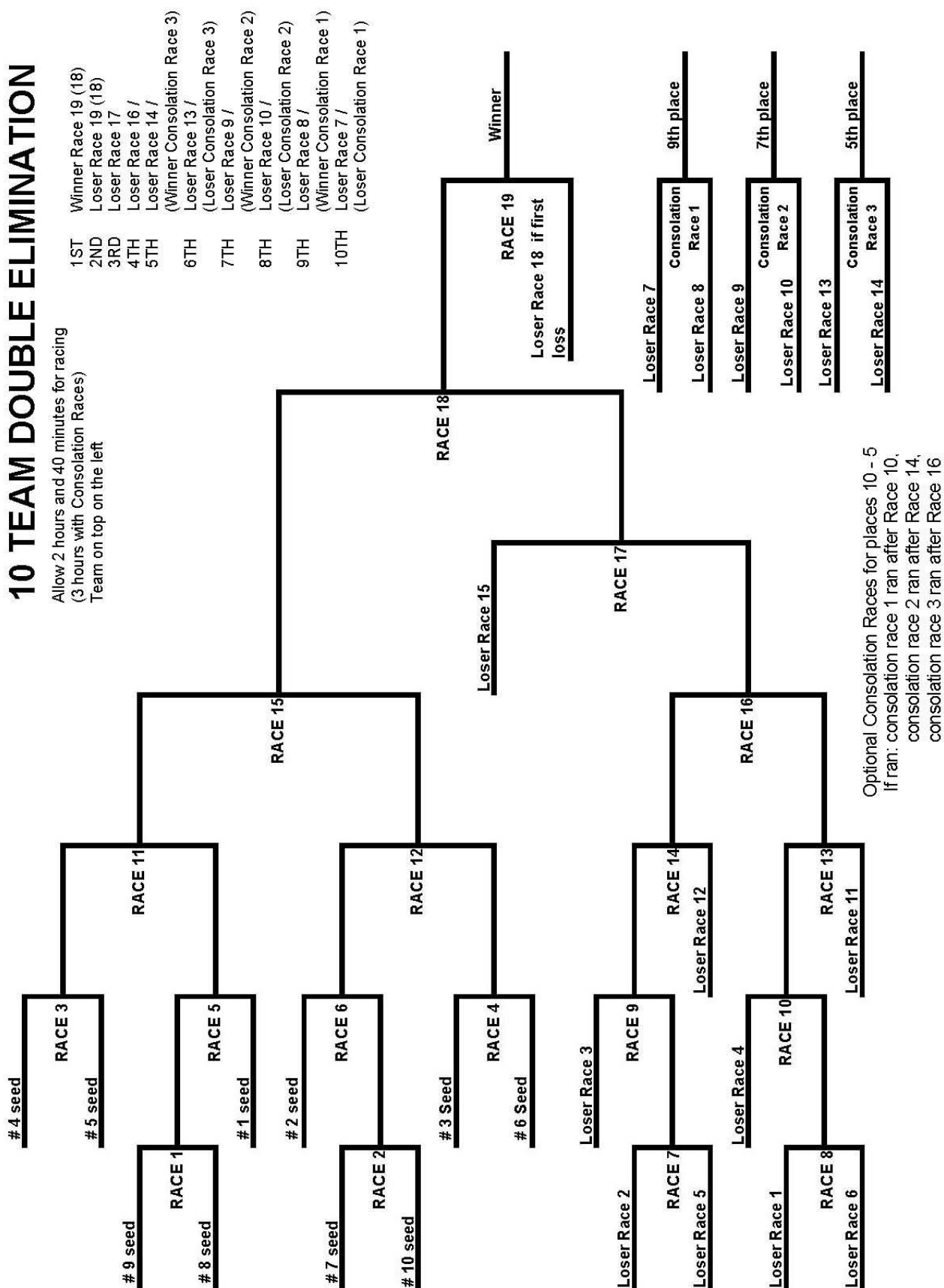
8 TEAM DOUBLE ELIMINATION



3.3.6 - 9 team Double Elimination



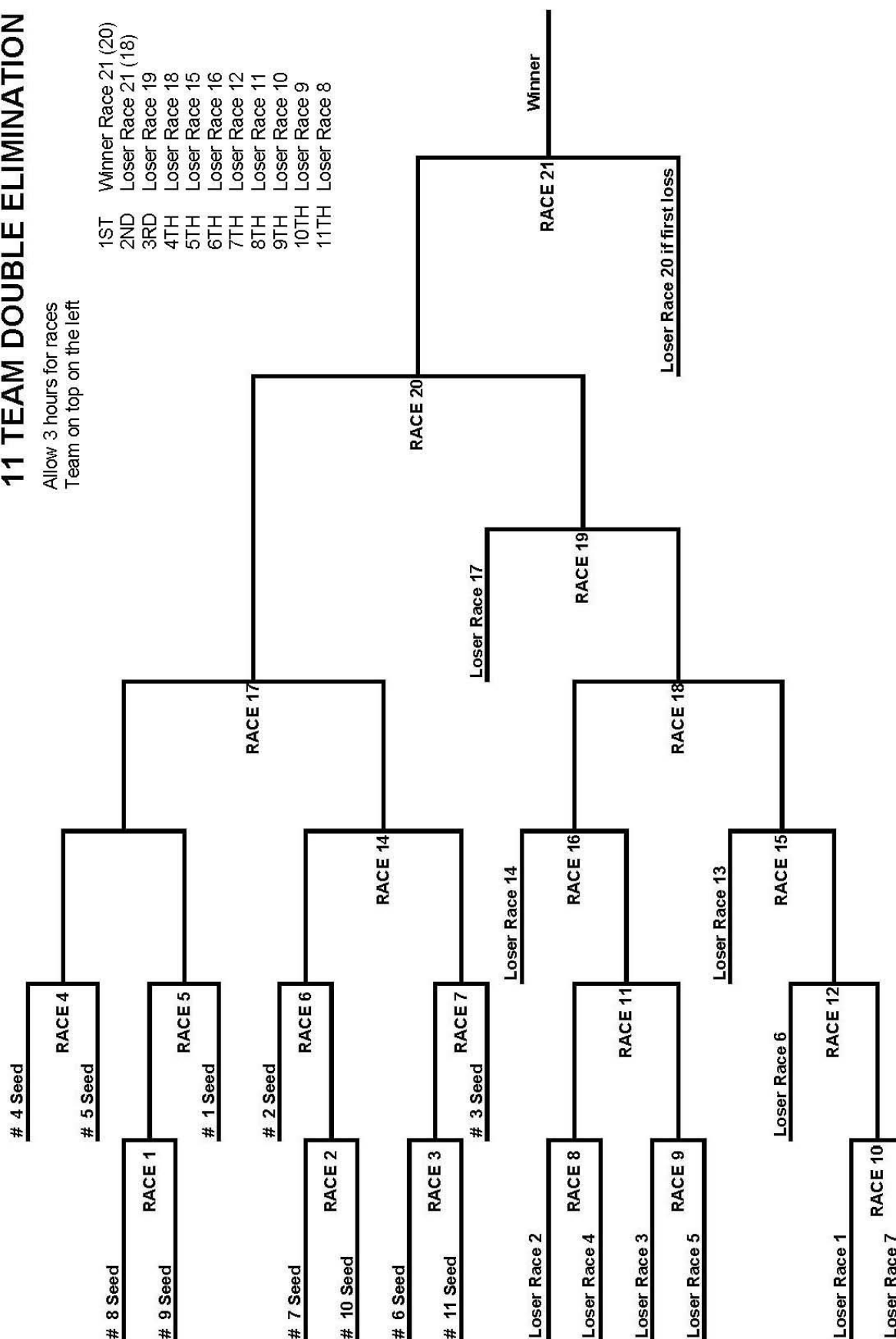
3.3.7 - 10 team Double Elimination



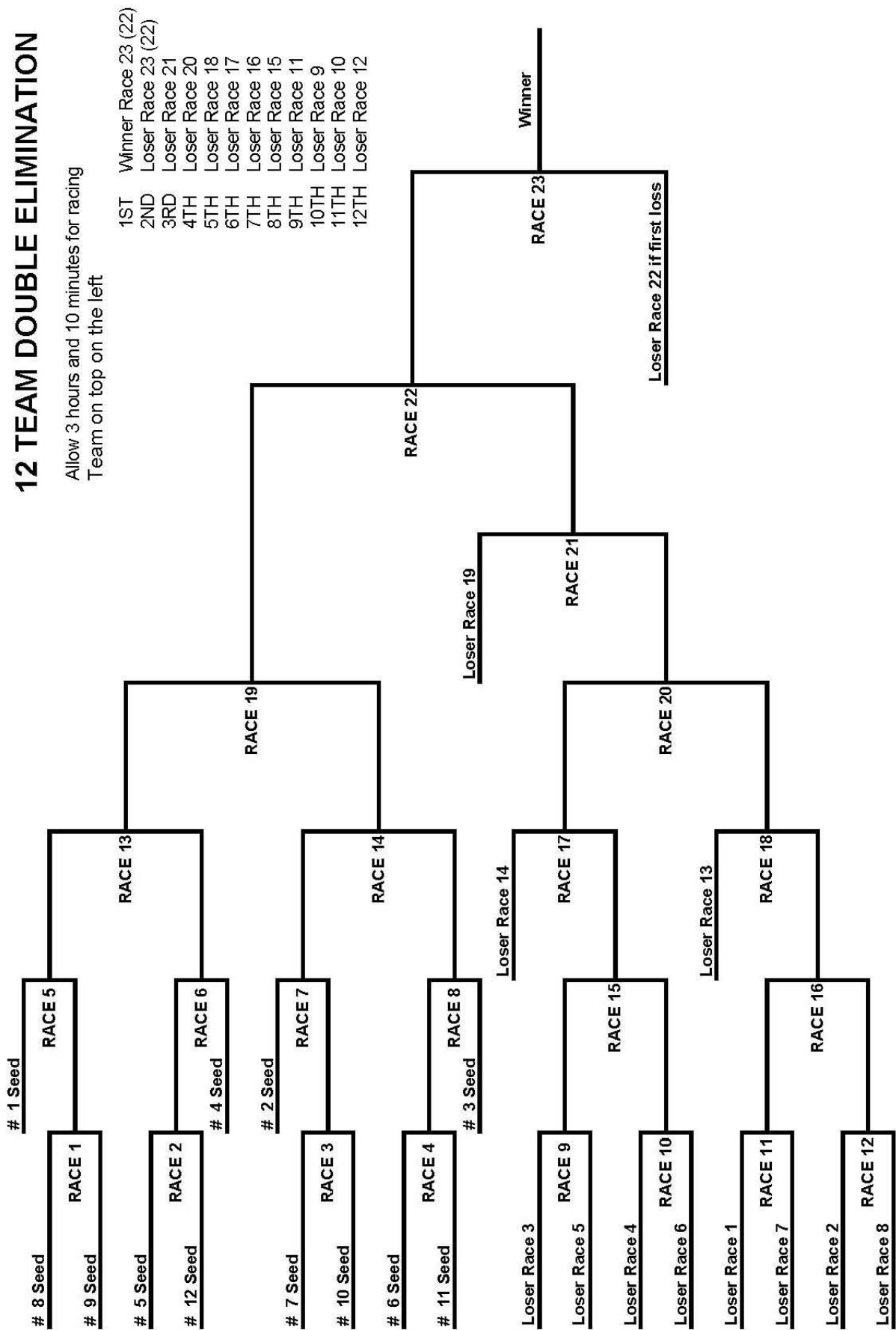
3.3.8 - 11 team Double Elimination

11 TEAM DOUBLE ELIMINATION

Allow 3 hours for races
Team on top on the left



3.3.9 - 12 team Double Elimination



Glossary

Best of 3 (Bo3) - Race format where the team that first wins 2 heats, wins the race

Best of 5 (Bo5) - Race format where the team that first wins 3 heats, wins the race

Box line : line where the front of the box is placed on the flyball lane;

Break-Out (BO) - when a team, during competition, runs faster than the designated time for the division in which it is competing.

Break-Out-Limit – the maximum number of Breaks-Out a team can run. If a team exceeds the Break-Out-Limit, they become ineligible for tournament placement

Class – a form of competition with specific requirements for entering: e.g.: open, Multi breed, Veterans,...

Club - an organization that (is registered with a FGB) and represents one or more teams.

Division – a number of teams of equal competence that race each other in a tournament.

Double elimination (DE) - tournament format where a team has to lose 2 races to be eliminated.

EFC – European Flyball Championship

Electronic Judging System – The electronic system that times the teams, and checks the changeovers and the start

Electronic Judging System (EJS) - The electronic system that times the teams, checks the changeovers and start.

Excused Ring Conflict - A ring conflict that is reported to and accepted by the Head Judge or Head Table prior to the start of the race.

Flyball Governing Body (FGB) - A regulated organization that that oversees Flyball competition, by means of a set of rules, sanctions tournaments, appoints judges,...

For Exhibition Only (FEO) - where a team chooses run, but not compete in a tournament.

Forfeit - Where a team cannot, or chooses not to compete, and thus loses the race.

Handler - The person releasing and/or catching the dog.

Head Judge : the referee, in charge of the judging team in the ring

Heat – Two teams of 4 dogs running in a single competition in which a winner or tie is determined, several of which will determine the winner of the race.

Inside Interference - Where a factor inside the racing lane interferes with a team during a heat.

Knock-Out (KO) - Tournament format where a team that loses a race is eliminated. Also called Single Elimination.

Measuring Judge : judge in charge of the measuring procedures

Outside Interference – Where a factor from outside the racing lane, not involved in the current heat, interferes with a team during a heat.

Outside interference – where a factor from outside the racing lane interferes with a team

Race - a group of heats that determine a victor.

Ring - the area in which flyball racing occurs. This area includes the racing lanes, from the backstops to the start/finish lines, the runback area and the required clearances beside the racing lanes/runback area.

Round Robin (RR) - tournament format where all teams of a division race each other.

Scoring Table – where the results of the races are processed

Single Elimination (SE) - tournament format where a team that loses a race is eliminated. Also called Knock-Out

Start/finish line - a line on the floor which determines the plane which the dog crosses to start and end his run.

Team - a subpart of a club. Teams are created by the Club to compete at Flyball tournaments

Timesheet: the score sheet with the team info and results

Tournament - an event where clubs and teams compete, using agreed upon rules, format, and regulations.

Training in the ring - where, once racing has started and before the end of the racing day, the handler uses techniques and/or devices that would be used to train.

Abbreviations

BO – Break-Out
Bo3 – Best of 3
Bo5 – Best of 5
DE – Double Elimination
EFC – European Flyball Championship
EJS – Electronic Judging System
FGB – Flyball Governing Body
KO – Knock Out
L – Loss
NBO – Net Break-Out
NT – No Time
RR – Round Robin
SE – Single Elimination
ST – Speed Trials
W – win