

# Official rules 2018



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### Important remark :

In case of discussions or contested interpretation of these rules, the dutch version is the only binding version.



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## 4. Racing conditions

### 4.1 Conditions

- a) The BFB publishes the tournament calendar along with the registration requirements on its website.
- b) The organisation follows the policies and rules of Belgian Flyball (analogous to NAFA, BFA, etc.)
- c) All participants are placed in a division depending on their place on the Belgian Flyball ranking list, which is kept up to date by the BFB secretarial department. (= seed time).  
The ranking is made up on the closing day of registration for the competition, see 4.5. The closing day for a competition is 12 days before the competition, unless otherwise explicitly indicated.
- d) For all unusual and special request, approval from the BFB secretarial department is required.
- e) The organisation will confirm the registration of every participating team. All the teams participating in the competition will be advised of the starting time by the organisation. This time depends on the number of participants.
- f) The minimum number of teams participating in a division is 4. In a limited competition the registrations are ranked by POSTING DATE. Should a team register multiple teams at the same time, only the first team is considered. If there are still openings on closing day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team is accepted according to POSTING DATE, if there are still openings, the 3<sup>rd</sup> team, etc.
- g) The organisation will provide trophies and souvenirs, with or without sponsoring. If the organisation wishes to provide a souvenir to each participant, 8 are needed per team.  
If there are several divisions, one trophy per division should be provided.
- h) The organisation pays a fee to vzw Belgische Flyball Belge (Belgian Flyball association) per participating team. This fee is set by the BFB secretarial department and includes the rent for the EJS.
- i) The BFB appoints a capable main referee for each BFB supported tournament, who complies with Belgian Flyball regulation.

## **4.2 Competition schedules**

A competition can consist of a Round Robin, a Single/Double elimination or a combination of the three.

A race consists of several heats, the number of which are advised to the teams before the competition. For example:

1 race = 3 heats

1 race = best out of 3 (meaning the team that wins 2 heats first wins the race)

1 race = best out of 5 (meaning the team that wins 3 heats first wins the race)

In a Round Robin ranking can be done by points awarded per race won or by best time for each team. The ranking method will be announced at the beginning of the competition.

## **4.3 The organisation**

The competition organiser: the organiser is responsible for planning and managing the competition. The organiser is the mediator for the organising team/organisation.

The organiser provides the necessary accommodation. He/she is responsible for competition schedules, protests, etc.

The organiser makes sure a scoreboard is kept and put up in order for all participating teams to be able to check their results. Next to the scoreboard a list of all measured dogs and their jump heights should be put up.

The organiser is responsible for the ring lay out, used equipment and materials. He/she provides the necessary parking space, dog toilets and walking space, checks the audience and supporters and provides for clean up of the ring during and after the competition.

The organiser will delegate at least one person per ring to manage the secretariat on the day of the tournament.

## **4.4 Assistance**

The BFB secretarial department provides advise and/or assistance to persons, groups and teams wishing to hold a flyball competition. This involves: advise concerning invitations and entries, drafting of the competition course and schedules, providing the necessary judges and competition equipment.

The BFB will draft the competition course and schedules for all the tournaments supported by the BFB.

## **4.5 The Flyball ranking list**

The Flyball ranking list is kept up to date by the BFB secretarial department.

The seed time of a team is the fastest time recorded during the last three competitions (acknowledged by the BFB) to which it has participated. (For Super Cup Competitions see 7.2)

Times recorded six months or more before the competition are not included in the ranking list.

Only times recorded with an approved EJS are included.

A non-registered team does not have a seed time and should provide a breakout time.

A registered team without a seed time should provide a reference time. This reference time is not treated as a breakout time.

The Flyball ranking list is made up on the closing day of registration for the competition.

A registered team with a seed time can provide a faster reference time. This reference time is not treated as a breakout time.



## **4.6 The team and division breakout time**

If a time on the Flyball ranking list is not representative for a team, this team can give a breakout time.

When the divisions are made up, the breakout time will be taken into account instead of the time on the ranking list.

For each division, except for the first division, a division breakout time is set. For divisions where the lowest team breakout or seed time is lower than or equal to 20 seconds, the division breakout time is set 0,5 seconds lower than the lowest team seed or breakout time. For divisions where the lowest team seed or breakout time is higher than 20 seconds, the division breakout time is set 1 second lower than the lowest team seed or breakout time.

If the heat time recorded for a team is lower than its breakout time or division breakout time, it loses the heat and no BFB titles are awarded for that heat. On the timesheets Break Out (BO), UIT, or an equivalent is mentioned, together with the recorded time is mentioned regardless the performance of the other team.

The breakout time is mentioned with the registration and cannot be changed after closing date.

There is no breakout time for division 1.

The organisation will clearly mention the breakout time on the timesheet.

A team that has not yet competed should not give a breakout time and is put in the lowest division. It is allowed to give a breakout time in order to be put in a higher division.

If the Electronic Judging System doesn't function, the breakout rules doesn't count.

In case both teams break out in a heat, both will be marked as loser and no titles will be awarded.

If the break out is not noticed immediately and the race is already run, the undeservedly won heats are marked as lost heats. If due to this change the race is undecided, additional heats should be run to decide the race.

A team that 'breaks-out' three times in a tournament will be disqualified and is ineligible for any placement in that tournament.



## **5. The competition rules**

### **5.1 The competitions**

Only amateur competitions are permitted. Uniforms, equipment and trophies marking a sponsor or a team are allowed.

### **5.2 Teams and several types of competitions**

In an open regular competition teams can participate with dogs of any breed and/or mixed breed.

In a non-regular competition or special competition participating teams should meet certain criteria e.g. 4 breed teams, veteran teams, etc.

A competition for 4 breed teams is meant for teams with dogs of different breeds acknowledged by Sint-Hubertus and/or with 1 dog of mixed breed.

A dog can only be registered in 1 team and participate in 1 competition, except if a tournament (for an unlimited number of teams) consists of an open regular and a non-regular or special competition. A dog can participate for team X in the open, regular competition and for team Y for the special competition.

When a dog participated to a Flyball competition of whatever nature, except for demonstrations, it is not allowed to participate for a different team during 3 months, counting from the day of announcement to info@flyball.be. Any deviation of this rule requires the team to run 'non-competitive' and no points for the Super Cup or the day prize will be awarded.

Following exceptions are allowed:

- The original team has ceased to exist
- The original team agrees to the transfer

### **5.3 Protest**

Any protest should be submitted in writing to the Belgian Flyball secretarial department. It will advise or if necessary take action. Both an individual or a group of people can be called to account.

## 5.4 Code of ethics

- a) One of the objectives of the BFB is to promote cooperation and good sportsmanship in 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. At no time should they show displeasure with a dog, a judge, exhibitor, BFB representative, sponsor, host or spectator inside or outside of the ring. As a participant whether it be exhibitor, trainer, judge, host team or BFB representative, you typify the sport of Flyball.
- b) Training and exhibiting shall be carried out by such methods that are in keeping with the best interests of the dog and the sport of Flyball.
- c) Abuse or severe discipline of a dog is not in the best interest of the dog nor the sport Flyball.
- d) Participants shall always follow the rules and policies and show a full knowledge and understanding of the same.
- e) Anyone, either individual or team, on good terms with BFB may report another team or individual for so called misconduct, inside or outside of the ring, detrimental to the interests of the sport Flyball. A protest during a tournament should be made discreetly without leaving an unfavourable opinion of Flyball.

## 5.5 Judges

Five judges shall officiate when two teams are running.

Two line judges shall be positioned at each team's starting/finish line, facing each other. Two box judges are to be located at the box end, with a good view of the box loader, but not standing so as to interfere with or distract the dog. A fifth judge shall act as starter, division judge and referee.

The box judges and line judges shall remain stationary during each heat. If a ball goes around or bounces of a judge, it 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 to which they are assigned.

The division judge (starter and referee) is positioned between the racing lanes in an area between the start/finish line and leads dogs to start the heat. He/she should be in a position to assist the line judges in determining winners of close heats if no EJS system is used.

He/she should always confer with the line judges and the box judges before determining a winner.

If necessary, a division judge shall reposition himself/herself in such a manner as not to distract the dogs competing.

If no EJS system is used, he/she shall perform the starting countdown and maintain a consistent cadence of approximately 1-second intervals throughout the tournament.

The judges shall indicate with a signal which dogs must re-run. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run his/her dog.

If it is necessary to stop a heat, the division judge shall use a whistle.

People wanting to become a judge need to meet following conditions:

He/she should have a Flyball background.

He/she is at least 18 years old.

He/she is a BFB member

He/she has passed a BFB course successfully.

Box judge: pass a written exam

Line judge: pass a written exam and successfully complete an on the job training period.

Division judge: pass a written exam and successfully complete an on the job training period.

The Belgian Flyball secretarial department appoints judges.

When judging with approved electrical equipment (EJS) accurate to 100<sup>th</sup> of a second, ties should only be allowed when both electrical readouts are identical to 2 decimal places.

## 5.6 Judges Guidelines

Judges should be friendly and courteous, even sympathetic, but above all impartial and firm. Judges must have a thorough understanding gained through personal experience.

A Judge must be familiar with the regulations, rules and requirements.

The judge's responsibility also extends to the participants, to the host team, or organization, to the spectators and sponsors. A judge must be arbiter and diplomat.

A judge must leave exhibitors and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage.

A Judge is not to engage in conversation with a disgruntled participant.

Upon arriving at the site the judges shall immediately report to the Tournament Organizer. The organizing team foresees the necessary time for the judges to check the ring, jumps, soil and backstops and to measure the dogs and inspect the boxes.

The rules only contain basic principles. It is no manual that explains every possible situation. Judgement calls should be based on the experience, good character, and fairness of the judge. Above all else, the safety and well being of the exhibitors and their dogs should be foremost.

Prior to the scheduled time for competition the tournament head judge must inspect the ring. It should meet all the requirements of the regulations.

Start/finish lines should be visibly marked.

Jump placement, jump heights, backstops, barriers and box location should be measured to make sure they meet the regulations. A deviation of 0,5 cm on the jump heights is considered minor and acceptable.

Each box shall be inspected by the tournament head judge and his/her assistants and shall not be allowed if, in his/her opinion, it doesn't meet the regulations.

The BFB will draw up a schedule for judges to measure dogs. Each tournament one judge, effectively judging that tournament, will take care of measuring. He/she will be assisted by a second active judge who will check the measuring and procedure. If no second judge is available, an inactive judge will assist. If no one is available a member of the Belgian Flyball secretarial department will assist. If time allows the head judge will measure all dogs that qualify for lower jump height.

A dog can be exempted from measuring, see annex 6.1.

Only one handler per dog shall be allowed. If a dog cannot be measured due to aggression or exaggerated fear, it will not be qualified for lower jump height.

Jump heights can be adapted by 2,5 cm, with a minimum height of 17,5 cm and a maximum height of 35 cm.

Jump heights shall be set at 12,5 cm lower than the smallest dog's height (in one team, participating not standing by) at the withers, adjusted to 2,5 cm increments.

Possible heights are: 17,5 – 20 – 22,5 – 25 – 27,5 – 30 – 32,5 – 35 cm.

For example the smallest dog in a team's height at the withers is 37 cm. the jump height of the team is set at: 37 cm – 12,5 cm = 24,5 cm rounded off to 22,5 cm.

If the Judges are uncertain of the dog's height after 3 accurate measurements, the height shall be recorded as the lowest for the benefit of the dog. However, if the head judge later determines that the team is not jumping the proper height, the team will forfeit any races won at the incorrect jump height in a round robin tournament. The team can be excluded in a double elimination tournament. The head judge may at any time measure a dog, but is in no way obligated. If in having the dog measured the judge determines he/she has made a mistake, the team shall in no way be penalized, but will be required to jump the proper height for any remaining heats.

Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally within 30 minutes of the heat in question.

Height measurements shall be conducted publicly.

Height measurements are to be recorded and signed by the measuring judge. A copy of this completed document should be put up for viewing by the tournament participants.

The measuring site will be determined by the measuring judge.

A dog will be measured from the ground to the top of its withers. It shall stand in a natural position.

The division judge shall stop the race and appoint the other team as the winner in case of interference in the ring, inappropriate aggression by a dog or a handler and if a dog relieves itself in the ring.

Line judges shall:

- 1) (stricken)
- 2) Using the correct forms provided by BFB, record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won or lost.
- 3) Stop the race after the first false start and restart the heat.
- 4) Indicate with a signal when a dog is to run again.  
for example:

Early passes – these are indicated by the line judge, assisted by the EJS and/or the division judge. When no EJS is used the line judge will indicate a foul.

Missing a jump.

Crossing the start/finish line without the ball.

If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball).

Remark: team members are not allowed to pass through the sensors of the EJS over the start/finish line, should this happen the dog on the track at that time should rerun.

All other rule violations for which a dog must run again.

- 5) Decide who wins a heat. If the line judges are not in agreement, the division judge will consult with them and make the decision.  
In case of Round Robin a tie should not be rerun, during single or double elimination it has to be rerun.

Box judges shall observe the box loader/spectators for infringements, signal the line judge of a possible box malfunction (not loaded, no firing, ...) and observe dogs for interference or missing a jump or for relieving themselves in the ring.

## **5.7 Teams and Tournament forms**

At a tournament each team is to consist of a minimum of 4 dogs and 4 handlers, with a maximum of 6 dogs, and 6 handlers, plus a box loader. At their discretion a team may have a runner or two to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps and otherwise assist the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the judges, or the opposing team. They will in no way help the dogs or violate the rules.

Each team is to have 4 dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of 2 alternates standing by outside of the ring.

The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of any injury. A dog can only be replaced at the end of a heat.

Each dog on the team, including the alternates, must be declared PRIOR to the first race of the tournament. Once the tournament has begun there will be no substituting of the dogs in the team.

The registration and tournament forms (time sheets) shall mention:

- the team name (including address and telephone number of the team)
- the team captain's name
- each dog's name
- each dog's breed
- BFB number or date of birth and chip or tattoo number if no BFB number is attributed
- each handler's name
- jump height of each dog
- name of the box loader

For multiple entries of the same team there will be no switching of dogs from one team to another once the competition begins.

A team can register as a veteran team according to article 6.3. The team name should clearly mention that it involves a team of older dogs.

A registered veteran team can register for a tournament but cannot set up official records. A veteran team should consist of BFB registered dogs of BFB registered members. The sum of the youngest dog combination of the team should be at least 32 years (counted in full years). A veteran team can lower the jump height of the smallest dog with 10 cm, limited to the lowest possible jump height e.g. the jump height of the smallest dog is 32,5 cm, the veteran team can put this dog's jump height to 22,5 cm.

## **5.8 Flyball Boxes**

Each team shall supply its own Flyball box, which should be safe and fit for the purpose intended.

All boxes are to have a mechanical (not electrical) pedal release mechanism.

The boxes may be painted as the team wishes.

The ball, when released, must have a free unobstructed flight of not less than 60 cm from the box cup in a forward direction towards the start/finish line.

Boxes shall not exceed 61 cm in width, 46 cm in height and 76 cm in depth. These dimension include the release mechanism, but not a possible platform for the box loader to hold the box in place. Anchoring systems/material should not raise the box with more than 1,27 cm.

Boxes should be constructed with the comfort and well-being of the dog in mind. Sharp edges should be avoided and adequate padding (rubber, mousse) and protection should be used.

Whenever possible a frame will be mounted on every racing lane to allow the swift setup of the flyballbox. Every team is responsible for the correct mounting of the flyballbox on the frame in order to respect the official tracklength

## **5.9 Balls**

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

## **5.10 Footing**

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

## **5.11 Barriers**

- a) The host team or the BFB shall provide a solid barrier/backstop (minimum 60 cm high) at the box end of the run, placed so as to prevent missed balls from rolling too far without preventing proper observation by the division and line judges or obscuring the spectators view.
- b) A similar barrier shall extend between the boxes up to where they are positioned to minimize interference (4,75 m from the last jump).
- c) Buckets with balls, hammers, brooms etc should be placed behind the barrier.

## **5.12 Jumps**

The host team or the BFB shall provide two sets of identical Flyball jumps. Teams can cooperate by lending their equipment.

The jumps shall be solid, white and are to have an inside width of 60 cm with posts neither more than 90 cm high nor less than 60 cm high. The outside of the posts may be painted any colour, but the edges must be white. Logos and/or lettering shall be permitted. The partitions must be white and join together, a logo or lettering is permitted, with a white 5 cm border.

The jumps should be adjustable by 2,5 cm and should have a minimum height of 17,5 cm and a maximum height of 35 cm.

Partition should be made of a flexible material eg PVC (rigid foam) and have a maximum thickness of 12 mm.

## **5.13 Set Up**

There shall be a distance of 1,83 m (6') from the start/finish line to the first jump, 3,05 m (10') between each jump (4 in total) and 4,57 m (15') from the last jump to the front edge of the Flyball box.

The distance between two racing lanes shall not be less than 4 m and not more than 6 m (20').

The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is 45 m x 10 m.

In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor carpet where rug burns are possible) each racing lane shall be matted for the length of the lane leading up to the first jump and an area from the last jump to the backstops. Between the last jumps and the barrier, the lane shall have at least 1,5 m wide matting on both sides.

The length of the racing lane shall include an area no less than 25 m leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the box in front of the backstops of not less than 2,15 m (7') from the front edge of the Flyball box. In the event the 25m exit zone is not feasible, the organisation will formally file and motivate an exception request to the BFB. BFB will evaluate the request and communicate it's decision in due time.

The back of the exit zone will be sealed off, preferably with nets, but in any case sealed off sufficiently in order to minimize the injury risks for dogs as well as spectators.

The headjudge will inspect the courts for safety before the beginning of the tournament.

## **5.14 Reporting For Races**

- a) If one or more team members are more than 5 minutes (or more than the agreed minimum time) late for the scheduled start of a race, all else being in readiness, the division judge may declare a forfeit by that team. The judge is free to apply the rule or not, as this is only a measure to prevent unnecessary delays.
- b) The head judge can set a minimum time between consecutive races. Normally this time is set at 2 minutes, but can be adjusted after consultation with the organization. When a race has finished and the judge has given the signal, the time recording starts. When the time's up, the race begins. The time can only be extended when a handler is working as a judge in another ring or when a judge is tardy. In this case team members prepare the dog for the absent handler. Team members of the absent handler also take care of removing the dog from the ring so that the handler can change rings without loss of time.
- c) Teams that win by forfeit must complete the minimum required heats scheduled to qualify for points awarded in round robin or to advance in double elimination competition. If another team is not available to compete, the team shall race without an opponent.
- d) Forfeiting teams that do not show just cause, may be excluded from the tournament by the Organiser and may be subject to further discipline. (see annex 6.2)
- e) If a team needs to forfeit because their A and B teams run in the same race, the highest ranked/fastest team shall continue and the slower team shall forfeit.
- f) Once a team has declared itself "Out of Competition", it cannot return to the regular competition of that tournament. From that time the dogs in that team can no longer obtain BFB titles and the team cannot compete for a tournament place. It can keep racing as long as it does not disturb the other teams.

## **5.15 Practice Runs**

- a) There shall be no practice or training in the ring for the duration of the Tournament except for the practice runs as permitted just prior to each race. Individuals may work with the Flyball box or on jumps well away from the ring provided they do not distract other teams.
- b) Practicing in the ring during a Tournament equals forfeit for that round.
- c) Only dogs mentioned on the timesheet are allowed practice runs.

## **5.16 Rules of Racing**

- a) The Start  
Dogs may start from a stationary or running start.

Starting manually (whistle of the division judge):

FALSE START: if any part of the dog (snout, paw – in the air or on the ground) or if a foot of the handler is over the line before the race is started. The line or division judge decide whether it is a false start.

Starting electronically:

FALSE START: If any part of the dog's (paw, snout – in the air or on the ground) or handler's body breaks the beam. The false start will be indicated by the line or division Judge. After the first false start, the race can start again. If the same team causes a second false start (for that same heat), the starting dog must run again. If a second false start is caused by the other team (their first false start), the heat must be restarted.

A false start is only allowed once per race (not per heat) and per team.

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

All 4 dogs need to run the course, except when the judge terminates the heat.

Dogs that are faulted for any reason must run again in the order that they were faulted. Faults that are cause for dog to run again (non exhaustive list):

- \* Early passes – these are indicated by the EJS and the line judge and/or the division judge. When starting manually the line judge will indicate the fault.
  - \* Missed jumps
  - \* Not carrying the ball over all four jumps in succession
  - \* Not triggering the box before taking the ball from the cup
  - \* Crossing the start/finish line without the ball
  - \* Any part of a handler's body or associated object crosses the start/finish line during the heat. With the exception of setting up a knocked down jump or retrieving a loose ball.  
Remark: team members are not allowed to break the beam of the EJS system, should this happen, the dog on the lane must run again.
- c) **Knocked Down Jumps / Broken jumps**  
A dog that knocks down a jump or jump(s) during its run shall not be penalized, provided the following dog(s) clear(s) the jump(s) as if it/they were standing. A 'runner' or handler may set up knocked down jump(s) if doing so does not interfere with, or guide the dog(s) in any way.
- d) **Box Malfunction**  
The box loader shall indicate to the box judge when there is a box malfunction by standing in front of the device. The heat shall be stopped. The division judge will examine the box and if in his/her opinion, the box has malfunctioned, the heat shall be run again. If the box is found to be working, the heat shall be forfeited. If another box is not available and the original cannot be repaired in a reasonable time, the heat and any remaining heats of the race are to be forfeited.  
If the box malfunctions a second time (or the spare box malfunctions) in the same race the heat and all remaining heats in that race shall be forfeited.
- e) **Intervening:**  
When a ball falls back into the box after the dog has caught it, the box loader is allowed to reset the box without causing a fault for the dog in question. Only at this time is the box loader allowed to give directions to the dog to trigger the box again.
- f) **Fouling the ring**  
When a dog relieves itself in the ring, the team loses that heat.
- g) **Out of Bounds/Out of Play**  
The host team shall specify the race area boundaries. If a ball bounces out of bounds and the dog retrieves it unaided, there shall be no penalty.  
If a spectator, handler, box loader or other aids the dog; the dog is to run again.
- h) **Conduct of the Box Loader**  
Except during the warm up, to retrieve a loose ball or get a fresh supply of balls to load between two heats, the box loader must remain in the upright position behind the box, he/she may offer verbal encouragement only, as long as such encouragement does not distract the opposing team. The box loader is to remain in position until the division judge determines the outcome of the heat. If, in the Judge's opinion, a box loader has violated any of these rules, the dog in the track at the time of the violation is to run again. If, in the opinion of the judge, a box loader assists a dog, except where provided for in the rules, the dog shall run again.  
The box needs to be loaded and the box loader should be back in the upright position when the dog reaches the box.
- i) **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). A heat may be won due to default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing.
- j) **Interference**  
If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat, the team causing the

interference will forfeit the heat. This includes interference on the racing lane, in the flyball ring and in the area where dogs are waiting to run. Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dog from running/completing its race. A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference.

If a factor outside of the Flyball ring with no connection to the heat, race or one of the teams, - an external distraction – influences the outcome of a heat, it shall be rerun.

Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by throwing any object for their dogs (i.e. balls, toys, Frisbees). Team members are required to pick up any loose balls. The first offence of these infringements shall receive a warning - a second offence or any offence thereafter **during the race** will result in the loss of the heat.

Remark: using a whistle can be perceived as a distraction. Bringing food as well as the use of food is not allowed in the ring.

k) Broken Boards  
(stricken)

l) Safety  
If the division judge decides a dangerous situation occurs during a heat, that heat shall be stopped and rerun.

Should the fieldconditions become too dangerous or too hard during the tournament, the judges from all divisions shall discuss and decide if the tournament can continue. In the event of tie votes, the vote of the headjudge will be decisive.

### **5.17 Aggressive Dogs**

- a) If a dog shows undue aggression towards another dog or handler at any time during the competition, the division judge may exclude the dog from competing and a standby dog may be used.
- b) The division judge is to determine the degree of aggression that warrants substitution.
- c) For any dog excluded from competition a report must be made up and signed by all parties. This report should be given to the BFB secretarial department.
- d) The BFB secretarial department is entitled to judge if a dog is no longer allowed to participate in a Flyball tournament and shall advise the team manager of this decision.
- e) This measure can be withdrawn at any time if the team manager provides sufficient guarantees that the aggressive behaviour will not reoccur.

### **5.18 Health condition of the dog**

- a) If in the opinion of the division judge a dog is lame or recovering from surgery, the dog shall be excluded from competition. The division judge has the right to inspect any dog at any time during the tournament.
- b) Bitches in season are not allowed.
- c) Dogs that require bandages to protect or prevent an injury (ie bandaging the dewclaw) will be allowed after approval of the division judge.
- d) The minimum age of a dog is 15 months.
- e) Participants are not allowed to use electronic collars or similar on the tournament site. The tournament site comprises the racing lanes, areas for spectators or areas where the dogs remain whilst resting between races. Gentle Leaders or similar are not allowed in the racing ring. Only regular, well fitting collars or harnesses are allowed and obligatory gear during racing.  
Remark: It's impossible to check spectators' dogs and dogs that are not participating in the tournament for forbidden collars.
- f) Every participant should put his/her dog's interests above the team result.
- g) The use of stimulants is forbidden.

### **5.19 Records**

- a) A new record is valid when:
  - All the rules in the Flyball rulebook are respected.
  - The time is recorded with an approved EJS.
  - It is set during a BFB approved tournament.
- b) BFB-record is the fastest time run by a BFB registered team.
- c) When a team sets a new BFB or Belgian record, the division judge will check whether all of the following requirements were respected:
  - The correct jump height
  - The total length of the racing lane from starting line to the flyballbox. The flyballbox may not be moved until after the verification of the track length
  - The functioning of the box
- d) In the event that the checks defined under 5.19 c) are not executed or cannot be executed, the indicated recordtime will not be accepted. The judge will decide which team wins the heat.

## **6. Annex**

### **6.1 Measurement exemption**

- a) Only BFB registered dogs of BFB registered members can be exempted from measurement.
- b) When registering a dog, the owner receives a form "Application for measurement exemption".
- c) This form should be handed to the measuring judge before measurement of the dog. The measuring judge will note down the determined jump height, tournament, date and his name on this form and sign it. This can be requested up till ten times.
- d) If the same jump height is marked 3 times by 3 different BFB head judges on 3 different BFB tournaments, the owner can file the application for measurement exemption with the BFB secretarial department.
- e) Granted exemptions cannot be challenged.
- f) The measurement exemption expires when the owner is no longer a BFB registered member.
- g) A dog with a measurement exemption that is presented again for measuring loses his previous exemption.

### **6.2 Forfeiting**

If a team for whatever reason forfeits after having registered for the tournament, it is still obliged to transfer the entry fee to the organisation.

If a team forfeits during the tournament, it still qualifies for Super Cup points, even though no times are recorded.

If a team forfeits after the tournament has begun, all planned races of the round robin or speed trial for which this team was registered still need to be run.

### **6.3 Team registration**

Teams that participate in a BFB tournament can register. Teams that are not registered are considered occasional teams. These teams are not qualified for the Super Cup, the dogs are not qualified for Flyball titles. Any records set by these teams will not be acknowledged by the BFB.

Registered teams are attributed a BFB number, possibly with an affix to distinguish multiple teams.  
for example: Turbodogs 1 = BFB001A & Turbodogs 2 = BFB001B

The entry fee is non-recurrent. The entry fees are set by the BFB secretarial department. The entry fee for a second, third, ... team will be no more than 1/5 of the entry fee for the first team.

The team name has 3 owners:

1/3 belongs to the home base ( the dog school, ...)

1/3 belongs to the team manager, the responsible person and contact person for the teams

1/3 belongs to a majority of BFB registered members of the team (teams) owning their second BFB membership card

2/3 qualifies for the team name.

Registered team names are protected and the BFB will refuse to register team names that are already in use or strongly resemble already registered names to prevent confusion. Disputes concerning the ownership of team names will be decided by the BFB secretarial department.

## 6.4 Dog registration

- d) Every registered BFB member can register his/her dog(s). The registration fee is included in his/her entry fee. A registered dog can only compete within his owner's club.
- e) Dogs younger than 15 months can be registered, but are not eligible for measuring until the age of 15 months. When registering a dog, the vaccination papers should be submitted.
- f) A registered dog is attributed a BFB number. It is made up by the owner's number with an affix: A for the first dog, B for the second, ...  
This number will be used to identify the dog during its Flyball career. The number is not transmittable to another dog.
- g) In order to register a dog, following data is necessary:
- Name + possible name on the pedigree.
  - Race + sex
  - Date of birth
  - Chip- or tattoo number
  - Flyball club

Jump height if a measurement exemption is attributed.

For example : 99/005 Mark Dewilde

99/005/A	Lucky	Lucky Van Artésendael			
	Golden Retriever	Reu	01-09-1987	Sloeber	spronghoogte:35cm
99/005/B	Nemo	Nemo de Lôyival			
	Golden Retriever	Reu	190-9-1989	Sloeber	spronghoogte :35cm

- h) Registered dogs are qualified for Flyball titles.
- f) Only registered dogs can apply for a measurement exemption.

## 6.5 Flyball titles

- a) As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000 BFB will award titles to dogs owned by BFB members. Conditions:
- The tournament should be acknowledged by the BFB.
  - At least 4 teams actively participate to the division in the tournament.
  - An approved EJS is used.
  - The dog is registered with the BFB.
  - The sheet mentioning the scores and the BFB number of the dog.
  - Another handler can run with the dog. This handler does not have to be a BFB member in order for the dog to obtain a title.
- b) BFB awards the following titles/certificates:
- If a team runs a heat time from 27.99 to 26.00 seconds, every dog of that team running in this interval for the first time is awarded the title **Flyball Dog**.
- If a team runs a heat time from 25.99 to 24.00 seconds, every dog of that team running this interval for the first time is awarded the title **Flyball Fanatic**.
- If a team runs a heat time of 23.xx, every dog in that team running this interval for the first time becomes a member of the **CLUB 23**.
- If a team runs a heat time of 22.xx, every dog in that team running this interval for the first time becomes a member of the **CLUB 22**.

If a team runs a heat time of 21.xx, every dog in that team running this interval for the first time becomes a member of the **CLUB 21**.

If a team runs a heat time of 20.xx, every dog in that team running this interval for the first time becomes a member of the **CLUB 20**.

If a team runs a heat time of 19.xx, every dog in that team running this interval for the first time becomes a member of the **CLUB 19**.

If a team runs a heat time of 18.xx, every dog in that team running this interval for the first time becomes a member of the **CLUB 18**.

If a team runs a heat time of 17.xx, every dog in that team running this interval for the first time becomes a member of the **CLUB 17**.

If a team runs a heat time of 16.xx, every dog in that team running this interval for the first time becomes a member of the **CLUB 16**.

If a team runs a heat time of 15.xx, every dog in that team running this interval for the first time becomes a member of the **CLUB 15**.

c) Promotion: a dog awarded a certain certificate can be promoted:

- If during 1 year (12 months) the dog and its team complete a race in a time span eligible for the certificate of that dog at least 5 times, the dog becomes a GOLDEN member of its seconds club ( or Flyball Dog GOLD/ Flyball Fanatic GOLD)
- If during 2 years (24 months) the dog and its team complete a race in a time span eligible for the certificate of that dog at least 10 times, the dog becomes a PLATINUM member of its seconds club ( or Flyball Dog PLATINUM/ Flyball Fanatic PLATINUM)
- If during 3 years (36 months) the dog and its team complete a race in a time span eligible for the certificate of that dog at least 15 times, the dog becomes a DIAMANT member of its seconds club ( or Flyball Dog DIAMANT/ Flyball Fanatic DIAMANT)
- If during 4 years (48 months) the dog and its team complete a race in a time span eligible for the certificate of that dog at least 20 times, the dog becomes a MASTER of its seconds club ( or Flyball Dog MASTER/ Flyball Fanatic MASTER)
- If during 5 years (60 months) the dog and its team complete a race in a time span eligible for the certificate of that dog at least 25 times, the dog becomes a GOLDEN MASTER of its seconds club ( or Flyball Dog GOLD master/ Flyball Fanatic GOLD master)
- If during 6 years (72 months) the dog and its team complete a race in a time span eligible for the certificate of that dog at least 30 times, the dog becomes a PLATINUM MASTER of its seconds club ( or Flyball Dog PLATINUM master/ Flyball Fanatic PLATINUM master)
- If during 7 year (84 months) the dog and its team complete a race in a time span eligible for the certificate of that dog at least 35 times, the dog becomes a DIAMANT MASTER of its seconds club ( or Flyball Dog DIAMOND master/ Flyball Dog DIAMOND master)

## **7. The Super Cup**

### **7.1 Conditions**

The tournament is an open tournament, meaning all registered BFB teams can participate and are invited.

All dates for tournaments, organised and eligible for Super Cup, should be given before to BFB secretarial department 30<sup>th</sup> November of the preceding year.

All rules of the rulebook should be respected and applied. An approved EJS has to be used.

The correct tournament forms should be used and filled in according to the rulebook specifications (5.7.c).

Every participating teams (with EJS) runs a minimum of

5 races  
15 heats

If the tournament is run on 1 ring with more than 21 enrolled teams, or on 2 rings with more than 35 enrolled teams, every participating teams (with EJS) runs a minimum of

4 races  
12 heats

### **7.2 Ranking**

The ranking drawn up before a Super Cup tournament only takes into account the results of Super Cup tournaments. Results from other BFB tournaments (not Super Cup) are ignored. Breakout times are taken into account.

There is a difference between a Belgian record, a BFB record and a Super Cup record.

A Super Cup record is the fastest time run during a Super Cup tournament.

A Belgian record or BFB record can be set during a non Super Cup tournament.

### **7.3 Points**

Before the beginning of the competition season (from 1 January till 31 December) the number of points is decided depending on the possible number of teams participating: for example the number of teams at the beginning of the season + 5.

After every tournament an average of the 6 best times is made of every participating registered team that consists solely of all BFB registered dogs.

A ranking is made up according to the calculated average. . Breakout times are taken into account.

The highest ranking team is awarded most points, eg 20, the second team is awarded 19 points, etc.

Of the teams that only have five times, an average of these five times is made. They are ranked after all the teams that do have 6 times, teams with only 4 times will be ranked behind those that have 5 times...

A team can earn extra points by:

- improving its ranking: 1 punt OR
- improving the Super Cup record: 2 points OR
- improving the Super Cup record and maintaining the title: 3 points OR
- improving the world record: 10 points.

Extra points are awarded once per tournament.

Improving the ranking: if the fastest time of the tournament was better than the ranking before that tournament.

A new registered team, with all BFB registered dogs, with no ranking, or a new registered team that starts with all BFB registered dogs and that does ,not improve its ranking, is awarded one extra point.

The Super Cup record is the record valid at the time of the drafting of the ranking. A Super Cup record can be broken by more than one team in a competition. More than 1 team can be awarded 2 points, but only one team is awarded 3 points.

The world record: the world record valid at the time of the tournament.

If two teams end the season with an equal number of points, the team with the fastest time that year precedes the other team.

If those two teams have the same fastest time, the team with the second best year time (the fastest time of a team in different tournament than the one where their best year time was run) precedes the other team, etc...

Depending on the number of tournaments of a season, a team sacrifices a number of results. A team can choose not to participate to certain tournaments or to drop certain results. A team isn't obliged to participate to a certain number of tournaments.

Number of Super Cup tournaments	Number of results ignored
1-5	1
6-8	2
9-12	3
13-16	4
17 or more	12 results count

## **7.4 Trophies**

Every participant of the winning teams is awarded a special gift. The captain, coach of the winning team advise the BFB secretarial department how many badges he/she requires for his/her team.

A team is owner of a special trophy during 1 year. This team will pass on this trophy to the winner of the next year. On this trophy the name of the new winner is engraved.



## **8. Belgian Championship**

### **8.1 Purpose**

To tide over consecutive Super Cup competitions.

To motivate teams to perform better in the Super Cup competition.

To give Flyball a certain magic.

### **8.2 Place and date**

After the last Super Cup tournament of the season and before the next Super Cup season. Preferably at the end of the year (December).

This one-day tournament can be held indoors, considering the time of the year.

### **8.3 Conditions**

The 16 highest ranking Belgian teams after closing the Super Cup competition are invited by the BFB to participate to this tournament.

The entrance fee is the same as for regular tournaments.

In order to ensure that 16 teams compete at the tournament, every team that won't participate will be replaced by the next team in the ranking of the closed Super Cup competition.

### **8.4 Tournament set up**

- a) The Belgian Championship is a closed tournament and doesn't count for the Super Cup.
- b) Teams are divided into 4 divisions for a round robin competition. The teams are seeded into round robin divisions with a member from each of 4 groups :
  - Group 1 is formed by the top 4 of the supercup ranked participating teams
  - Group 2 holds the next 4 teams
  - Group 3 holds the next 4 teams
  - Group 4 holds the last 4 ranked teams

The round robin result is based on points, and in the event of equal points, the fastest teamtime(s) will determine the ranking of the teams with equal points.

The double elimination will be run in two divisions of 8 teams, based on the results of the round robin competition as follows :

- The winning teams of the round robin are ranked on best time and seeded 1 to 4 in division 1
- The second ranked teams of the round robin are ranked on best time and seeded 5 to 8 in division 1
- The third ranked teams of the round robin are ranked on best time and seeded 1 to 4 in division 2
- The fourth ranked teams of the round robin are ranked on best time and seeded 5 to 8 in division 2

The winner of division 1 is the new Belgian Champion.

None of the divisions will have a breakout time.

- c) The organisation of this tournament is the responsibility of BFB.  
*v.z.w. Belgische Flyball Belge a.s.b.l.*

## **8.5 Trophies**

The winning team receives a cup with an inscription. The team members receive a memento.

Mementos for other participating teams with a symbolic value.

BFB will attempt to give the Belgian Championship that certain magic by choice of location, invitations to the press, promotion, animation,...

## **9. The BFB Superprestige**

The Superprestige is organised by the BFB and will be awarded each year. The price is eligible to sponsoring and therefor the official name can include the sponsor's name.

### **9.1 Conditions**

Tournaments should be open for everyone and should only have limitation with regards to the number of participants.

All tournament dates should be validated by the BFB latest November 30<sup>th</sup> of the year preceding the competition

All BFB rules are respected and an approved EJS is used.

All results are transferred to the BFB, together with the original timesheets.

### **9.2 Points**

All entered teams can be awarded points.

Points are awarded based on the results in the division's double elimination and multiplied by the number of teams in the division

First place	5 points times number of teams in the division
Second place	3 points times number of teams in the division
Third place	1 point times number of teams in the division

In case of a tie, the number of first places will be decisive. If the tie still exists the number of second places and if necessary the number of third places will be taken into account.

If there is no winner according to the points, the last tournament of the season with at least one of the tied teams participating will be decisive.

### **9.3 Trophies**

The Superprestige is a trophy awarded annually by the BFB and the sponsor (if any).

The price is awarded to the winning team, regardless of its residence or the racial mix of dogs.