

Official rules 2020



English version

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Important remark:

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

1. vzw Belgische Flyball Belge asbl

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the vzw Belgische Flyball Belge asbl (BFB) is to promote and spread flyball. The board and the policy guarantee a solid collaboration and a sporty atmosphere in flyball, which you can find in the rule of play and the competition rules, during tournaments and other activities.

1.2 The board of directors

The board of directors is elected by the general assembly. The members of the general assembly who are entitled to vote are the members of the BFB-secretariat.

The board of directors consists of at least three (3) elected members of the board. Within the board of directors, there is a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer.

The board of directors is responsible for the competition rules and the policy, for the solid collaboration and the sporty atmosphere, for the discipline, for the improvement of the competition rules and the guidelines of the tournaments, for receiving protests and complaints, for interpreting the rules and for other special activities concerning flyball.

The board of directors can only make changes in the competition rules after consultation and approval of the BFB secretariat.

The members of the board of directors are appointed by the general assembly and can be dismissed by them at any time.

The members of the board of directors exercise their mandate free of charge.

The members are appointed for a period of three years, but can be re-elected.

1.3 The General Assembly

The general assembly is made up of active members and chaired by the chairman of the board of directors, or by the oldest of the present administrators.

The general assembly is exclusively qualified to change the regulations, appoint and dismiss the administrators, approve the invoices and budgets, voluntarily dissolve the association and lock out a member.

The general assembly is called together by the board of directors or by the chairman every time it is required by the objective of the association.

The general assembly takes place every year in January.

1.4 The BFB-secretariat

The BFB secretariat consists of maximum 15 active members.

All members have to be well informed by the policy and the competition rules of Belgische Flyball Belge and judge and decide with the welfare of Belgian Flyball as starting point.

The BFB secretariat will see to it that the rules and the guidelines of a flyball tournament are applied and respected.

The BFB secretariat will give assistance and advice to new teams and clubs.

The members of the BFB secretariat are the ambassadors of the competition players of Belgian Flyball.

A member of the BFB secretariat can call an organizing team or a head judge to account when the rules and the policy of Belgian Flyball are not observed and can lock out a person on a tournament when they do not observe point 1.6 (code of ethics).

1.5 The members

A person who has been a member of vzw Belgische Flyball Belge asbl for 2 years can become an active member of BFB.

If this condition is met, one can apply in writing. His or her candidature has to be handed over to the chairman of Belgische Flyball Belge in writing or through electronic communication (info@flyball.be).

The general assembly can accept this membership at the suggestion of the board of directors.

Each member can resign from the association at any time. The board of directors has to be informed about the dismissal by registered letter or through electronic communication (info@flyball.be).

Resigned or locked out members and their legal successors do not have a part in the fortune of the association, therefore they can never claim a restitution or reimbursement for paid contributions.

A membership of the members of the BFB secretariat and of the joined members runs from 1st January until 31st December and has to be renewed every year 1 month before the first competition (acknowledged by and/or in collaboration with BFB) of the new year at the latest.

1.6 Code of ethics

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, 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.

Training and demonstrations will be conducted in a manner where the interests of the dog and the sport flyball come first.

Abuse or severe discipline of a dog is not in the best interest of the dog nor the sport flyball.

Participants shall always follow the rules and policies and show a full knowledge and understanding of the same.

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.

2. The competitions

2.1 The competition conditions and organization

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

The BFB publishes the tournament calendar along with the registration requirements on its website.

The organisation follows the policies and rules of Belgian Flyball. For all unusual and special requests, one has to get approval from the BFB secretariat.

The organisation or BFB will confirm the registration of every participating team. All the teams participating in the competition will be informed of the starting time by the organisation. This time depends on the number of participants.

The minimum number of teams participating in a division is 4. In a limited competition the registrations are ranked by registration 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 2nd team is accepted according to posting date. If there are still openings, the 3rd team and so on.

The organisation will provide trophies, with or without sponsoring. If there are several divisions, one trophy per division should be provided.

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.

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 (tent for secretariat, demarcation of competition area, tables and chairs, electricity in secretariat and competition area, and so on). The organiser provides a scoreboard that can be filled in and hung out or projected so that all participating teams can check their results. A list of all measured dogs and their jump heights should be available at the secretary.

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.

The BFB secretarial department provides advice and/or assistance to persons, groups and teams wishing to hold a flyball competition. This involves: advice 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 tournaments supported by the BFB.

2.2 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 FCI and/or with 1 dog of mixed breed.

A competition can consist of Round Robin, single or 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.

2.3 Judges

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

- He/she should have a flyball background.
- He/she is at least:
 - for a head judge: 18 years old;
 - for a line judge: 16 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
 - Head judge: pass a written exam and successfully complete an on the job training period

The Belgian Flyball secretarial department appoints judges.

The BFB secretariat will regularly organize meetings for head judges, both division judges and line judges, and possibly instruct new candidates.

Five judges shall officiate when two teams are running.

- Box judges: Two 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.
- Line judges: Two judges shall be positioned at each team's starting/finish line, facing each other.
- Head judge: A fifth judge shall act as starter, division judge and referee, he is positioned between the racing lanes in an area between the start/finish line and leads dogs to start the heat. The judge shall reposition himself/herself in such a manner as:
 - not to distract the dogs competing;
 - to assist the line judges;
 - to assist the line judges in determining winners of close heats if no EJS system is used.

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 BFB appoints a capable main referee for each BFB supported tournament, who complies with Belgian Flyball regulation.

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.

2.4 Records

A new record is valid when:

- all rules in the flyball rulebook are respected.
 - the time is recorded with an approved EJS.
 - it is set during a BFB approved tournament.
- BFB record is the fastest time run by a BFB registered team.

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 flyball box. The flyball box may not be moved until after the verification of the track length
- the functioning of the box

In the event that the checks are not executed or cannot be executed, the indicated record time will not be accepted.

3. Dogs

3.1 Conditions

a. Aggressive Dogs

If a dog shows undue aggression towards another dog or handler at any time during the competition, the division judge may exclude the dog from competing and a standby dog may be used.

The division judge is to determine the degree of aggression that warrants substitution.

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.

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.

This measure can be withdrawn at any time if the team manager provides sufficient guarantees that the aggressive behaviour will not reoccur.

b. Health condition of the dog

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.

Bitches in season are not allowed.

Dogs that require bandages to protect or prevent an injury (e.g. bandaging the dewclaw) or to head a wound, will be allowed after approval of the division judge.

The minimum age of a dog is 15 months.

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.

Every participant should put his/her dog's interests above the team result.

The use of stimulants is forbidden.

3.2 Registration of dogs

Every registered BFB member can register his/her dog(s). The registration fee is included in his/her entry fee.

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.

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. A registered dog can only participate for the team of its owner.

In order to register a dog, following data is necessary:

- Name + possible name on the pedigree.
- Race
- Date of birth
- Chip- or tattoo number
- Flyball club
- Jump height and ulna-measurement if a measurement exemption is attributed.

3.3 Flyball titles

As of 1st January 2000, BFB will award titles to dogs owned by BFB members. Conditions:

- The tournament should be acknowledged by the BFB.
- An approved EJS is used.

- The dog is registered with the BFB.
- The score sheet is filled in correctly and the BFB number of the dog is mentioned.
- 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.

If a dog is awarded a certain title, no lower title will be attributed to this dog.

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.

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 DIAMOND/ Flyball Fanatic DIAMOND).
- 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).

3.4 Jump Height

a. Measuring

The jump height of a team is determined by the lowest jump height of one of the 4 participating dogs (not alternates).

The jump height of a dog is determined by an ULNA measurement. The ULNA measurement occurs with all forepaws and the smallest measurement applies. This measurement is translated into a jump height according to the table below.

ULNA		Jump height
from	up to and including	
0 mm	100 mm	15 cm
100,1 mm	112,5 mm	17,5 cm
112,6 mm	125 mm	20 cm
125,1 mm	137,5 mm	22,5 cm
137,6 mm	150 mm	25 cm
150,1 mm	162,5 mm	27,5 cm
162,6 mm	175 mm	30 cm
175,1 mm		32,5 cm

The measurements are made to an accuracy of 1/10 mm.

The measurements are performed by 1 (or more) head judge(s) appointed by the BFB secretariat.

A member of the BFB secretariat or another head judge supervises and assists with the measurements of the dogs by the head judge.

An approved measuring instrument has to be used.

If time allows the head judge will measure all dogs, with a minimum age of 15 months, which qualify for lower jump height.

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.

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.

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.

Height measurements shall be conducted publicly. The measuring site will be determined by the organisers in conjunction with the measuring judge.

Measurements/Jump heights have to be registered by the measuring judge.

b. Measurement exemption

Only BFB registered dogs of BFB registered members can be exempted from measurement.

When measuring a dog, with the minimum age of 18 months, the owner receives a form "Application for measurement exemption".

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.

If the same jump height is marked 2 times by 2 different BFB head judges, who are not members of their own club, the owner can file the application for measurement exemption with the BFB secretarial department.

Granted exemptions cannot be challenged.

The measurement exemption expires when the owner is no longer a BFB registered member.

A dog with a measurement exemption that is presented again for measuring loses his previous exemption.

4. Teams/clubs

4.1 Composition

Each team consists of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 dogs and their handlers. In addition, they are assisted by a coach, a box loader and 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. They will in no way help the dogs or violate the rules, with exemption for the box loader according to 5.6c and 5.6f.

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.

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.

4.2 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.

4.3 The seeding time and break-out time of a team

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 (= seeding time).

If a time on the flyball ranking list is not representative for a team, this team can give a reference time. When the divisions are made up, the reference time will be taken into account instead of the time on the ranking list.

If the specified time is faster/lower than the seed time, this time will be treated as seeding time.

If the specified time is slower/higher than the seed time, this time will be treated as an individual break-out time.

A registered team without a seeding time should provide a reference time. This reference time is not treated as a break-out time.

A team that has not yet competed should not give a break-out time and is put in the lowest division. It is allowed to give a break-out time in order to be put in a higher division. This reference time will not be treated as break-out time.

A non-registered team does not have a seeding time and should provide a break-out time.

A mixed team of BFB registered dogs has to give a seeding time, this is not a break-out time.

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

4.4 Flyball ranking

The ranking is made up on the closing day of registration for the competition. The closing day for a competition is 12 days before the competition, unless otherwise explicitly indicated.

The seeding 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.

The BFB secretariat is responsible for the Belgian flyball ranking and will publish this list in time.

4.5 Break-out Time and Net Break-out Time of a division

a. Break-out Time

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

There is no individual break-out time for division 1.

The organisation will clearly mention the break-out time on the time sheet.

b. Net Break-out Time

The net break-out time of the division is 0,5 seconds below the break-out time of the division.

The net break-out time is the actual time run minus the registered start and pass times by the EJS.

5. The competition rules

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 wellbeing of the exhibitors and their dogs should be put foremost.

5.1 Enrolment for a BFB tournament

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

- the team name (including address and telephone number of the team)
- the potential seeding time or break-out time
- 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

A team can enrol as a veteran team, 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.

Each club has to assign a line or head judge per team. After registration of the teams, the team leader sends an email to info@flyball.be with their available line or head judges and possibly the teams that have to be taken into account for the divisions. 50% (rounded up) or more have to be actual line or head judges, 50% (rounded down) or less can be in training.

A new club does not have to satisfy the rule above during the first 2 years.

The organizing club of a competition is also exempt from the obligation above.

Sanction: If a team assigns insufficient judges, the Super Cup result of a team is deleted per lacking judge, starting with the team with the fewest points and so on.

5.2 Sign up before racing

If one or more team members are more than 2 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.

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.

5.3 Warming up and practice

During the competition, there is no longer a possibility to practise in the ring except for the warm up time allowed before each race. The head judge will stop this warm up time by blowing the whistle. Once this happened, no more dogs can practice in the ring. One can practice individually on a box or a flyball jump outside the ring (flyball terrain) as long as this is not disturbing for the other teams.

A dog that practices in the ring during the competition, except for the practice heats, is disqualified. If the dog is helped on the racing lane, so past the starting line, by accessories or persons, this can clearly be considered as practising. Out of the racing lane, past the finish line, it is more difficult to determine what is considered as practising. Here the head judge will make an appeal to the experience, fairness and the good character of the judges. However, the safety and health of the dogs and their handlers come first.

Once a dog is disqualified, this dog cannot return to the regular competition of that tournament. Unless the team declares itself "out of competition".

Only the dogs that are mentioned on the time sheet, tournament form, can participate in the warming up.

Before each race, a team can ask the head judge for a practice start. This is not an obligation. There is only 1 practice start before each race, so when both teams ask for a practice start, the two happen at the same time. Only when a dog is interfered during its practice run, the head judge can offer an extra practice start.

Only one dog per team can participate in the practice start.

When the practicing dogs have passed the starting line, the head judge will end the practice start by blowing the whistle.

A team can go in practice mode by declaring itself "out of competition". A coach can declare his/her team "out of competition" by reporting this to the head judge of the division. The team can still run the following races and use accessories at their own discretion. Accessories are allowed as long as the head judge thinks they are safe and responsible and as long as it is not disturbing for the other teams.

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.

5.4 Course of a race

During the warming up, the team passes on the participating dogs to the line judge and he/she notes them down.

The head judge ends the warming up by means of a whistle-signal, and the teams prepare to run the first heat.

a. Start of a heat

The head judge asks if, in order, box loaders, line judges and the teams are ready to start, and gives a signal to the line judge to start the EJS.

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.

Dogs may start from a stationary or running start.

b. Course of a heat

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 (on the ground or in the air) the second dog may 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.

The judges shall indicate with a signal which dogs commits a violation (see 5.5 and 5.6) and must re-run. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run his/her dog. Dogs that are faulted for any reason must run again in the order that they were faulted.

Box judges shall observe the box loader, dogs and spectators for infringements (see 5.4 and 5.5) and signal them.

If it is necessary to stop a heat, the division judge shall use a whistle, in case of:

- Interference in the ring, inappropriate aggression by a dog or a handler and if a dog relieves itself in the ring and appoint the other team as the winner;
- Unsafe situations according to 5.6.h., knocked down/broken jumps according to 5.6., interferences from outside the ring according to 5.6.g., ...) The heat will be re-run.
- If both teams finished their heat without mistakes.
- If both teams show no sign of re-running.
- If one team finished its heat without mistakes and the other team shows no sign of re-running.

c. End of a heat

The line judges decide who wins a heat. This is the team of which all 4 dogs finished their heat without mistakes, taking into account the time rules in 3.7. The heat ends when the last dog of the team

passes the starting/finish line with no matter which part of the body (in the air or on the ground). A heat can be won when the competing team does not observe the obligations as indicated in the rules.

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.

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

The line judges note down the times run, winning and losing on the sheet mentioning the scores or the electronic application.

5.5 Violations

If a team does not participate with their correct jump height, that team will lose each heat run at an incorrect jump height and not register a time (in speed trials or round robin) and the team can be locked out (in a far advanced elimination).

- a) 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 judge.
Starting manually (whistle of the head judge): 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 by the whistle. The line or division judge decide whether it is a false start.
- b) 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 visually evaluate and indicate a foul.
- c) Missing a jump.
- d) Not triggering the box before taking the ball from the cup.
- e) Not carrying the ball over all four jumps in succession and across the start/finish line.
- f) Not tensioning or firing the box.
- g) 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.

5.6 Exceptional circumstances

a. Knocked down / broken jumps

A dog that knocks down a jump or jumps during its run shall not be penalized, provided the following dog clears the jump(s) as if it/they were standing. A 'runner' or handler may set up knocked down jumps if doing so does not interfere with or guide the dog(s) in any way.

If the head judge finds that a knocked down or broken jump prevents the dogs from running their track safely or without mistakes, he will end the heat by blowing the whistle and the heat will be rerun after the jump has been repaired.

b. 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.

c. Ball in the box

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.

d. Fouling the ring

When a dog relieves itself in the ring, the team loses that heat. The race starts when the dogs and handlers enter the ring and ends at the last whistle-signal. The moment of conclusion by one of the judges determines which heat was lost.

e. Out of bounds/Out of play

The host team shall specify the race area boundaries. If a ball bounces out of bounds and the dog retrieves it unaided, there shall be no penalty.

If a spectator, handler, box loader or other aids the dog, the dog is to run again.

f. Conduct of the box loader

Except during the warm up, to retrieve a loose ball or get a fresh supply of balls to load 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.

g. Interference

If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat, the team causing the interference will forfeit the heat. 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.

h. Safety

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

Should the field conditions 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 head judge will be decisive.

i. Minimal jump height

If a team does not participate with their correct jump height, that team will lose each heat run at an incorrect jump height and not register a time (in speed trials or round robin) and the team can be locked out (in a far advanced elimination).

If a team consciously (possibly after reporting by the jury) runs at the wrong jump height, it declares itself out of competition.

j. Neutrality of judges

If a ball goes around or bounces of a judge, it shall be deemed in play.

5.7 Exceedance of Break-out Time/Net Break-out Time

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. Break-out time

If the heat time recorded for a team is lower than its break-out time or division break-out 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.

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

A team that 'breaks out' two times on a tournament will be disqualified.

If the Electronic Judging System does not function, the break-out rules do not count.

b. Net break-out time

If the net break-out time recorded for a team is lower than the net break-out time of the division, the line judge has to mention this to the head judge, and the team loses the heat. On the time sheets, the line judge has to write down NBO + the time and Lost (L).

If both teams run a net break-out time lower than the division net break-out time, they will both be indicated as loser of the heat.

This rule only applies when an approved EJS is used that shows the net break-out times.

5.8 Protest

Any protest should be submitted in writing or through electronic communication (info@flyball.be) to the Belgian Flyball secretarial department. It will advise or if necessary take action. Both an individual and a group of people can be called to account.

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

5.9 Forfeiting

Forfeiting teams that do not show just cause, may be excluded from the tournament by the organizer and may be subject to further discipline.

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.

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.

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.

6. The competition infrastructure

6.1 The flyball terrain

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. 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 its decision in due time.

The area between the flyball box (measured on the front edge) and the barrier is not less than 2,15 m.

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 head judge will inspect the courts for safety before the beginning of the tournament.

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

6.2 Barriers

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.

A similar barrier shall extend between the boxes up to where they are positioned to minimize interference (4,75 m from the last jump).

Buckets with balls, hammers, brooms and so on should be placed behind the barrier.

6.3 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 base between the 2 posts is max. 12,5 cm high measured from the ground up.

Jump heights can be adapted by 2,5 cm with a minimum height of 15 cm and a maximum height of 32,5 cm, measured from the ground up.

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

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

6.4 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 dimensions 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 flyball box. Every team is responsible for the correct mounting of the flyball box on the frame in order to respect the official track length

6.5 The Electronic Judging System (EJS)

During the competition, an EJS approved by BFB is used.

The sensors are placed on the starting/finish line with a distance of 1,2m between them.

The screen and the control buttons are placed in that way that the line judge has a clear look on the entire lane, from the box loader to the starting place of the dogs.

The lights are placed at a central point between the lanes at the height of the starting lane.

The time displays are placed in the middle between the two lanes but behind the barriers.

6.6 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.

6.7 Inspection of the flyball terrain

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.

7. The Super Cup

7.1 Conditions

Every year, the BFB secretariat organizes a Super Cup and will assign two members for calculating the points and assigning the champion.

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 to BFB secretarial department before 31th October 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 (4.1).

Every participating team (with EJS) runs a minimum of

- 5 races;
- 15 heats.

A short version applies as:

- more than 21 teams are enrolled on 1 ring;
- more than 32 teams are enrolled on 2 rings;
- or
- if the predicted maximum temperature is above 25° Celsius at the start of the competition.

In a short version, 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. Break-out 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. Break-out times are taken into account.

A ranking is made up according to the calculated average. Break-out times are taken into account. The highest ranking team is awarded most points, e.g. 20, the second team is awarded 19 points, and so on.

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 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, and so on...

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

1-5	1
6-8	2
9-12	3
13-16	4
17 or more	12 results count

7.4 Trophies

The BFB secretariat provides the trophies of the Super Cup.

Every participant of the winning teams is awarded a special gift. The captain, coach of the winning team advises 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. 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.

8.1 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 at the latest October 31st 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.

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

The winner is the team that has collected the most points at the end of the year with competitions that qualify for the BFB Superprestige.

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.

8.3 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.

9. Belgian Championship

9.1 Purpose

To conclude the Super Cup competition.

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

To give flyball an extra appearance.

9.2 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 current season.

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

9.3 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.

9.4 Tournament set up

a) The Belgian Championship is a closed tournament and does not count for the Super Cup.

b) Teams are divided into 4 divisions for a round robin competition on points as preliminary round.

The division into preliminary round-divisions is done by means of a draw at the start of the competition. Each division consists of 4 teams from the following groups and classified according to the group:

- Group 1 is formed by the top 4 of the Super Cup 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

At the draw, the aim is not to have 2 or more teams from the same club in the same division.

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

A double elimination is then run in 2 divisions of 8 teams, in division 2 the places 9 to 16 are determined and in division 1 the places 2 to 8 and the new Belgian Flyball Champion are determined.

The classification at the start of the double elimination is done as follows:

- The winning teams of each preliminary round-division are ranked on best time and seeded 1 to 4 in division 1. With the same fastest time, the 2nd fastest time applies, etc .;
- The second ranked teams of each preliminary round-division are ranked on best time and seeded 5 to 8 in division 1. With the same fastest time, the 2nd fastest time applies, etc .;
- The third ranked teams of each preliminary round-division are ranked on best time and seeded 1 to 4 in division 2. With the same fastest time, the 2nd fastest time applies, etc .;
- The fourth ranked teams of each preliminary round-division are ranked on best time and seeded 5 to 8 in division 2. With the same fastest time, the 2nd fastest time applies, etc .

None of the divisions will have a break-out time.

c) The organisation of this tournament is the responsibility of BFB.

9.5 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, ...