National Flyball Sub-committee

PO Box 11512
Ashton Manor
1630

Tel: 083 307 1781

16 September 2022

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE FEDCO 12-2022 AGENDA

Changes to the following sections of Schedule 05M, Regulations for Flyball

Insertions in **underlined bold type** and deletions in [~~struck-through-square-brackets~~].

4. DEFINITIONS

4.8 [~~Runner~~] Optional Participants: A person or team member whose purpose is to assist the team in anyway the team requires. **A team may have up to five other participants in the ring to aid the team. From this number only three (3) persons may be behind the Judge. They may not interfere with the Lane Steward or Judge. The Judge may request additional participants to reposition themselves to the outside of the running line-up of dogs and handlers. A team may, therefore, have a maximum of ten (10) people in the ring (4 competing handlers, 5 optional participants and a box loader). At no time may these optional participants interfere with the Judge, the opposing team, or physically aid the dogs competing. If additional participants interfere with the Judge, Lane Steward or the opposing team, the Judge may issue a warning and request such participants to exit the ring. After repeated warnings the Judge can declare a lost heat.**

4.8.1 **Conduct of the [~~Runner~~] Optional Participants**

4.8.1.1 [~~Runners~~] **Optional participants** may not interfere with any teams running or judging except to do the following:

~~[4.8.1.2 Set up knocked down jumps; this must be done with minimal interference with a team's run.]~~

~~[4.8.1.3]~~ **4.8.1.2** To retrieve loose balls.

~~[4.8.1.4]~~ **4.8.1.3** To record crosses / passes between running dogs.

~~[4.8.1.5]~~ **4.8.1.4** To assist their team as the team may require.

4.8.2 No additional person besides the actual handler may release or assist the dog in navigating the course. An additional person to help catch the dog in the runback area, holding a dog or revving-up a dog/dogs before running is permitted within the limits of the maximum number of allowed persons in the ring. ~~[as per 5.1.1.3.]~~

4.8.3 An additional person other than the handler guiding a dog into the lane or running alongside the dog as it runs will not be permitted even if this person is outside the ring. In case of a first offense, the judge shall give a warning. Any offense thereafter will result in the loss of the heat.

Rationale and Motivation:

FCI Regulations for Flyball Section 2.05 General competition rules parts l and m refers to the additional persons in the ring. The word "runner" is no longer used. Wording is amended slightly as the rules are not written with English as first language and amended within the context of Schedule 05M.

"(l) Within the ring a maximum of ten persons may be present per team. From this number only three persons may be behind the line judge inside the fence. They may never disturb the line judge and can always be invited to be quiet or to remove themselves. After repeated warnings the head judge can declare heats as lost.

(m) No other person than the handler may assist the dog in navigating the course. An additional person to help catch the dog in the back area or cheering up the dog before running is permitted within the limits of the maximum allowed persons on the field. A person guiding a dog into the jumps or running alongside the dog as it runs will not be permitted, even if this person is outside the ring. In case of a first offense, the judge shall give a warning, any further offense will result in the loss of the heat."

4.8.1.2 to be removed. If a hurdle is knocked down, the heat is stopped and the hurdle returned to the upright position as per section 16.17 of Schedule 5M. Section to be renumbered.

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Round robin approval sought
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

5.1 Team event Competition Class:

~~[5.1.1.3 Optionally a team may have up to three other participants in the ring to aid the team of which a maximum of two are allowed as runners. A team may therefore have a maximum of 8 people in the ring (4 competing handlers, 3 support members either to check crosses, record times or runners and a box loader) At no time may these optional participants interfere with the judges, the opposing team, or physically aid the dogs competing as per regulation 4.8.~~]

~~[5.1.1.4]~~ **5.1.1.3** The jump height of this class will be determined by the size of the smallest / veteran dog in the team. (See Regulation 6 regarding measuring of dogs). It is the responsibilities of each team to set the correct height of the hurdles.
~~[5.1.1.5]~~ **5.1.1.4** Dogs in this class will be eligible for points and titles as per Regulation 7 of this schedule.

Rationale and Motivation:
Based on the changes made to 4.8 above, existing 5.1.1.3 is no longer required. Section to be renumbered

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Round robin acceptance sought
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

6.1 Method of measuring

This measurement must be done by a qualified championship judge and recorded on the [~~local provincial~~] **National** Flyball **Sub** [~~sub~~]-committee data[-]base and the dog's record card. **If the height is not recorded on the dog's record card, such a dog's height will be recorded at the maximum height, which is 30cm, on the score sheet.**

Rationale and Motivation:
- *Not all Provincial Sub-Committees have a database that is kept up to date but the National convener has volunteered to keep a national database of all dogs competing in Flyball;*
- *It is often not a judge who issues record cards and therefore the height of a dog does not reflect as dogs must be measured prior to a competition by a qualified championship show judge;*
- *If a dog is not measured prior to the commencement of a competition and it is not annotated on the judge's sheet, then a dog's hurdle height will be recorded at the maximum height of 30cm.*

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC)
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

9.11 Order of competition

9.11.1 The order of competition shall be determined by a draw amongst the Team Captains entered for that event or the order of competition may be determined by a random draw of teams in advance. The Judge, or any person, whom he delegates, shall announce the teams on standby **for the next race** before the ~~[previous]~~ **current** race begins. As team names are drawn, lanes are allocated from left to right.

9.11.2 At no time will a team be ~~[required]~~ **allowed** to change lanes. ~~[once each race has commenced.]~~

Rationale and Motivation:
Semantic change as the current wording does not make sense

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Round Robin acceptance sought
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

9.13 Competition by officials at shows

9.13.1 A Judge at a show may [~~not~~] enter **but may not** [~~or~~] handle a dog in the same [~~D~~]**d**iscipline (**Flyball** [~~Breed, Obedience, Working Trials, IPO, Dog Jumping, Agility, Carting etc.,~~]) as that in which he is officiating. [~~This restriction does not apply in respect of another show held on the same day but held under another license.~~]

(THE NFSC SEEKS PERMISSION TO CHANGE THIS RULE ON A TRIAL BASIS ONLY for one year effective 2023/01/01 until 2023/12/31 after which the rule may be removed / revert back to the original rule or remain depending on how it is received)

Rationale and motivation:
If a judge acquired a dog, and the dog is not transferred to his/her name and remains registered in the breeder's (or a different person's) name who is a KUSA member, the registered owner of the dog (breeder or other person) may enter the dog and it can therefore compete under the judge who is actually the person with whom the dog resides.

The same should apply to a dog that is registered in a judge's name but is handled by a different person in a flyball team. The dog is either going to run like any other dog in the team, irrespective of who the judge is, or it may refuse in which case it may be substituted)

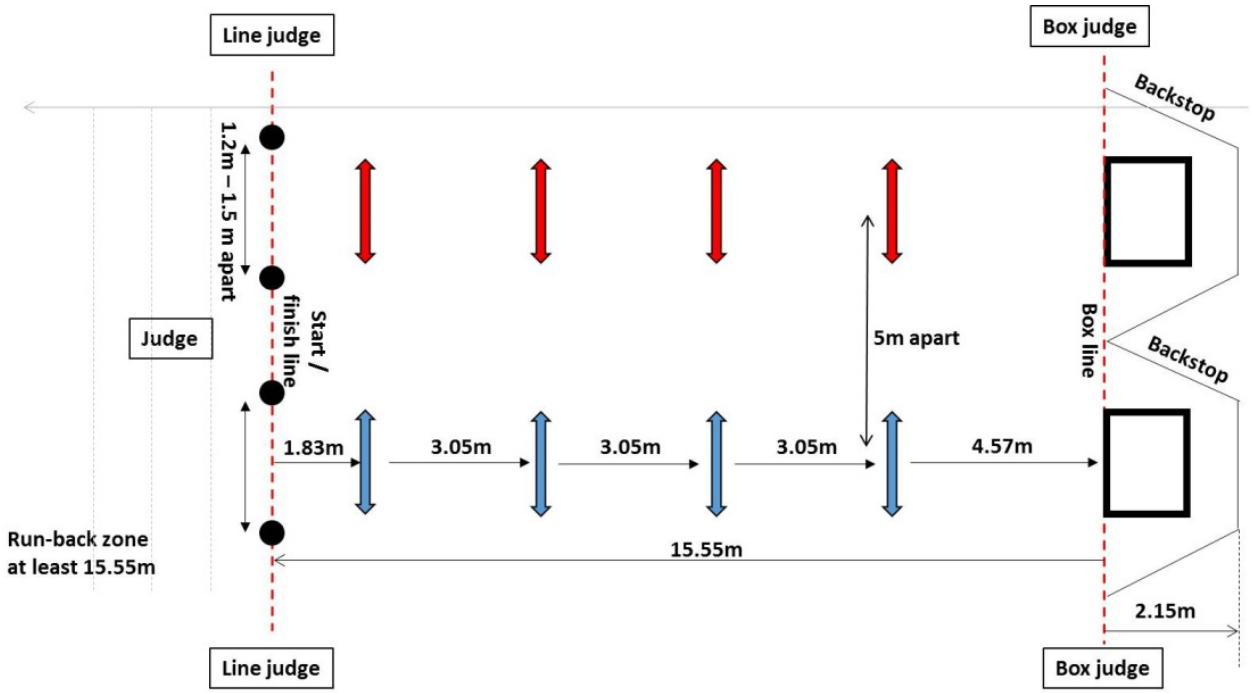
The judge is assisted by 2 time keepers and 2 lane stewards and if they deem the dog to err, then it needs to rerun based on the current rules of Schedule 5M)

A judge cannot influence the time a team runs as most (if not all) competitions are electronically timed. Lane stewards and time keepers are members of competing flyball teams in many instances and are allowed to run their dogs but may also assist with stewarding which a flyball judge relies on heavily to point out errors and to time keep.

Submitted by: Renate Haussmann
Proposed acceptance: Round Robin acceptance sought
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

9.15 Arena and Lane Layout

9.15.5 The start/finish poles **or Electronic Judging System (EJS) gates** for each lane are to be a minimum distance of [~~1.5m~~] **1,20m** and a maximum of [~~3m~~] **1,50m** apart. [~~If the Electronic Judging System (EJS) is used, the EJS gates are to be a maximum of 1,5m apart.~~] The Start/Finish Line shall be clearly marked across the width of each racing lane and flanked by Start/Finish poles **or EJS gates**. The Start/Finish line and poles **or EJS gates** will always be a contrasting colour against the running surface.
Change the diagram at the end of the section



Rationale and Motivation:
The start poles / start gates should be in line with FCI international standards. Currently in Europe and across the world, the start poles or in the event of the Electronic Judges System ("EJS") is a minimum of 1,2m to a maximum of 1,5m apart (Refer to the FCI Regulations for Flyball: Annexure 4): Sensor gates should be placed a minimum of 120 cm. apart but not more than 150 cm. apart.

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC)
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

10.10.1 Hurdles

All 60cm cross boards must be phased out by 01 June 2023.

The hurdles shall be to the following specifications:

Cross board internal height: 30cm, 25cm and 20cm high as per Regulation 6.2

Cross board internal width: [~~60cm~~] **77cm** with a maximum deviation of 1cm either way.

Cross board end-to-end: [~~Minimum 72cm; maximum 80cm~~] **Minimum 89cm; maximum 97cm.**

Upright width: Minimum 35cm; maximum 45cm**.**

Upright height: Minimum 60cm and maximum 90cm.

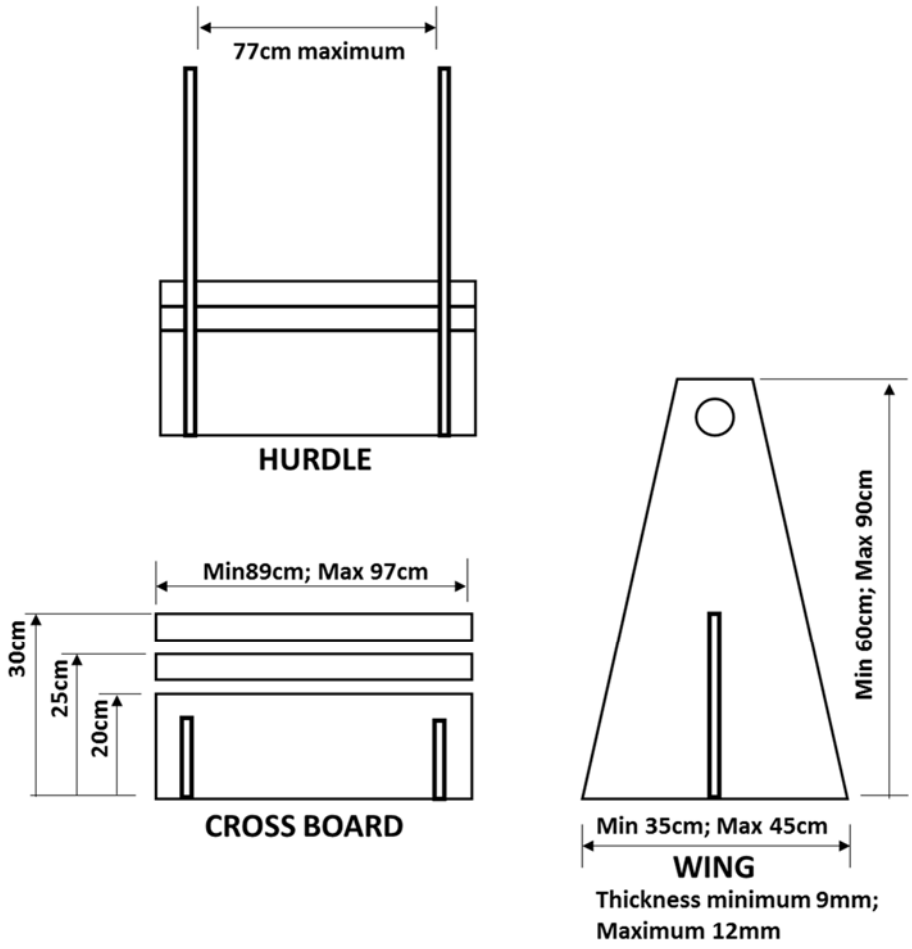
Hurdle material thickness: [~~Must not exceed~~] **The hurdle thickness should ideally be 10mm. A deviation of 3mm would be allowed – therefore the minimum thickness should not be less than 9mm and not more than 12mm.**

Material: Wood or a similar material to reduce injuries to the minimum.

Hurdles shall be white except for the uprights, which may be any colour or bear sponsors' advertisements on the outer face; however the edges must be white in colour for visibility purposes to competing dogs.

A hurdle may have a protective strip on the inner width to protect the dogs from injury whilst running as long as the total height of the hurdle remains within specification.

A diagram of a typical Flyball hurdle can be seen below:



Rationale and Motivation:
Hurdle width: *FCI amendment (FCI Flyball Commission minutes dated 23 & 27 May 2022): - In the regulations point 4.01 (b) will be changed to: "Each hurdle has an inside width of 77 cm (with a maximum deviation of 1 centimetre) and its stanchions are not to be higher than 90 cm and not lower than 60 cm."*

Hurdle material thickness: *This is based on available plywood thickness in South Africa. It is either 9mm or 12mm thick and most, if not all hurdles are made from plywood.*

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Barry Levitt (WC)
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

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13. SCHEDULE OF [~~EXERCISES~~] RACING FOR FLYBALL

Rationale and Motivation:
Semantic change of the heading as there is no exercises in Flyball like in Obedience

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Round robin acceptance sought
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

13.2 Divisions

If there are 8 or more teams entered at any Flyball competition, (Championship or Non-championship shows) the event will be run in two (2) divisions.

Format:

Speed Trial

- **All teams will run 2 heats; (a draw amongst teams or a pre-draw by the Judge will decide the running order) – there is no win or lose but only the fastest time is recorded. (If a National record is run in a heat of a Speed Trial, it may be recorded and approved in terms of Schedule 5M 17.1);**
- **If a team does not record a time in either the 2 heats, that team will run another heat (or heats) until a time is recorded;**
- **Teams may select any four (4) dogs to run in the Speed Trial and may swap dogs in each heat;**
- **The fastest/top teams (equal split + 1 if there are an unequal number of teams) run in Division 1 and the slower / bottom half (equal split minus 1 if there are an unequal number of teams) run in Division 2 based on a normal round robin format for each division.**

8 TEAMS:

Division 1
Team A
Team B
Team C
Team D

Division 2
Team E
Team F
Team G
Team H

Round 1
1. Team H (4) vs Team E (1) [D2]
2. Team D (4) vs Team A (1) [D1]
3. Team F (2) vs Team G (3) [D2]
4. Team B (2) vs Team C (3) [D1]
5. Team E (1) vs Team G (3) [D2]
6. Team A (1) vs Team C (3) [D1]

Round 2
1. Team H (4) vs Team F (2) [D2]
2. Team D (4) vs Team B (2) [D1]
3. Team G (3) vs Team H (4) [D2]
4. Team C (3) vs Team D (4) [D1]
5. Team E (1) vs Team F (2) [D2]
6. Team A (1) vs Team B (2) [D1]

9 TEAMS:

Division 1
Team A
Team B
Team C
Team D
Team E

Division 2
Team F
Team G
Team H
Team I

Round 1
1. Team E (5) vs Team B (2) [D1]
2. Team H (4) vs Team E (1) [D2]
3. Team D (4) vs Team A (1) [D1]
4. Team C (3) vs Team E (5) [D1]
5. Team F (2) vs Team G (3) [D2]
6. Team B (2) vs Team D (4) [D1]
7. Team E (1) vs Team G (3) [D2]
8. Team A (1) vs Team C (3) [D1]

Round 2
1. Team D (4) vs Team E (5) [D1]
2. Team H (4) vs Team F (2) [D2]
3. Team B (2) vs Team C (3) [D1]
4. Team E (1) vs Team A (2) [D1]
5. Team G (3) vs Team H (4) [D2]
6. Team C (3) vs Team D (4) [D1]
7. Team E (1) vs Team F (2) [D2]
8. Team A (1) vs Team B (2) [D1]

The winners are declared per Division - there is no run-off between the winning teams in Division 1 and 2. They win their respective Division and are awarded prizes accordingly.

Rationale and Motivation:
This was discussed at the 2019 AGM and based on acceptance; the format of Divisions should be formally documented.

Refer to the FCI Regulations for Flyball, Article 3, Kinds of competitions, in Section 3.01 (Round Robin) and Section 3.02 (Speed Trails) both mention "Each team runs within his own division against each other team."

Schedule 5M does not include divisional formats, but does mention it in 13.1 "Each team (within its own division, if applicable) runs against each of the other teams"

If for example 8 teams enter into a competition, and we run 2 divisions (rounds) of 6 races each, an event should finish in 1:30 or 1:45 for the entire competition as opposed to 28 races in an 8 team round-robin where each team will be required to run 7 races of at least 2 to 3 heats and taking 4 hours.

The benefits of running divisions

- *Dogs run less races and therefore it will prevent fatigue in dogs;*
- *It is likely to prevent injury to dogs that become too tired and cannot maintain full racing speed throughout the competition and are likely to stumble or trip over hurdles;*
- *It could prevent Exercise Induced Collapse;*
- *Divisions will benefit new dogs as well as older (veteran) dogs to maintain fitness*

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Renate Haussmann (KZN)
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

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14. SCORE SHEETS AND TEAM SHEETS

14.1 Team sheet
The team sheet will reflect the following: Team's name, team captain's name, dogs and owners' names, draw number, catalogue number, best time recorded, placing and points.

14.2 Score sheet
The times of each heat are is to be entered by the scorer/judge on the score sheet and announced to competitors and spectators. In the event of a dead-heat, equal times to be recorded.
The team that wins the race is granted one (1) point and the losing team zero (0) points. ~~[The winner of the Round Robin competition is the team with the most points.]~~ **In the case of teams having equal scores after a race, a deciding heat (or heats) will be run to determine a winner of the race.**

14.3 Equal ~~[scores]~~ points on completion of the Flyball event
The winner of the event is the team with the most points. In the case of teams having equal ~~[scores after a race]~~, **points after the completion of the competition** the following may apply to determine a winner **or placings:**
- A deciding heat or heats will be run at the discretion of the judge.
- The team with the fastest time wins. If the fastest times are the same, the next fastest time will apply.

Rationale and Motivation:
Clarifying this rule better as the fastest time should not be the deciding factor for scoring a point for winning or losing the heat, but a clear winner of the heat should be determined to allocate the winning of the heat point to.

The fastest time may be used to determine a winner or lower placings overall for the competition if there are teams with an equal number of points or a deciding heat/s can be run.

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Round robin acceptance
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

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16. PENALTIES

16.22 When the Electronic Judges System ("EJS") is used and a team has a false start, the first dog of the team has to re-run at the end. **Dog reruns**

Rationale and Motivation:
All penalties to reflect in one section for the ease of judging and referencing. Copy the section of 12.3.2 to section 16. This is merely a semantic change / housekeeping.

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC)
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)

Changes to the Flyball entry form for Championship shows

Scenario: Currently all dogs in a team must be entered prior to the closing date of a championship show meaning dogs cannot be swapped out in the event of a late change / injury / absenteeism of a dog or handler irrespective of the reason.

Suggestion: Only the Flyball team name is entered before the closing date of a championship show (e.g. “Paws on the Ball”) but not the 4 to 6 dogs in the team. Teams only declare their competing dogs to the judge on the day of the competition who will annotate such dogs on the score sheet. Only declared dogs shall enter the ring and are eligible to compete.

There is no need to amend section 11 THE COMPETITION and this remains as is.

11.1.2 Championship shows: The team captain will enter his/her team by the closing date as stipulated by the club.

Rationale and Motivation:
FCI Regulations for Flyball Section 1.08 does not mention 4 to 6 dogs entering a competition, but only a team entering an event.

It is also customary throughout Europe, the UK and USA to enter a team and declare their 6 dogs after the warm-up. (Some countries allow 7 dogs to warm-up and teams only declare the 6 dog in the team after the warm-up)

This will allow teams to make changes and prevent withdrawing from a competition due to unavailability of dogs or replacing a dog at short notice that is not sound or injured. It will also allow the championship competition to proceed if the minimum number of teams is entered.

KUSA levies for Flyball at championship show level is charged per team and not per dog so it is immaterial which dogs run in the team as long as the dogs declared prior to commencement of a competition are all KUSA registered and owners are current KUSA members.

All Flyball results are submitted to the KUSA office and include the dogs in each team with the KUSA registration numbers and registered owner details and is in line with the FCI regulation 1.10.

See Annexure 1B enclosed Proposed Flyball entry form

Submitted by: Liesl Twyman
Proposed acceptance: Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC)
Approved by the NFSC members: Renate Haussmann (KZN); Sonja Lauterbach-Horak (DOGS PC); Barry Levitt (Western Cape); Liesl Twyman (NAPC)