

Flyball boxes are placed 51 feet from the start finish line.

Flyball boxes come in many designs, but all BFA boxes have one trait, the safety of the dog comes first. There are two main types used in the UK today, the boomerang or curved box. Also appearing now are the NAFA type, square angled flat front type. With both types of box, the correct training will ensure years of fun and racing for you and your dog, whichever level at which you compete .



Good training is important , it will allow your dog to compete for years.

### Flyball Jumps

Flyball jumps are hurdles that your dog jumps during a race. The first one is 6 feet from the start / finish line, the next 3 are 10 feet apart, the last one being 15 feet from the box. The heights vary, the jump height being set at 4 inches less than the measurement of the dog at the withers. The maximum in the UK is 14 inches, with the minimum being 8 inches for the smallest of our competing dogs.

At BFA events there are also fun events such as pairs and starters. Pairs, is a race of two dogs. Normal BFA rules apply although this is not Sanctioned by the BFA and the dogs receive no points. There are three categories,

- Open:  
Any two dogs together,
- Mixed:  
Any two dogs of different breeds which include mixed breed,
- Mini- Maxi:  
One standard dog and one small dog

Starters:  
Is for young dogs (12 months and over) and new and inexperienced dogs. This helps give them and the handlers experience in competition, where mistakes can be made and learnt from for the real racing. Usually run in netting so as to aid training. The racing can be just as close and exciting as the real thing, and just as much fun, just frus-



training some-times.

**Flyball is fun for you and your dog, Go ahead give it a go. Contact The BFA, PO Box 109, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 1XZ**

# British Flyball



## Association

This initial contact brochure is just that, to get you and your dog to know a little more about Flyball.....More information can be found from your Regional Representative or our web-site <http://www.flyball.org.uk> The British Flyball Association is a non profit making organisation, formed in 1994. It is the Governing body of International Flyball in the UK.

Flyball is a fun sport for your dog, any dog any age any size, if your dog is fit enough it can play Flyball. There are Starter Classes that your dog can compete in from the age of 12 months, but it has to be at least 18 months old to compete in a BFA Sanctioned Tournament, this is in the best interests of their long term health. Flyball is a team sport, from a squad of up to 6 you can select 4 dogs to run in a heat. It is a relay race, with 4 dogs and their owners in the team for the heat. The dogs race against another team in another lane, over 4 hurdles, retrieve a ball from the Box at the end of the lane and back over the 4 hurdles, then the next dog goes. The winning team is the first to get all 4 dogs to complete without any faults. Flyball is the fastest growing dog sport in this country. It is a world wide sport, with regular European Championships. Flyball is played in America, Canada, Japan, Australia, and many European countries.



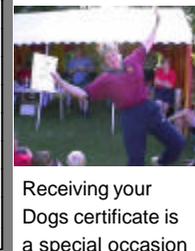


## BFA Membership

Membership of the BFA in addition to allowing you to accumulate points for your dog, also keeps you up to date with what's happening. As a member of the BFA you will receive the latest Flyball Record, the BFA's own publication. You can register your own team with the BFA, or join an existing one, your Team Captain will receive schedules for Sanctioned Tournaments. Your Team Captain will also receive quarterly reports, so you can track your progress, you can also get the latest information from our website <http://www.flyball.org.uk>, join our e-mail list and join in online discussions, as well as find out about training days and coming events. But most importantly you become a member of one big friendly family, who help and co-operate with each other to progress their teams and Flyball as a whole. Above are the PODS, the winners of the 2000 BFA Summer Championships with the array of cups and medals that are presented yearly to all teams winning positions in the Divisions for that competition. Last year 2001, the Barkshire Bandits shared the 2001 Championships with the PODS.

## BFA Sanctioned Competitions

There are many Tournaments throughout the year, indoors and outdoors across the country. There are two seasons Winter and Summer, but Flyball Tournaments run all year round. Mainly run in Divisions using seeding times to make the racing competitive. Usually run with electronic starting, timing and fault lighting. Running in these competitions gives your dog BFA points, depending on the time that your team run, and points really do mean prizes. There are Open Competitions, which means that all Teams can compete with any Dogs. Multibreed is a popular event, 4 Dogs in each Team, of different Breeds, only one of which can be a Border Collie or Working Sheepdog. There is a Multibreed Championship sponsored by John Beswick an animal sculpture producer. Entry to these Tournaments maybe limited due to restrictions and logistics.



Receiving your Dogs certificate is a special occasion

## The Points System

Your dog will gain points for running in BFA Sanctioned Tournaments, these points go towards Flyball titles. These titles have certificates, 200 points – Flyball Dog, 1,000 points – Flyball Dog Intermediate, 3,000 points – Flyball Dog Graduate, 5,000 points –

Flyball Dog Advanced, 10,000 points – Silver Award, 15,000 points – Gold Award, 20,000 points – Blue Ice Moon Award, Named after the first Dog to achieve this total, 25,000 – Platinum Award which is the highest to date. Your Dogs points also go towards annual Awards, the BFA have yearly titles of Dog and Bitch of the year, Team of the year and a Special award goes to the Team putting the most into Flyball that year.



## History of Flyball

Flyball is the most unique and exciting dog sport invented. It is fast, colourful and noisy. First seen in California in the early 70's, where Herbert Wagner first invented a ball launcher for demonstration at his Canine Obedience Graduations. It was fun for the dogs, owners and onlookers and he was asked to go on US national TV and Flyball grew from there. In the early 80's the sport took off in Canada and America, the North American Flyball Association (NAFA) was formed. In the early 90's a group of enthusiasts in the UK formed the British Flyball Association (BFA). Many of the first in the sport in this country still compete, once experienced it is hard to stop, and the dogs don't want to stop anyway.