

RULES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FLYBALL DOG ASSOCIATION

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1. **INTRODUCTION.**

The South African Flyball Dog Association (hereafter referred to as SAFDA) was established in 2004 to promote the sport of Flyball in South Africa. SAFDA is affiliated to the South African Working Dogs Association (SAWDA), which is the umbrella body for several Working Dog disciplines in South Africa. This document focuses on the running of Flyball Tournaments. For information on the organisation of SAFDA, refer to the document 'South African Flyball Dog Association Constitution'.

2. **PRINCIPLES OF FLYBALL TOURNAMENTS.**

Flyball is essentially a spectator sport involving team knockout competitions. The main elements of the sport are good sportsmanship and fun for the dog and handler. It is a sport which is open to all dogs, regardless of their pedigree.

3. **DEFINITIONS USED IN THESE RULES.**

Runs: One (1) dog within a heat running from the start to the finish line.

Heats: Four (4) dogs in a team each running from the start to the finish line.

Races: Best out of three heats.

4. **ELIGIBILITY OF JUDGES, HANDLERS AND DOGS.**

4.1 Judges must be current members of SAFDA. (Refer to the SAFDA Constitution).

4.2 Handlers and owners of dogs participating in SAFDA events must be paid-up members of SAFDA. (Refer to the SAFDA Constitution).

4.3 Dogs competing in SAFDA events must be registered with SAWDA. (Refer to the SAWDA Constitution).

4.4 No dog or person entering SAFDA Tournaments shall be under suspension or disqualification by SAWDA or SAFDA. (Refer to the SAWDA and SAFDA Constitutions).

4.5 Dogs must be at least 18 months old before they will be allowed to compete in any SAFDA tournament.

There is no leeway in the dog's age, even by one day. The dog must be a minimum of 18 months old on the day of the tournament in which the dog is to compete.

4.6 Each dog competing in SAFDA Tournaments will, on application by the owner, be issued with a Record Card by the Regional SAFDA Director. The Record Card will only be issued once the dog has reached the age of 18 months. The Record Card Number must be the same as the Dog's SAWDA Registration Number and the card must also show the Owner's SAFDA Membership Number. Before the first run at every Tournament the Team Manager shall hand the cards for the dogs in his team to the Judge. Upon completion of the final heat, the Judge shall complete the Record cards of the Qualifying teams and hand them back to the Team Manager for distribution to the individual team members. Should a card be lost a fee will be charged for issuing a new card. The onus is on the handler to provide an up to date photocopy in order for a replacement card to be issued. Previous points can then be endorsed on the card as correct by the Regional Director of that region. Each Regional Director must keep a Register of Record Cards issued in his/her Region.

5. **SIZE CATEGORIES AND TITLES.**

5.1 **SIZE CATEGORIES**

5.1.1 The height of the jumps shall be determined by the height at the withers of the smallest dog running in the team minus 10 cm ,but not lower than 20cm (also see item 11.1).

5.1.2 A Dog must be measured prior to competing for the first time in a SAFDA tournament. The measuring must be done by a qualified Judge or a SAFDA Regional Director. The dog's height at the withers in centimetres must be entered on the Record Card , which must be also be signed and dated by the person who has done the measuring .

5.2 **TITLES.**

5.2.1 **ACCUMULATION OF POINTS TOWARDS TITLES.**

In order to gain points at a Club Tournament, a minimum of three (3) teams must enter and compete. In order to gain points at a Regional Tournament, a minimum of four (4) teams must enter and compete. The following times must be achieved in both (two) final winning heats of the tournament. Should one of the winning heats be run in the next time(lower) category, the lower points will be awarded. Points are awarded to all teams according to the qualified recorded time categories.

•1..A recorded time of under 24 seconds - 25 points per dog. •2. A recorded time of under 28 seconds - 5 points per dog. •3. A recorded time of under 32 seconds - 1 point per dog 4.A bonus point will be awarded to each dog in the winning team.

5.2.2 **FLYBALL DOG (FD)**

A dog that has gained 50 points at Club and Regional Tournaments will qualify as a 'Flyball Dog' and a Certificate to this effect will be issued.

5.2.3 **FLYBALL DOG EXCELLENT (FDEX)**

A dog that has gained 100 points at Club and Regional Tournaments will qualify as a 'Flyball Dog Excellent' and a Certificate to this effect will be issued. Once a dog reaches 100 points at Club or Regional Tournaments, the following titles can only be achieved at Regional Tournaments:

5.2.4 **MASTER FLYBALL DOG (MFD)**

A dog that has gained 200 points at Regional Tournaments will qualify as a 'Flyball Dog Master' and a certificate to this effect will be issued.

5.2.5 **CHAMPION FLYBALL DOG (CFD)**

A dog that has gained 400 points at Regional Tournaments will qualify as a 'Flyball Dog Champion' and a certificate to this effect will be issued.

5.2.6 **GRAND CHAMPION FLYBALL DOG (GCFD)**

A dog that has gained 700 points at Regional Tournaments will qualify as a 'Flyball Dog Grand Champion' and a certificate to this effect will be issued.

5.2.7 **RECOGNITION OF TITLES GAINED UNDER OTHER CANINE BODIES**

5.2.7 No points gained under other canine bodies will count towards the SAFDA Titles mentioned in paragraphs 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.4, 5.2.5 and 5.2.6.

6. TOURNAMENTS.

SAFDA Affiliated Clubs wishing to hold Tournaments must undertake to comply with all the requirements set out in these Rules and in the SAFDA Constitution.

Each Tournament will be allocated a unique number by the Tournaments Administrator. This number must appear on the Tournament Schedule and be used by competitors when completing their entry forms. Judges must specify the Tournament number on the record card when updating a dog's qualifying record. All Tournament documentation such as score sheets, etc must show the Tournament number.

6.1 CLUB TOURNAMENTS.

6.1.1 Points towards 'Flyball Dog' and 'Flyball Dog Excellent' are awarded at Club and Regional Tournaments.

6.1.2 Club Tournaments may be held throughout the year. The only restriction is that the number of Tournaments per Region may not exceed 20 per calendar year. Club Tournaments may be scheduled in different Regions on the same dates, but may not clash with Regional Tournaments anywhere in the country.

6.1.3 Clubs must apply to their Regional Director for a permit to hold Club Tournaments. Applications must be submitted in writing at least 2 weeks before the proposed Tournaments date and be accompanied by the appropriate fees.

6.2 REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS.

6.2.1 Points towards 'Master Flyball Dog', 'Champion Flyball Dog' and 'Grand Champion Flyball Dog' Status are only awarded at Regional Tournaments.

6.2.2 Each Region may hold a maximum of four (4) Regional Tournaments per calendar year. These should be scheduled as groups of two Tournaments, ideally over a weekend. Clubs must apply to the National SAFDA Board for a permit to hold Regional Tournaments. Applications must be submitted in writing at least three months before the proposed Tournaments date and be accompanied by the appropriate fees.

6.2.3 The allocation of dates for Regional Tournaments will be controlled by the National SAFDA Board, to ensure that there are no date clashes between the Regions. Dates for Regional Tournaments will be published at the beginning of each year so that the Regions can schedule their Club Tournaments accordingly.

6.3 ENTRIES FOR TOURNAMENTS.

6.3.1 Entries for Tournaments must be submitted to the host Club at least three weeks before the Tournaments in the case of Regional Tournaments and one week before the Tournaments in the case of Club Tournaments.

6.3.2 Entries must be submitted on an official SAFDA Entry Form, which will only reflect the names of the teams accompanied by the relevant fee. The entry fee will be non-refundable if a team is unable to compete for what ever reason.

6.3.3 The Host Club may accept entries that have been sent electronically, i.e. entry forms sent via fax or email attachments, with entry fees being deposited directly into the Club's bank account.

6.3.4 Dogs and/or handlers may enter Tournaments under a Judge who resides in the same household or is a member of the same Club.

6.3.5 Judges may compete in Classes that they are not judging.

6.3.6 Conditions of Entry.

When entering a SAFDA Tournament, the handler and owner undertake to abide by the SAFDA Constitution and Rules.

Any dog or handler entering or competing in a SAFDA event does so at his own and the dog's risk.

6.4 MANAGEMENT OF TOURNAMENTS.

6.4.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST CLUB.

6.4.1.1 To appoint a suitably qualified SAFDA Judge. When a Judge from another region is being appointed, the Club will come to an arrangement with the Judge regarding the reimbursement of travel and accommodation

expenses.

- 6.4.1.2 To distribute a Schedule of events in advance of the Tournaments, giving the date, venue, details of Classes to be held, starting times, name of the Judge, entry fees, closing date for entries, methods of payment and the address to which entries must be sent. The Schedule must be distributed at least three weeks in advance of a Club Tournament and two months in advance of a Regional Tournament. A copy of the Schedule must be submitted to Central SAFDA Administration for their records and for publication on the SAFDA website. Further distribution of the Schedule will be left to the Club's discretion.
- 6.4.1.3 The entry fee per team will be as decided by SAFDA and will be subject to change. The SAFDA levy will be R8.00 per team.
- 6.4.1.4 A draw to determine the running order of the teams shall be done prior to the Tournament date, supervised by the Judge or any official of the host club to whom he delegates this authority. The draw may be done manually or by a random computer draw.
- 6.4.1.5 To provide the hurdles, which must be in good condition and comply with the specifications in paragraph 11.1.
- 6.4.1.6 To provide an arena which must comply with the specifications in Section 7 (also see Appendix 4).
- 6.4.1.7 To provide all necessary score sheets (also see Appendix 1).
- 6.4.1.8 To appoint the officials who will assist the Judge, namely two time keepers per lane, or the electronic timer plus 1 manual time keeper per lane, one Lane Steward per lane (to oversee the passing of the dogs at the start and finish), one Box Steward per lane (to check that dog collects ball without it being fed to such dog by the teams box loader, and returns to the finish with the ball). One Ring Marshall to facilitate the smooth running of the Tournament. (The assistants must be fully conversant with the duties they will be expected to perform).
- 6.4.1.9 The host club's Secretary is required to arrange veterinary support compatible with the arrangements of the competition and anticipated entries. The name, address and telephone number of the veterinary surgeon, practitioner or practice supporting the competition is to be available at the tournament.

6.4.2 DISPUTES, MISCONDUCT AND COMPLAINTS.

- 6.4.2.1 Any disputed matter requiring an immediate decision will be resolved by the Judge and the Regional Director if he/she is in attendance and not competing. Unresolved disputes must be reported to the Regional Director.
- 6.4.2.2 Misconduct, such as unseemly behavior towards any Official, bad sportsmanship, harsh handling of a dog and physical or verbal abuse of a dog anywhere on the grounds at a Tournament will be severely condemned. In the event of such behavior the Judge will exclude the handler from further competition at the Tournament and order the handler to forfeit any awards, prizes or points gained at the Tournaments. After consultation with the judge, a reserve dog may be allowed to run in place of the excluded dog. Should the team not have a reserve, it shall not be allowed to continue to compete with the remaining three handlers.
- 6.4.2.3 Depending on the severity of the offence, an official complaint against the handler may be lodged with the Regional Director. Refer to the SAFDA Constitution for more information on dealing with misconduct. Any complaint raised by a team, shall be laid on behalf of the team by the Captain. Written complaints must be submitted to the Regional Director. Every complaint must be dealt with within seven days. If a complaint is not satisfactorily dealt with by the Regional Director, a written complaint should be forwarded to the Area Director and, if necessary, the Managing Director.
- 6.4.2.4 Circumstances outside the Rules. In the event of circumstances arising not covered by these Rules, the Judge will have discretionary powers to make a ruling subject to confirmation by SAFDA. In such instances, the judge must submit a written report to SAFDA setting out all details within fourteen (14) days of the Tournament.

6.4.3 RUNNING OF TOURNAMENTS.

6.4.3.1 Format of a Tournament.

Round Robin (see Appendix 2 for Racing Schedules). Scoring system for Round Robin is as follows: one (1) Point for winning a race and nil (0) Point for losing a race. The overall winner will be the Team with the most points and if there is a tie, a winner will be determined by a run-off heat.

6.4.3.2 Handlers.

Refer to paragraph 4.2 with regard to the eligibility of handlers.

The owner of a dog may nominate another person to handle the dog. Once the dogs have commenced working, an owner must not interfere with his dog if he has deputised another person to handle it. The dog shall be handled by the same person throughout the Tournament. Substitution of a handler may only take place in the following cases and with the permission of the Judge: • Where a handler or dog has been injured. • When a reserve dog has been allowed to run in place of an excluded dog as per Paragraph 6.4.2.2.

6.4.3.3 Physical Condition of Competing Dogs.

Pregnant bitches, lactating bitches, bitches in heat, lame dogs or dogs that are apparently ill or hurt are ineligible for entry, as is any dog with a deformity which may cause a judge to not be able to reasonably assess the dog's ability to perform the obstacles safely and in a manner that is in the best interest, health and welfare of the dog. If a dog is disabled or handicapped in such a way that it would upset the public to see it performing, the team must contact the Regional Director before sending in its entry fee for

confirmation as to whether this dog could be allowed to compete.

6.4.3.4 Environmental Conditions.

It is the responsibility of the Judge to ensure that all dogs in a Class compete under the same conditions as far as this is practical.

It shall be at the sole discretion of the Judge whether or not competition at any Tournament should be interrupted on account of inclement weather. Cancellation of a Tournament shall be at the discretion of the Judge.

6.4.3.5 Starting Times.

All competitors and dogs, including reserves, must be present at the site of the Tournament at least 30 minutes before the advertised starting time. The Team Captain shall be responsible for informing his team of the starting time.

Any team member who is not present at the designated time shall be regarded as having withdrawn from the competition and shall not be allowed to compete. In such instances a Reserve may be substituted for the missing team member and the Reserve shall compete as a full team member for the rest of the Tournament. A "late" competitor cannot be used as a Reserve. The judge has the discretion to commence a competition without all teams being present at the designated starting time.

6.4.3.6 Provision of Equipment.

Each team is responsible for the provision of its own equipment, as specified in Paragraph 6.7.2.

6.4.3.7 The Order of Competition.

The order of competition shall be according to the draw done in advance of the event. (Refer to paragraph 6.4.1.4).

6.4.3.8 Identification of Teams.

Teams are identified by their team name. The host club shall provide each team captain with two (2) sets of square cloths (20cmx20cm), per team member, with a letter, eg 'A', 'B' 'C' and 'D' printed or written on it. The team members must wear these cloths, pinned on the front and back of their tops during the Tournament.

6.4.3.9 Responsibilities of the Judge.

6.4.3.9.1 To have a thorough knowledge of the Rules.

6.4.3.9.2 To ensure that all officials are familiar with their duties and to brief them on any specific requirements.

6.4.3.9.3 To brief the competitors prior to the commencement of the competition. The Judge may also answer questions from the competitors on any aspects of the competition.

6.4.3.9.4 No Judge shall require any dog, handler or team to do anything nor penalise a dog, handler or team for failing to do anything that is not required by these Rules. Judges must adhere strictly to the SAFDA Rules and may not introduce their own variations into the competition.

6.4.3.10 Responsibilities of the Competitors.

All handlers must have a thorough knowledge of the Rules.

6.4.3.11 Collars and harnesses.

All dogs competing are to wear a flat buckle collar of any material or a flyball harness. No choke chains or choke collars are allowed. Holding any dog by the scruff of the neck or any other part of the body is not permissible and may result in disqualification of that team.

6.4.3.12 Interference with Competitors.

The Judge shall expel from competition any dog that behaves in an uncontrollable manner, any handler who interferes wilfully with another competitor or his dog, or any bitch which appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element. Non competing dogs should not be tethered close to the arena or any position as to interfere or distract competing dogs. Should a tethered dog break free and run into the ring thereby interfering with another team/dog - the offending party will be disqualified from participating further in the Tournament.

6.4.3.13 Practice.

Handlers will be allowed to practice with their dogs at a Tournament but no practice or training may take place: • In any arena except for the warm-up as permitted prior to each race in order to acquaint dogs with the host club's hurdles. • In such a way as to interfere with or distract competing dogs or their handlers.

6.4.3.14 Rewarding of Dogs.

The handler may not carry anything into the arena that might be construed to be an aid to the performance of the dog. Baiting, the offering of any toys, food substance or other inducement whilst in the arena will result in immediate elimination.

6.4.3.15 Handler's Commands.

Handlers may use the dog's call name, any verbal commands or visual signals without penalty. The use of any kind of whistle is prohibited and will lead to immediate elimination.

6.4.3.16 Judge's Orders.

Judge's and Steward's orders are required to be clearly spoken to be heard by everyone following the judging.

6.4.3.17 Abnormal Circumstances.

If, in the Judge's opinion, any team's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and/or unusual circumstances

not covered in these Rules, the Judge may request the teams involved to repeat the heat.

6.4.3.18

Indication of Penalties and Eliminations.

Faults are indicated by either the lane steward, box steward or judge by raising their hand .

6.5

THE RUNNING.

6.5.1

The first dogs in each team will be released on the judge's whistle. Subsequent dogs will only be allowed to pass the Start/Finish line once the preceding dog has passed the Start/Finish line with any part of its body. Each dog jumps the four (4) hurdles in succession, triggers the box and returns over the hurdles with the ball in its mouth.

Only when a dog in a team has passed the Start/Finish line with any part of its body, shall the next dog in that team pass the Start/Finish line.

Timekeepers are to start their stopwatches when any part of the first dog crosses the start line and stop it when any part of the fourth dog or the last dog to rerun, crosses the finish line. This rule also applies when electronic timing is used.

A heat is completed when the first team to have its fourth dog, or the last to rerun, crosses the finish line.

6.5.2

Conduct of the Box Loader.

Except during the warm up, to retrieve a loose ball, or get a fresh supply of balls to load, the box loader must remain in the upright position behind the box, and may not offer verbal or any other form of encouragement. The box loader is to remain in position until the outcome of the heat is determined by the judge. If, in the judge's opinion, a box loader has violated any of these rules, their team may forfeit the heat. 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.

6.6

OFFICIALS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

6.6.1

A Judge who will start the race by means of a whistle and have overall responsibility for the competition.

6.6.2

Two Lane Stewards, one per lane, who will monitor hurdle infringements and the passing of dogs at the Start/Finish line.

6.6.3

Two Box Stewards, one at each box, who will ensure that Box Loaders do not infringe the regulations.

6.6.4

Two Time Keepers (one official and back up) per lane. Should there be electronic timers for each lane, only one (1) back up Time Keeper is necessary per lane. A Timekeeper from each lane will also be the scorer.

6.6.5

A Ring Marshall standing between the lanes, who will reset any hurdles that have been knocked down. This Marshall may not interfere with or guide a dog in any way.

6.6.6

All official's officiating at Tournaments must be 100 % familiar with rules, regulations etc

6.7

TEAMS.

6.7.1

Each team shall have a name.

6.7.2

Each team shall have a captain, who may be non-competing, whose responsibilities shall include:

Ensuring that entries are submitted correctly to the host club.

Ensuring that all the members of the team are aware of starting times and are present at the arena in terms of Paragraph 6.4.3.5.

Ensuring that the necessary equipment is at the Tournament. This includes a box and a spare box that both comply with the specifications in Paragraph 11.2 and balls that comply with the specifications in Paragraph 11.4.

Ensuring that the teams' box loaders are clear regarding rules pertaining to box loading.

6.7.3

Each team shall consist of four (4) dogs and handlers together with a reserve.

6.7.4

Each team shall include a box loader.

6.7.5

Reserves may be used in the case of injury to either dog or handler. Once a "Reserve" has taken the place of a "Declared" member of the team the "Declared" member shall not be permitted to compete again at the Tournament.

6.7.6

On the day of the Tournament the Team Captain shall inform the Tournament Secretary of the names of the four (4) competing dogs, and two (2) Reserves.

7.

THE ARENA.

7.1

The competition arena must not be less than 30m X 12 m.

7.2

An area of 6m in length behind the Start/Finish line must be available to allow adequate run through for incoming dogs.

7.3

There must be distance of 1,83m from the Start/Finish line to the first hurdle. There must be a total of four (4) hurdles, which must be placed 3,05m apart, and there must be 4,57m from the last hurdle to the box pedal.

7.4

Racing lanes must be a minimum of 3m to a maximum of 6m apart.

7.5

The Start/Finish poles for each lane are to be a distance of 2m apart.

7.6

The obstruction of gangways is prohibited.

7.7

Each competition arena must be enclosed by ropes or other suitable means.

7.8

When competitions are held indoors, the floor shall have a suitable surface in order that races may be held without injury to handler and dog.

- 8. PENALTIES.**
- 8.1 A dog reruns at the end of the team when:**
- 8.1.1 The dog or handler's feet cross the Start/Finish line before the start is signalled.
- 8.1.2 The dog crosses the Start/Finish line before any part of the body of the previous dog crosses the line or if a handler crosses the line at any time.
- 8.1.3 The dog misses a hurdle. (Each dog must attempt every hurdle).
- 8.1.4 The dog does not trigger the box.
- 8.1.5 The dog does not return with the ball.
- 8.1.6 The ball is declared out of play (i.e. outside the demarcated arena).
- 8.1.7 The box loader assists the dog, except in terms of Paragraph 8.4.1.
- 8.2 A Heat is rerun when:**
- 8.2.1 A box malfunctions during the heat. The heat is stopped and a spare box substituted.
- 8.3 A Team forfeits a Race when:**
- 8.3.1 A dog relieves itself in the arena.
- 8.3.2 Baiting or offering food or other inducement whilst in the arena.
- 8.3.3 Interfering in racing lanes and "ready" arena. The interfering dog or handler's team forfeits the race.
- 8.3.4 Distractions: Any member of a team bouncing or tossing balls, using a flyball box or other means to distract the opposing team or dogs whilst in the arena - the team of the distracting handler shall forfeit the race.
- 8.3.5 The handler or any member of the team, assists a dog.
- 8.3.6 A spare box malfunctions during the heat.
- 8.3.7 If a team runs out of balls while competing
- 8.4 Exceptions:**
- 8.4.1 The ball bounces back into cup and the box loader has to reload. (This is the only time a signal is permitted by the box loader to push the pedal).
- 8.4.2 Should any hurdle be knocked down, a dog will not be penalised provided it clears the hurdle as though it were standing. No penalty.
- 9. RESULTS.**
- 9.1 Scores.**
- 9.1.1 The qualifying times of each heat must be entered on the score sheet (see Appendix 1) by the scorer and announced to competitors and spectators.
- 9.1.2 Scores may not be changed subsequently except to correct arithmetical errors or to eliminate a competitor for misconduct in terms of Paragraph 6.4.2.2.
- 9.1.3 In the case of teams having equal times in a heat, a deciding heat or heats will be run.
- 9.2 Announcement of Results.**
- After the scores have been totalled and winners decided, the Judge shall announce the winner, any awards or Qualifying Certificates and the scores of other competitors placed.
- 9.3 Completion of Dogs' Record Cards.**
- At the conclusion of a Club or Regional Tournament, the Judge must complete the record cards of the dogs' in the qualifying teams. The particulars of the tournament and the dogs' scores must be entered on the record cards, which must also be signed by the Judge.
- 10. TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF JUDGES.**
- 10.1 An aspirant judge must complete the exam theory and practical. An experienced or senior judge must evaluate him at a Club Tournament to determine if he/she is able to judge, then only can he/she judge a Regional Tournament. After he/she has judged a Club Tournament satisfactorily, can he/she be appointed as a Senior Judge.
- 10.2 All judges shall, if permanently domiciled in the SAFDA area of jurisdiction, be current members of SAFDA (Refer to the SAFDA Constitution) and over the age of eighteen (18) years.
- 10.3 Before approving a foreign judge to officiate at a SAFDA Tournament, the Board shall confirm that the judge is recognised and qualified to judge Flyball events in his country of permanent residence.
- 11. SPECIFICATIONS OF THE EQUIPMENT.**
- 11.1 Hurdles**
- The hurdles which must be supplied by the host club, shall be adjustable to accommodate dogs of all sizes. Shall have an inside width of 60 cm and the hurdle material thickness is not to exceed 1 cm. Hurdles shall be white except for the uprights, which may be any colour or bear sponsors' advertisements. Maximum height 40 cm, Minimum height 20 cm. Jumps should comprise 20 cm base board, 1x10 cm, 1x5cm and 2x2,5 cm strips (see Appendix 3).
- 11.2 Box.**
- Each team must supply its own box and a spare box, which must both comply with the following specifications:
- 11.2.1 All boxes must have a mechanical (not electrical) pedal release mechanism.
- 11.2.2 The boxes may be painted or decorated as the team wishes.

11.2.3 The ball, when released, must have a free, unobstructed flight of not less than 61cm from the point that the ball is released, in the direction of the Start/Finish line.

11.2.4 Boxes shall not exceed 60 cm in width, or 65 cm in height, nor 120 cm in depth. The dimensions include a throwing arm, but do not include any platform the box loader uses to hold the box in place.

11.2.5 Whatever box is used, the ball pockets are to be in line so that the ball pocket creates the distance and not the box (see Appendix 3).

11.3 Backstop Board.

A backstop board or barrier must be provided at the box end of the run to prevent missed balls from rolling too far. This barrier should be a minimum of 70cm high and placed 2,15m behind the boxes.

11.4 Balls.

Each team must supply its own unpunctured, regulation tennis balls of any colour for standard sized dogs. In the case of toy or miniature breeds, squash, racket balls or approved balls may be used. Approved balls must function similarly to a tennis ball, i.e. they must bounce and roll. All balls must be approved by the Tournament Judge. Each team must ensure that they have enough balls for an entire heat.

APPENDIX 1 **SCORE SHEETS** (see separate Excel document file)

APPENDIX 2 **RACING SCHEDULES** (see separate Word document file)

APPENDIX 3 **EQUIPMENT** (see separate tif file)

APPENDIX 4 **RING LAYOUT** (see separate tif file)