



YRKC FLYBALL



FLYBALL COMPETITIONS
RULES 2026 (CRUFTS 2027)






YRKC FLYBALL RULES - CHANGE LOG

1. Changes Dated 27/03/2026 – (v1.0 to v1.1).
 - i. Changed all YKC logos to YRKC.
 - ii. Changed all mention of YKC to YRKC.
 - iii. Changed all mention of Kennel Club to Royal Kennel Club.
 - iv. Added a new section (K) to the document to outline Crufts health testing requirement for RFG breeds.






A: TEAM COMPOSITION

1. A YRKC flyball team **MUST** be comprised of the following roles:

1 x [Team Captain] 18 Years +	
4 x [Dog Handlers] 06-17 Years	
1 x [Box Loader] 06-17 Years	



B: ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS

1. A YRKC flyball team **MAY** additionally include the following roles:

1 – 2 x [Reserve Dog Handlers] 06-17 Years	
1 x [Runner/Ball Collector] 06-17 Years	
1 x Line Person 06-17 Years	

C: 18-24 YEARS TEAM MEMBERS

1. A YRKC flyball team **MAY** include up to two YRKC members from the 18-24 years age category using the following method:

1 x [Dog Handler] OR [Reserve Dog Handler]	
1 x [Box Loader] OR [Line Person]	

- i. Only up to 1x [18-24 years] can be a [Dog handler] OR [Reserve Dog Handler] role
- ii. Only up to 1x [18-24 years] can be a [Box Loader] OR [Line Person] role



D: TEAM MEMBERS

1. All members of the Flyball team must be a current up to date member of the YRKC.
 - i. This does not include the **[Team Captain]** who must be an adult over the age of 18.
2. Handlers may not be swapped after the closing date of the show.
 - i. This means no on-the-day swapping of YRKC handlers at any Flyball qualifier.
3. Use the YRKC member's age on the first day of **CRUFTS** to work out which age category a YRKC member falls into.
4. Once qualified, none of the YRKC team members may be part of any other YRKC Flyball team during the qualification period or at Crufts 2027.
 - i. This includes **[Team Captains]**, **[Line Persons]** & **[Runner/Ball Collectors]**
5. Each of the roles mentioned in sections A & B must be fulfilled by a unique person,
 - i. i.e. a **[Team Captain]** cannot also be a **[Dog Handler]** for the team.
 - a. The only exception to this is a **[Runner/Ball Collector]** may also fulfil the roll of the **[Line Person]**.
6. The **[Team Captain]** role becomes the point of contact for the team.
7. The **[Team Captain]** may assist the team in the ring.
 - i. Assistance should be in the form of:
 - a. attending judges briefing,
 - b. organising the team,
 - c. transferring used tennis balls back to the **[Box Loader]** between races,
 - d. helping small or young YRKC members to restrain large dogs while not competing.
 - ii. Assistance should NOT include:
 - a. releasing the dog to perform a run whilst a race is in progress.

E: DOGS

1. A YRKC Flyball team MUST have a minimum of 4 unique dogs
 - i. i.e. One dog may not run twice in a flyball heat
 - a. unless that dog is required to re-run due to a fault in its first run.
2. A YRKC Flyball team MAY have up to 2 additional reserve dogs entered.
3. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YRKC Flyball competition.
4. Only dogs of Eighteen Calendar months and over may enter a YRKC Flyball competition.
5. A dog may not be named in more than one YRKC Flyball Team. *(even as a reserve)*
6. If borrowing a dog, you must have permission from the owner in order to compete in any of the qualifiers or the finals at Crufts.
7. A YRKC handler is permitted to run a dog in the YRKC Flyball final which is also being run in an adult competition.
 - i. Please consider that this may result in back-to-back racing in the main arena final.
8. There are no restrictions on breed of dog in the YRKC Flyball competition.
 - i. i.e. all dogs may be the same breed if desired
9. All dogs, when entering a Royal Kennel Club licensed show (i.e. Crufts) must be registered on either:
 - a. the Breed Register (pedigree dogs only) or;
 - b. the Activity Register (any dog).
 - ii. Please note, the amount of time it takes to register a dog can vary, please do not leave registering a dog till the last minute before entering Crufts.
10. Dogs may NOT have any alteration of colour applied to their fur (e.g. dye)



F: EQUIPMENT

1. Each team **MUST** bring with them the following equipment:
 - i. At least one **Flyball Box** (a spare box is advised)
 - a. spec to meet that of standard Royal Kennel Club flyball
 - ii. **Balls**
 - a. Approved balls may be of any size, colour or design and must bounce and roll
 - (1) These are the same requirements as for standard Royal Kennel Club flyball
2. The teams will compete over a standard flyball layout with standard spacing between the start line, jumps and box.
3. Dogs will all compete using the same height jumps:
 - i. The jumps will have an inside width of 30".
 - ii. The jumps will be a total height of 9 inches
 - iii. The 1" top slat will be flexible / breakable and will contain padding.

G: DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Flyball Terminology:
 - i. **RACE:**
 - a. A RACE is where two teams face each other
 - ii. **HEAT:**
 - a. Each race is made up of 3 Heats, the team that wins the best of three heats wins the race and proceeds to the next round

H: COMPETITION REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITORS

1. No persons shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of a dog at any time.
 - i. When beginning its run, the dog must have all 4 feet on the ground, and accelerate under its own steam.
2. A dog must attempt to clear every hurdle.
 - i. If the dog encounters a hurdle that has been knocked down, the dog must not be penalised, provided it clears the hurdle as if it were standing.
3. A dog must re-run at the end of the line if:
 - i. An early start is indicated.
 - ii. It does not attempt every jump.
 - iii. It does not trigger the box.
 - iv. It does not return with the ball.
 - v. Its handler's feet cross the start line during its run.
 - a. with the exception of resetting a jump or retrieving a lost ball.
 - vi. It started its run before the preceding dog had reached the start/finish line.
 - vii. The box loader is faulted for assisting the dog.
4. If a dog or any team member obstructs the opposing team during a heat, the offending team will forfeit the heat.
 - i. A dog chasing a loose ball is not necessarily causing an obstruction.
5. The first team to have its fourth dog, (or the last to be re-run) across the finish line, with any part of the dog's body, wins the heat.

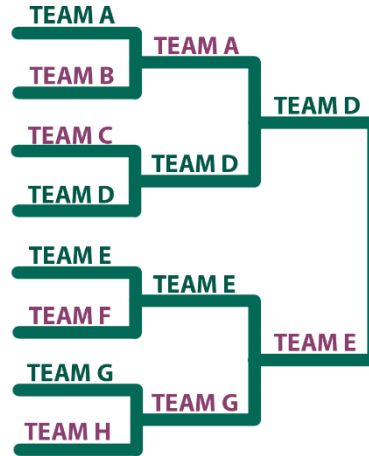


FLYBALL QUALIFIERS

1. YRKC Flyball competition qualifiers are held using the [Single Elimination] tournament methods.

i. **Single Elimination**

- a. This is a standard knockout tournament, where if a team loses at any point, they are out of the competition.
- b. See example:



- 2. YRKC Flyball qualifiers are listed on the YRKC website
 - i. Only qualifiers listed on the YRKC website will be eligible for qualification, please ensure that you are entering a valid YRKC qualifier.
- 3. **By entering a YRKC class, the YRKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YRKC’s Code of Conduct**
- 4. Once a team has qualified for the YRKC Flyball finals, they may NOT compete at any other YRKC Flyball qualifier for the remainder of the qualification period
- 5. The qualification period for **Crufts 2027** is: **01-Jan-2025 till 31-Oct-2025**

YRKC FLYBALL FINAL – WHO QUALIFIES

- 1. **First OR Second** place at any YRKC qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the final
 - i. There will be no roll-down of this qualification



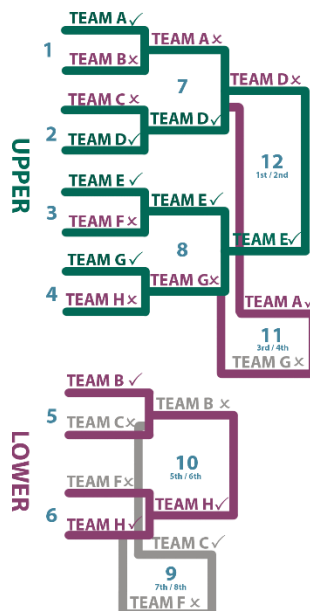
K: NEW HEALTH ENTRY CRITERIA FOR BULLDOGS, FRENCH BULLDOGS AND PUGS AT CRUFTS

1. All Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs exceeding 14 calendar months on the first day of Crufts must have a valid Respiratory Function Grading (RFG) Scheme assessment to attend. This requirement is mandatory for entry into the show, not just individual classes.
2. **VALID RFG SCHEME ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**
 - i. To gain entry, all eligible Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs must attach a valid RFG Scheme certificate dated within the last 24 months of the first day of the show to their entry.
 - ii. Dogs assessed as Grade 2 or 3 will be excluded and not allowed to enter or attend the show.
3. **CERTIFICATE UPLOAD AND VALIDATION**
 - i. The dog's RFG scheme certificate must be uploaded as part of your entry, including the expiry date and grade. The Royal Kennel Club will validate and approve the certificate.
4. **EXEMPTIONS AND AGE REQUIREMENTS**
 - i. Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs not exceeding 14 calendar months on the first day of the show are exempt from needing an RFG Scheme assessment, and a certificate is not required.
 - ii. Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs aged 7 years or older on the first day of the show do not need a valid RFG Scheme assessment; however, they must upload the last certificate awarded to the dog
 - a. The corresponding certificate must be uploaded prior to entry, but it does not need to be dated within the last 24 months.
 - b. The last certificate awarded must have the dog assessed as either Grade 0 or Grade 1.
5. **OVERSEAS ASSESSMENTS**
 - i. International RFG Scheme assessments issued by licensed organisations, and carried out by approved assessors, will be accepted. Overseas exhibitors must upload a valid certificate prior to entry, and ensure certificates meet the same standards as domestic entries.
6. **CROSSBREED DOG BREED DETERMINATION**
 - i. A crossbreed that has characteristics of either a Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug will be asked to prove that there are none of the aforementioned breeds in the dog's breeding going back 5 generations.
 - ii. A crossbreed that has unknown lineage will be deemed as one of the designated breeds (Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug) if it has characteristics that are associated with those breeds respectively.
 - iii. Any Crossbreed that is deemed to be one of the designated breeds (Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug) is subject to the same health testing restrictions as outlined in K1 through K5 in this document.
 - iv. If there is any doubt whether a dog should be deemed as one of the designated breeds (Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug) AND that dog has been entered into Crufts without submitting a valid RFG scheme certificate, the judge of the competition will adjudicate.
 - a. The judge may ask for a second opinion from the YRKC show organisers.
 - b. If it is deemed that the dog is one of the designated breeds, that dog shall be asked to leave the show immediately.
7. **More Information**
 - i. For information on where the scheme is available, expected costs and more information on why the RKC is implementing these rules: please visit <https://www.royalkennelclub.com/rfgscheme>



L ■ YRKC FLYBALL AT CRUFTS – FINAL

1. By entering a YRKC class, the YRKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YRKC’s Code of Conduct
2. At Crufts, the YRKC will calculate which age category each competitor shall be in based on the YRKC members age on the first day of Crufts.
 - i. This may be a different age category to the one the YRKC member qualified in.
3. Handlers who turn 25 before the first day of Crufts are not eligible to compete at Crufts in the YRKC ring – any qualifications gained for the YRKC will be forfeit.
 - i. Additionally, if too many members now fall into the 18-24 age category for the team, some of them will no longer be eligible to compete
 - a. please ensure that this is considered before entering the qualifiers.
4. The draw for the final at Crufts will be conducted by the Crufts flyball management team once all qualifiers are complete.
5. Only dogs & handlers who are members of the original team, or named as reserves on the entry form, will be permitted to compete in the final.
 - i. In exceptional circumstances, replacement dogs or handlers will be considered but must have signed written approval by the YRKC Management Team before the final.
6. Reserve Dog / Handlers may be swapped in-between heats if desired.
7. The final at Crufts will be run as a modified [Single Elimination] competition
 - i. The modifications are as follows
 - a. All teams will compete in 3 races at Crufts
 - (1) Any team that loses their first race will compete in the lower bracket
 - (i) Unlike double elimination, the lower bracket will only be competing for places 5th to 8th
 - ii. This will result in 12 separate races
 - iii. See example:



- iv. Race 12 (the final determining 1st & 2nd place) will take place in the Main Arena at Crufts.



8. Warm ups & Practice Runs

- i. Each team will be allowed a 1 minute warm up at the start of their first race.
 - a. After the 1 minute warm up, a practice heat will take place,
 - (1) This practice heat will NOT count towards the score.
 - ii. The first time a team swaps lanes (i.e. their first race was in the left lane, and their second is in the right lane) that team will be allowed 1 minute to ensure their dogs are acclimatised to the new lane.
 - a. This will only be for the team that swapped sides
9. The finals at Crufts will run all three heats of each race
- i. i.e. even if a team wins the first two heats and therefore wins the race, the third heat will still be run

M:

CLOTHING, SPONSORSHIP & LOGOS @ CRUFTS

1. Flyball team members should wear smart athletic wear, with plain black or navy tracksuit bottoms/leggings paired with a short sleeve t-shirt/polo shirt of their choosing.
2. Flyball dog handlers should wear footwear that will enable them to run without slipping on artificial grass.
3. Some YRKC members have managed to arrange personal sponsorship and branding deals. YRKC members who wish to have branding on their clothing at Crufts must follow the below rules.
4. The YRKC & Royal Kennel Club also have several sponsors in both the YRKC ring and the main arena at Crufts.
5. To comply with our sponsors, YRKC members may NOT have branding on display from the following companies:
 - i. Dog food or treat supplier
 - ii. Car manufacturer
 - iii. Insurance company
6. If a YRKC member wishes to have branding from a company not on the above list on an item of clothing, that company's branding must be where a breast pocket would be and must be approximately breast pocket size.
 - i. This restriction on branding only applies in the following locations:
 - a. Crufts YRKC collecting ring, Crufts YRKC ring, Crufts YRKC Presentation Area.
 - b. Crufts Main arena collecting ring, Crufts Main Arena, Crufts Main Arena Presentation Area.
7. There is no restriction on any of the rest of your design,
 - i. i.e. the size of text of your team name or individual names is up to you

N:

YRKC FLYBALL – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following awards will be presented in the YRKC ring for the YRKC Flyball Competition:

**3rd Place & 4th Place
&
FINALISTS ANNOUNCED**

- i. All competitors will receive a YRKC finalists rosette for competition.
 - a. These will be collected in the YRKC ring, just after the above presentation.
2. The following awards will be presented in the Main Arena for the final of the YRKC Flyball competition:

1st Place & 2nd Place