



FLYBALL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Flyball consists of a relay race between two teams of four dogs. Each dog must jump over four hurdles, retrieve a ball by triggering a flyball box pedal and then return with the ball over the hurdles to the start/finish line.

Flyball is a canine team sport which is founded on the activities that dogs love to do – run, jump, retrieve, compete and most of all, their desire to please their owners.

There is no discrimination in Flyball. Any dog, regardless of breed, size, shape or formal training, can participate and join in the fun.

Flyball does not interfere with obedience training. In fact, the sport reinforces the disciplines taught in obedience training.

Race meets are run in performance-based divisions. The fastest teams are placed in Division 1 and slower divisions follow sequentially. This enables every team to have a fair go and to be competitive in their division.

Unlike any other dog activity to date, Flyball is pure fun for everyone, the dogs, handlers and spectators. Spectators are encouraged to applaud, laugh and cheer on their favourite team.

The Flyball community is passionate, encouraging and diverse. The enthusiasm and sheer exhilaration of the dogs' faces (and some of the handlers faces too!) creates a vibrant atmosphere.

If you are looking for a new and stimulating way to spend time with your pet – then why not give Flyball a go!

THE FIELD

There are two racing lanes set up, side-by-side with as little as 10 feet (3.05m) between them. Between the lanes there are a set of drag racing lights waiting to do the count down for the start of each heat.

Each lane is 51 feet (15.54m) in length and consists of 4 hurdles, the first being 6 feet (1.84m) from the start/finish line and the rest at 10-foot (3.05m) intervals. The hurdle height is set 5 inches lower than the shoulder height of the smallest dog in the team (limited to a minimum of 7 inches and a maximum of 14 inches).

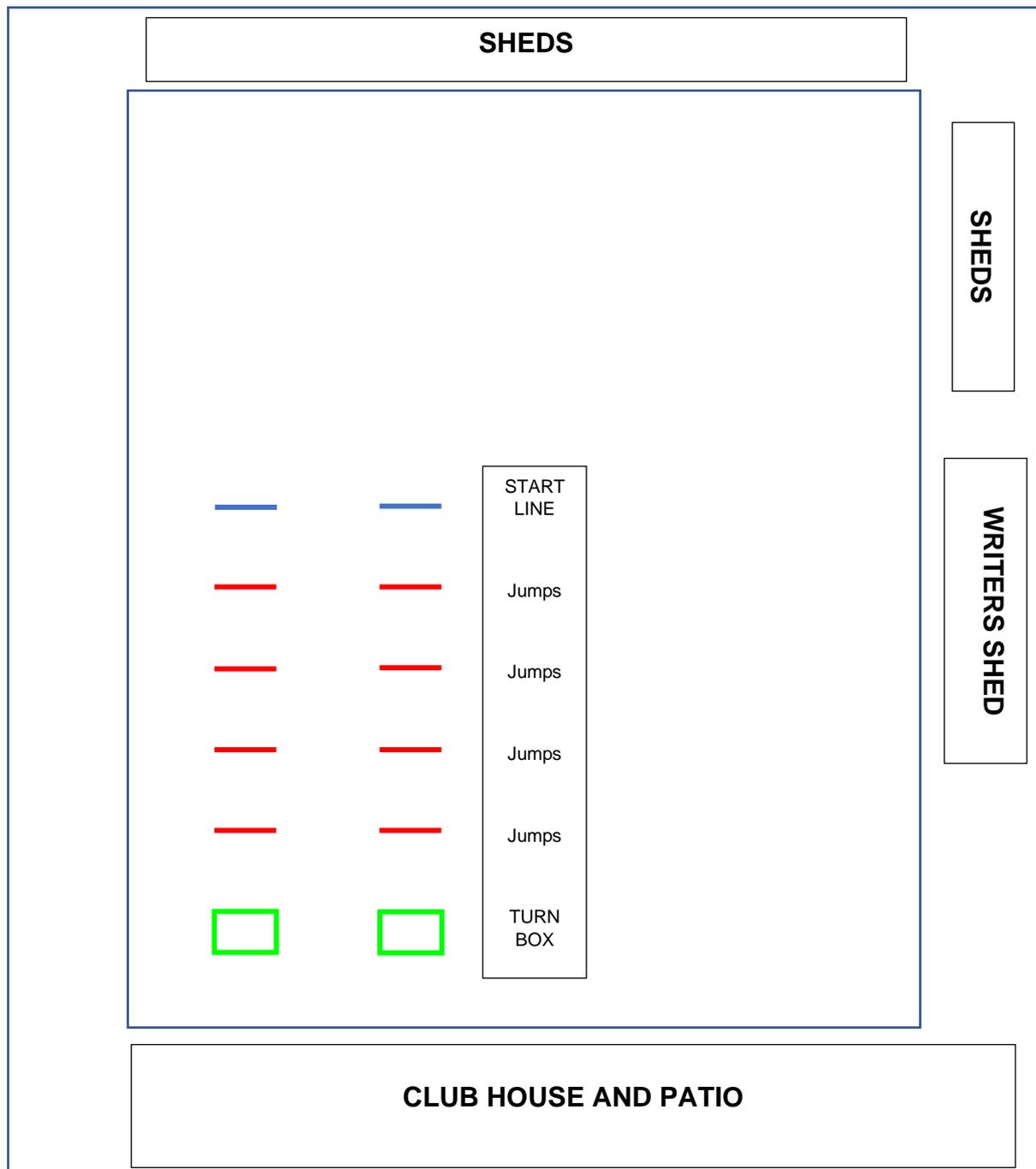
At the end of the lane is the Flyball box with a tennis ball in it. The Flyball box is 15 feet from the last hurdle and requires the dog to trigger the box to release the ball. The dog then seamlessly leaps onto the box, catches the ball, turns, and continues back to the start/finish line, where their handler is usually jumping up and down, waving their arms and screaming words of encouragement to their dog and team.

The Race

Each relay team consists of 4 dogs, with up to two reserve dogs that can be interchanged between heats. There can be either three or five heats in every race. When the last light turns green the dogs are off and racing (crossing the start/finish line before the green light results in a foul).

Each dog must jump the four hurdles, retrieve the ball and jump back over the four hurdles to complete their lap. Missed jumps and dropped balls require the dog to rerun the course after the rest of the team has finished.

As soon as the first dogs nose returns across the start/finish line the next dog is off! The first team to have all four of their racing dogs complete their run cleanly wins the heat.



As responsible dog owners, members of CCKC Flyball, when training puppies will not be entered into racing class/teams for competition until they reach the age set by AFA/ANKC, due to the high impact placed on the dog when jumping and turning on thruster boxes at speed. For puppies in training, puppies will be allowed to train with the thruster box from the jump nearest the box only.

<https://cairnscitykennelclub.org/dog-training/dog-training-etiquette/>

What you need to bring for class:

- Your dog should be on a flat collar or Halti/ Gentle Leader (no check chains unless it is a heavy dog). Very small dogs may be on a harness.
- Sturdy lead around 5 foot length (1.5 meters)
- Treat pouch or bum bag with easy access to treats
- Lots and lots of small, moist, yummy treats that don't crumble (small cubes of sausage or Colby cheese) – you will need heaps. Bring a Tupperware container and refill your treat bag when required.
- Tug and / or other toys are also acceptable including lots of praise
- Handlers must wear closed shoes (sneakers, runners)
- You will need a mat large enough for your dog to lie on completely
- Flyball dogs must be crated when not training on the grounds
- Flyball dogs to be crated on the patio area or in club room area when not training

Etiquette when on the grounds

- No harsh handling (physical or verbal) of dogs will be tolerated on club grounds. The CCKC promotes positive reinforcement methods of dog training (note: positive is not permissive).
- Handlers must wear enclosed shoes i.e. sand shoes, runners.
- All dogs under 20kg and all puppies need to be on flat collars, harmony harness or Gentle Leader/Halti (choker chains only on adult dogs of heavy breed).
- Please do not allow your dog to urinate on the grounds.
- All dog faeces are to be picked up by the handler and placed in the appropriate bin. Doggy bag dispensers available.
- Bitches in oestrus (in season) are not permitted at training.
- One handler per dog– one dog per handler.
- Minimum age for Junior handlers is 12 years, regardless of this, handlers must be physically able to control the dog and be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Children must be supervised at all times. Children are not permitted on the training area whilst classes are being conducted.
- Handlers are to accept complete responsibility for any damage done to any person, dog or property by their dogs.
- Equipment should only be used when under instruction of or with the permission of an instructor.
- Dogs with behaviour and confidence issues, please advise the instructors when signing on for the course and describe your dog's behaviour.
- Dogs that show aggression towards other dogs and people cannot take part in class. The group class situation is not suitable for these dogs.
- Flyball dogs who may not have good social skills or for these dogs to build confidence with other dogs and people will be placed into SOLO Classes
- Do not feed or touch other dogs without permission from their handler.
- Do not allow your dog to interact with another dog without permission from their handler.
- Make training a positive fun activity for your dog, and yourself.