



**YKC FLYBALL**

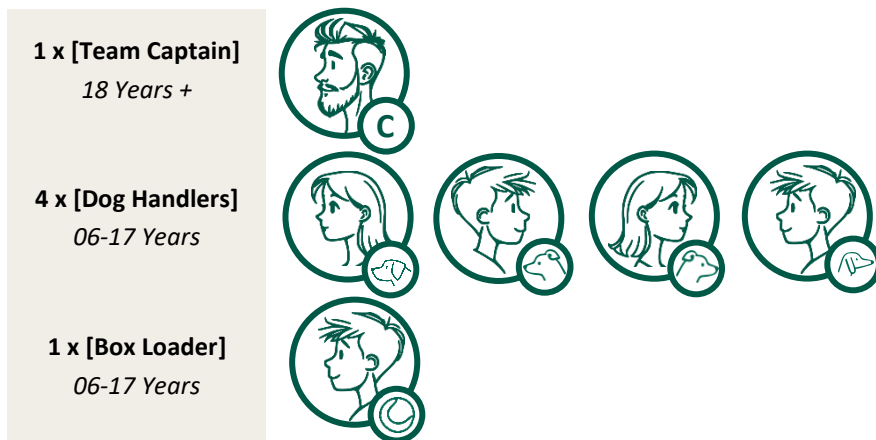


## **FLYBALL COMPETITIONS RULES 2025 (CRUFTS 2026)**



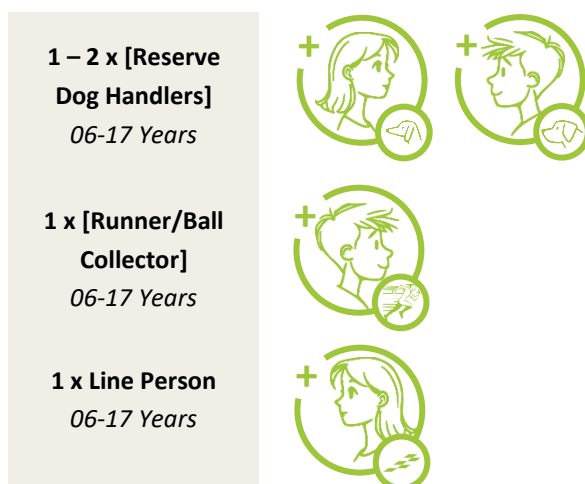
## A: TEAM COMPOSITION

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



## B: ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS

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



## C: 18-24 YEARS TEAM MEMBERS

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



- 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 YKC.
  - 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 YKC handlers at any Flyball qualifier.
3. Use the YKC member's age on the first day of **CRUFTS** to work out which age category a YKC member falls into.
4. Once qualified, none of the YKC team members may be part of any other YKC Flyball team during the qualification period or at Crufts 2026.
  - 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 YKC 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 YKC 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 YKC Flyball team MAY have up to 2 additional reserve dogs entered.
3. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YKC Flyball competition.
4. Only dogs of Eighteen Calendar months and over may enter a YKC Flyball competition.
5. A dog may not be named in more than one YKC 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 YKC handler is permitted to run a dog in the YKC 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 YKC Flyball competition.
  - i. i.e. all dogs may be the same breed if desired
9. All dogs, when entering a 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 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 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

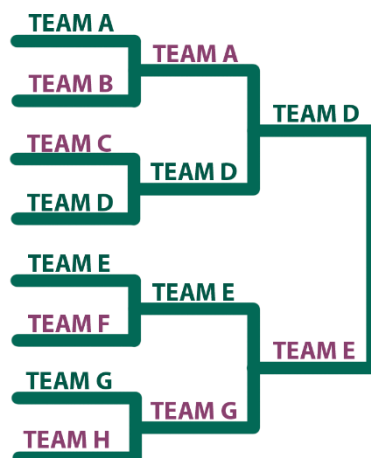
## H: COMPETITION REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITORS

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. YKC 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. YKC Flyball qualifiers are listed on the YKC website
  - i. Only qualifiers listed on the YKC website will be eligible for qualification, please ensure that you are entering a valid YKC qualifier.
3. **By entering a YKC class, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct**
4. Once a team has qualified for the YKC Flyball finals, they may NOT compete at any other YKC Flyball qualifier for the remainder of the qualification period
5. The qualification period for **Crufts 2026** is: **01-Jan-2025 till 31-Oct-2025**

## YKC FLYBALL FINAL – WHO QUALIFIES

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

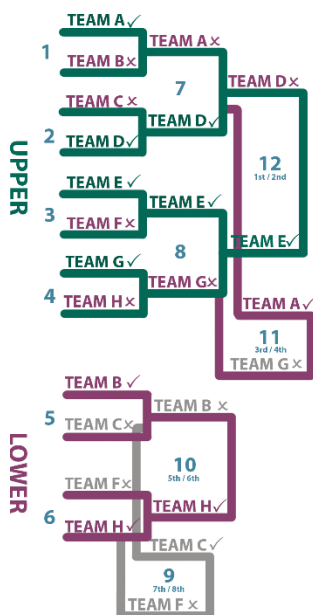
## YKC FLYBALL AT CRUFTS – FINAL

1. **By entering a YKC class, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct**
2. At Crufts, the YKC will calculate which age category each competitor shall be in based on the YKC members age on the first day of Crufts.
  - i. This may be a different age category to the one the YKC member qualified in.
3. Handlers who turn 25 before the first day of Crufts are not eligible to compete at Crufts in the YKC ring – any qualifications gained for the YKC 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 YKC Management Team before the final.



## YKC FLYBALL RULES

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 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. This will result in 12 separate races
  - iii. See example:



- iv. Race 12 (the final determining 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



## L: SPONSORSHIP & LOGOS @ CRUFTS

1. Some YKC members have managed to arrange personal sponsorship and branding deals. YKC members who wish to have branding on their clothing at Crufts must follow the below rules.
  2. The YKC & Kennel Club also have several sponsors in both the YKC ring and the main arena at Crufts.
  3. To comply with our sponsors, YKC members may NOT have branding on display from the following companies:
    - i. Dog food or treat supplier
    - ii. Car manufacturer
    - iii. Insurance company
  4. If a YKC 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 YKC collecting ring, Crufts YKC ring, Crufts YKC Presentation Area.
      - b. Crufts Main arena collecting ring, Crufts Main Arena, Crufts Main Arena Presentation Area.
  5. 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
- 

## M: YKC FLYBALL – PRIZEGIVING

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place & 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
&  
FINALISTS  
ANNOUNCED**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Place & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**