

The Standing Rules of the Flyball MAINEiacs



FLYBALL MAINEiacs Standing Rules 2013  
Board of Directors for 2013

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# The Standing Rules of the Flyball MAINEiacs

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

These Standing Rules shall be approved by the General Membership by a majority vote. These rules, along with the club Bylaws, define the rules under which Flyball MAINEiacs operates as an organization. While the Bylaws define the nonprofit corporation of Flyball MAINEiacs, these procedural Standing Rules guide the day-to-day operations of the club.

It is not practical for the Standing Rules to cover every possible situation that may arise in the life of the Club. This document covers the most common and highest level issues. These Standing Rules define roles that various people will play in governing the club. The Board of Directors is the ultimate arbiter for resolving conflicts and/or disagreements regarding the interpretation of the provisions of the Standing Rules

## **II. CLUB PHILOSOPHY**

The principal focus for the Flyball MAINEiacs is the team as a whole. It is through working together as a team that the most gets accomplished. Therefore:

**A.** All members and dogs are equally important to the team and will offer something unique to the group.

**B.** Members are expected to work to the best of their “abilities” (time, money, & physical limitations) to help the club with practices, tournaments, demos and fundraisers.

**C.** Members will recognize that whenever they are in public (demos, tournaments, etc), they are representing the team and should always show sportsmanlike conduct.

## **III. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

Team identification: Club colors are yellow, green and black.  
The team name should always be written as: Flyball MAINEiacs.

Meetings:

Flyball MAINEiacs General Meetings will be held every other month, unless otherwise specified. The dates, times and locations will be emailed to the email list and announced at practice or the previous meeting, as well as listed on the google doc. All members are encouraged to attend and meetings are open to guests.

Flyball MAINEiacs Board Meetings will be held in conjunction with the General Meetings.

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Expenses: Recurring expenses may be paid after they have been approved. The Board of Directors authorizes items on the list of recurring expenses. The Treasurer will maintain the list of approved recurring expenses. Individual expenses (IE: supplies) will be reimbursed from the team account as long as a receipt is provided.

### IV. MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Dues are the cost of membership; they are used to fund the various activities in which the club engages, including but not limited to purchases for the rainy day fund, equipment, and team supplies.

Dues will be paid by January 31st of each year.

**Dues:**

Individual: \$10

Family: \$20

Provisional: \$10

Defining Membership Levels:

**Individual:** \$10 per person

Dog(s) & Handler participate in practice, demos and tournaments

**Family:** \$20 includes 2 adults and children under 18

Dog(s) & Handler(s) participate in practice, demos and tournaments

Individual (Charter)/Family (adults) members may:

Serve on the elected Board of Directors

Serve as a coordinator or in any other position appointed by the BOD

Vote on any issue put to a vote of Members

**Charter (\$0):** A Charter Member is one of the original members of the team between the years 2005 to 2006. Any privileges of being a “Charter Member” are for team members continuously active in the club with no leave of absence. Six months or more with no participation will be considered a “leave of absence.” The board will evaluate medical leaves. They may also choose to become a “Bring it!” member.

Charter Member Privileges:

- No Dues
- One (1) Team Shirt (on an “as needed basis”)

**2013 Charter Member List:** *Rebecca Aube, Lisa Lane, Lynda Devereaux, Alyson Devereaux,, Lynne Staggs*

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**Provisional (\$10):** Provisional members are those who have applied to become Regular Members. Provisional Members may not serve on the Board of Directors or in any position appointed by the Board. Provisional Members may not vote on club matters. Provisional Members may participate in club practices, tournaments, demonstrations, etc. Provisional Members will be charged \$10.00 initiation fee to cover the cost of their participation over their 6-month provisional period. This fee must be paid when application is submitted, and will be applied to General Membership annual dues the end of six months.

**Associate (\$0):** Associate Members are friends or family members of Regular Members who participate in club functions but who are not the primary handler for any dog. Associate members do not pay dues. They also may not serve on the Board of Directors or vote on matters requiring Membership approval. Associate Members may, however, serve appointed club positions and participate in club practices, tournaments, demonstrations, etc. An Associate Member must be sponsored by a Regular Member. If the sponsoring Regular Memberships ends for any reason, the Associate Membership also ends. If the Associate Member wishes to remain in the club he/she must convert to a Regular Membership by applying for membership. An Associate Member may choose to become a Regular Member by applying in the normal manner. Associate members may purchase club shirts.

**Bring It! (\$0):** “Bring It! members” are past members who no longer actively participate with the team or pay dues but will always remain a part of the MAINEiacs. Bring it members may not serve on the board or vote on club matters.

*2013 Bring It! Members: Carol Muth*

### **Flyball MAINEiac Club Credits:**

By participating in club events a member may earn credits towards the purchase of new team shirts, uniform accessories or racing fees.

Applies to Individual, Family, Charter, Associate and Provisional members

- Family memberships can have up to 2 adults earning credits
- Credits are not redeemable for cash payout at any time.
- A maximum of 55 credits can be earned per year.
- Credits can be carried over from year to year.
- Credits are not transferable to other members.
- Credits are not applicable towards the event at which they are earned.
- Credits must be used in \$5 or more increments
- One (1) credit = One (1) dollar

Credits earned will be tracked by the captain in a Google document. All members will have access to view this document but not edit it.

Credits used will be tracked by the team treasurer.

Credits cannot be earned by any member at the MAINEia Tournament. (Racing is free for all members at this tournament)

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### **Credits**

Scrimmage = 1 credit

Demo = 2 credit

Practice = 3 credits

Tournaments = 5 credits

### **Using Credits:**

Racing: Indicate to the treasurer that you would like to use your credit(s) for racing for a tournament. Provide treasurer with all information, which tournament, which dog and what your racing fees are total vs. what you have in credit.

### **Shirts/Accessories:**

Place an order with the team, indicate that you would like to use your credits and the shirt will be paid for out of the team account. If your shirt total exceeds your credit total, you will be expected to pay the difference in amount to the team.

Credit will be deducted from the club account from monies earned with dues and fundraising events including but not limited to raffles, sales and demos. The whole club will be expected to participate in these fundraising events.

### **Team Uniforms:**

Each member will be responsible for purchasing his or her own club shirts. The club requires 2 shirts for each tournament (Green on Saturday and Black on Sunday). Black shirts should be worn for demos. Club shirts can be purchased with Club Credits.

## **V. MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES**

Becoming a Member: All new memberships are voted on by the general membership

Becoming an Individual, Family, Associate, Bring It! member requires a 2/3 vote of the full club membership.

### **Provisional**

Any person wishing to join the club must be sponsored by a Regular Member and request Member status from the board. The board will not grant provisional Membership until the requester's dog has either passed a beginning flyball course offered by the club or has been otherwise certified by the designee of the Board as competent to participate in flyball. The Board will introduce the provisional Member to the club.

Note that the status of the provisional member is for a minimum of six months. After the six-month period, the Provisional Member must request to have their status voted on by the Membership. A Provisional Member who is not accepted as a regular Member must pay \$10.00 in dues to continue provisional status for another six months. After twelve months if the provisional Member is not voted in as a Regular Member, he or she will be asked to leave the club.

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Provisional Members must participate in club practices regularly with their dogs. Additionally, the provisional Member and his/her dog must have participated in at least one tournament prior to requesting a change to regular membership.

### **Changes in Membership Status**

A member may request a change in current Membership status at any time. For example, for personal reasons, a Regular Member may request a temporary change to inactive member. This will suspend all rights and responsibilities; however the person may rejoin the club without going through provisional status or paying the initiation fee, based on a 2/3 majority vote.

In order to request a change in status, the Member should specify in writing the duration and reason. The member may make this request to any Board Member, and a majority vote of the board shall approve this.

### **Expelling a Member**

#### Provisional

Provisional Members may be expelled at any time by 3/4 majority vote of the Board of Directors.

#### Individual (Charter), Family, Associate

Expelling an Individual (Charter), Family, Associate member requires a majority vote of the full club in addition to a 3/4 majority vote of the Board of Directors.

#### Declaring a Membership abandoned

If any type of Member ceases participation in Club activities and ceases contact with other club Members for 3 months or more, that person's membership may be declared abandoned by a 3/4 majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### **Reinstating a Member**

#### Provisional

Any person whose provisional Membership is terminated for any reason who later wishes to join the club must complete the full six-month provisional period before becoming a Regular Member.

#### Individual (Charter), Family and Associate

Individual, (Charter), Family and Associate Members whose Membership is suspended for any reason may be reinstated immediately with a 2/3 majority vote of the full club Membership

## **VI. PRACTICES, EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS**

Participation: Members are expected to attend, support and participate at practices as much as they can. A Board Member or designee will be present at all club flyball practices. In the event of an unresolved problem, a Member should describe the problem in writing and submit it to the Board of Directors for further consideration. The decision of the Board of Directors is final. Individual (Charter), Family and Provisional Members are expected to assist in the training of all dogs and to support successful training in order to enhance the teams performance.

**If your dog cannot practice due to injury or illness, it does not mean that you can't either. You are expected to come help the team even if your dog cannot participate.**

When practice is held at a facility that requires "rent," the final cost will be split evenly between the people attending that practice. Some exceptions will be made and are at the captain's discretion.

Dogs: All dogs for competitions and performances must have Board approval. Once a dog is considered 'tournament-ready,' it maintains that status unless revoked by the Board.

ONLY those dogs who are actively working during practice shall be permitted in the main training area.

ALL others must be crated elsewhere as space and weather permit.

Bitches in heat will not be permitted at practices, demos or tournaments.

Equipment: Club equipment may be utilized outside of approved practices, classes, performance events, or tournaments ONLY with the President's approval.

Maintenance and/or adjustments to team equipment are to be done ONLY with the President's approval.

## **VII. CLUB PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

Dogs: All new dogs must have graduated from an approved flyball class to take part in club practices unless they are being trained by a club Member who has previously trained and run a dog at tournament level. Experienced handler/dog teams may be tested by the Board or designee in lieu of the class.

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Assistance with events: Club Members attending practices or events for flyball are expected to support the Club by helping with set-up take-down of equipment and displays.

Responsible participation: Club Members must carry plastic bags or some other means to pick up after their dog(s) and dispose of it properly at any club activity.

All dogs will be under positive control at all events, competitions, performances, practices, and tournaments when not working.

Non-running dogs and handlers should be careful to keep from distracting the running teams during practice times.

Flyball MAINEiacs encourages positive and humane training methods. Any treatment deviating from this general philosophy will be reviewed by the Board of Directors on an individual basis and acted upon accordingly.

Dogs may not participate in any Flyball MAINEiacs events or practices if not currently displaying good health.

All Members are not required to attend all practices; however Members are expected to make good effort to attend most practices.

### **VIII. DOG'S DISPOSITION**

Any behavior that is deemed by the Board of Directors to be dangerous, uncontrollable, or disruptive may result in referral to an approved trainer, conditional participation, suspension, or expulsion from practices and club activities.

### **IX. DOG'S QUALIFICATION FOR PERFORMANCE AND COMPETITION**

Dogs will be required to be in good condition for racing. If a dog is deemed overweight by the Board of Directors, then it will not participate in tournaments. The Board will help the owner with a fitness plan and re-evaluate the dog when the owner desires.



## **X. HANDLER QUALIFICATION FOR PERFORMANCE AND COMPETITION**

To qualify to be a Member of Flyball MAINEiacs, dog handlers must conform to Flyball MAINEiacs Bylaws, Standing Rules and comply with the following additional requirements:

- Be familiar and comply with the North American Flyball Association (NAFA) rules
- Be current on membership dues
- Know basic obedience commands and have control of their dog (s)
- Attend practices and tournaments.
- Qualified handlers may run more than one qualified dog.

Exceptions to these requirements are discouraged. In the event that an exception is sought by a dog handler, he or she must request the exception in writing from the Board and include the reason for the exception. The Board of Directors decision regarding exceptions is final.

## **XI. TOURNAMENTS AND COMPETITIONS**

**Participation:** The ultimate goal of a flyball team is to compete in tournaments. Tournaments test the skill of the individual handlers and dogs as well as the skills of the team as a whole. The number of teams entered may vary from tournament to tournament and will be based on the Members participating in the tournament. Members are not required to attend every tournament, though it is hoped that they participate whenever they can.

Members who sign up to go to a tournament are expected to attend, unless there is an emergency or an injury.

**New Dogs:** New dogs will run as Warm-up dogs ONLY for a minimum of THREE (3) tournaments. This is for the benefit of the dog & handler as well as the rest of our team and teams we compete against. The Captain's decision regarding exceptions is final.

**Tournament designation:** Tournament information will be listed on the team Google Group as well as the Team Commitment Google Document. Each member is responsible for keeping his or her status for each event up to date.

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Building Teams: All teams will be assembled with every effort to successfully have 25 point runs, however points are never guaranteed. The teams will be decided by the Captain and the determining factors will include dog speed, reliability, endurance, team dynamic and overall attendance.

Whenever possible teams will also be built for speed and consistency. Those dogs that regularly attend tournaments will run together if all additional club dogs running have the potential to complete 25 point runs as well. The goal for these teams at these tournaments is to go for team improvement in times.

Team Structure: Each team will consist of 4-5 core dogs, 3 “big” dogs and 1-2 height dogs. The remaining two (or one) spots will be reserved for warm-up dogs. This will be done for the regular class, multi-breed class and open class racing. Veterans class does not require a height dog and will have 6 dogs with the potential for several shared spots.

\*\*Sharing Spots: To be fair to all members who would like to go, sharing spots may be necessary. Knowing this ahead of time, please make it known to the Captain if you prefer not to share spots. Members willing to share will have priority over those who don't. It is a team sport after all. Your preference will be indicated on your signed agreements.

Green Dogs: When a green dog is running in a warm-up spot it should be known and understood by ALL members on that team that the dog may go in for a heat during a race. The green dog will typically be put in the anchor spot and therefore the CORE ANCHOR DOG will sit out for that *heat*. Please consider this your advanced notice.

Racing fees: Racing fees will be paid based on the four (4) spots. The total racing fee is divided by four (4) and assessed to the handler of each participating dog. Should two (2) dog be sharing a spot the cost of that one spot will be split evenly between the two (2) dogs. Warm-up dogs do not pay racing fees unless they actually compete in 2 or more races that weekend. The fee will then be evenly divided between that dog and the dog whose spot it took.

- If the team takes a borrowed dog to a tournament, the group going will pay racing expenses for that dog.
- However, if a handler was committed to attending and then backs out last minute (any time two weeks prior to tournament) and the team brings their dog, then that handler is still expected to pay the racing fees.
- If a dog is pulled due to illness, the team account will pay for the back-up dog to run regardless of the CLUB the dog is from.
- If a dog is required to “double run” to complete a team of four then the team account will pay for the additional fee. Handler is still required to pay racing fee for the first team.

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**XII. AMENDMENTS TO STANDING RULES**

These rules may be amended at any time, approved by the Board of Directors and ratified by a 2/3rds majority of Club Membership. The effective date will be agreed upon at the time of ratification.

Rules formally adopted by the Board of Directors on: February 5, 2013

Ratified by 2/3rds vote of Membership on: \_\_\_\_\_

## Standing Rules Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read and hereby agree to abide by the Flyball MAINEiacs standing rules. I understand that if I wish to question, change or modify any of the aforementioned policies in the Flyball MAINEiacs standing rules I must present my request to the Board of Directors in writing.

### 2013 Member Status Request: (see section IV)

- Individual (\$10)
- Individual Charter (\$0)
- Family (\$20)
- Associate (\$0)

Dues PAID in full

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2013 Spot Sharing: (\*\*see section XI)

- Yes, I am willing to share a spot on a team.
- No, I am not willing to share a spot on a team.

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Member Signature

Date

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Presidents Signature

Date

*Fill out completely, sign and return to team treasurer with dues.*