



***Flyball MAINEiacs***

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# THE STANDING RULES OF THE Flyball MAINEiacs

## 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. Ultimately, it is left to the Board of Directors to decide matters in which a conflict or disagreement regarding the interpretation of the provisions of these rules, as may arise.

## 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

**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. All members are encouraged to attend and they are open to guests. **Flyball MAINEiacs Board Meetings will be held in conjunction with the General Meetings.**

### **Dues, Initiation fees and expenses:**

**Dues shall be \$25.00 annually for Regular Full-Time Members (6 or more tournaments per year),**  
\$20.00 for Part-Time Members (5 or less tournaments a year),  
\$35.00 for Household Members (6 or more tournaments a year),  
\$30.00 for Household Members (5 or less tournaments a year),  
\$10.00 for Junior Handlers and  
\$15.00 Initiation Fee for 6 month Provisional members.

**When people apply for membership, they will pay a one-time initiation fee of \$15.00.** The Provisional members pay this fee when they submit their application. Charter members and current active members as of June 20, 2007 do not pay any initiation fee. (These fees will be re-evaluated on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year to confirm they are in fact covering the needs of the club)

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 as long as a receipt is provided.

**Team identification:** Club colors are yellow and green. Name should always be written as: *Flyball MAINEiacs*.

Approved (active) members will receive one team shirt. Provisional members may purchase a shirt or wait for approval. Additional shirts and accessories may also be purchased by active members.

#### **IV. MEMBERSHIP TYPES**

There are six (6) types of club Membership. They are Regular, Household, Junior, Associate, Provisional, and Charter. The six types are defined in the subsections that follow

**Regular Member (Full or Part –time):** A Regular Member is one who has the responsibility of paying dues and enjoys the maximum benefits in terms of rights of any of the membership types. For Example Regular 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

**Household Member (Full or Part-Time):** A Household Member is two Members residing in the same Household, including any children under 18. Each adult shall be entitled to all the privileges and responsibilities as individual Regular Members.

**Junior Member:** A Junior Membership may be offered to handlers through 17 years of age. The Junior Member may vote but not hold office. Otherwise they are afforded all the privileges and responsibilities of Regular Members. They may automatically convert to regular membership upon reaching their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The Junior Membership is intended for older children who may be involved with flyball without their family. Households in which the parents actively play should apply for the Household Membership.

**Provisional Member:** A provisional Member is someone new to the club who has not yet been officially accepted as a Member. Provisional members are those who intend 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 \$15.00 initiation fee to cover the cost of their participation over their 6-month provisional period. These dues must be paid when application is submitted, and will be applied to Regular Membership annual dues the end of six months.

**Associate member:** 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 Membership 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 paying dues. An Associate Member may choose to become a Regular Member by applying in the normal manner.

**Charter Member:** 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.

## **V. MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES**

**Becoming a Member: All new memberships are voted on by the general 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 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 \$15.00 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.
- Provisional Members must participate in club practices regularly with their dogs. Additionally, the provisional Member and his/her dog must have competed in at least one tournament prior to requesting a change to regular membership.

### **Regular, Household, and Junior Members**

- Charter members may choose between Regular, Household, or Junior Membership.
- Becoming a Regular, Household or Junior member requires a 2/3 vote of the full club membership.

### **Associate**

- Becoming an Associate member requires a 2/3 majority vote of the full club Membership.
- Any Regular Member may propose a person expressing an interest to become an Associate Member. The Member may ask the President to have the membership voted upon. If the candidate fails to obtain the 2/3 majority vote needed to join the club, then the Associate Member Status will not be granted.

### **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 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 2/3 majority vote of the board of directors. (See rules under section VII)

#### **Regular, Household, Junior and Associate**

- Expelling a regular, household, junior or associate member requires a majority vote of the full club.

### **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 2/3 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.

#### **Regular, Household, Junior and Associate**

- Regular, Household, Junior 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. (See Section VIII. Below) 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.

Regular, Household, Junior and Provisional Members are expected to assist in the training of all dogs and to support the successful training in order to enhance the dog's performance. If your dog can not 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 are permitted at practice sessions as long as they wear panties and pads.

**Equipment:** Club equipment may be utilized outside of approved practices, classes, performance events, or tournaments ONLY with the Presidents approval. Maintenance and/or adjustments to team equipment are to be done ONLY with the Presidents 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.

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

**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.

## **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.

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

## **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; and
- 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. Captain's decision regarding exceptions is final.

**Tournament designation:** When tournaments are announced, the dates will be given to the email list and distributed at practice. Members will decide which tournaments they would like to attend for the year. After discussion by the General Membership, the Board of Directors will decide which tournaments will be designated as "set" tournaments.

**Set (Full Time) tournaments:** A minimum of **6** tournaments will be designated as "set" tournaments- where the line-ups will be a consistent team of four dogs who have been working together at practices and previous tournaments. The goal for these teams at these tournaments is to go for team improvement in times. The teams will be decided by the Board of Directors and the determining factors will include dog speed, reliability, endurance, and team dynamic. Dogs will not share spots\* unless approved by the Board of Directors. However, height dogs for these teams will be allowed to share spots if necessary. The remaining two (or one) spots will be reserved for warm-up dogs. This will be done for both regular class racing and multi-breed class

racing. The set tournament teams are for Members who choose to be more competitive and are not a requirement.

**\*EXCEPTION:** The rule of sharing does not apply if only 1 team is attending a tournament. 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 by 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.

Some members may choose to attend tournaments that are not part of the set 6. In this case, the teams will be selected from the dogs choosing to go. Dogs may share spots in these extra tournaments.

**GREEN DOGS:** When a green dog is running in a warm-up spot it should be known 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.

**Teams:** Members who choose **not** to be on the competitive (Full Time) teams are considered for pick-up teams when they desire to race. If enough tournament-ready dogs are available for a pick-up team, then a team will be entered. Dogs can share spots on pick-up teams. Pick-up teams will be made with every effort to have 25 point runs, however points are never guaranteed. A member may have dogs on both competitive teams and the pick-up teams if so desired.

*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 bring 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 team 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.*

**Racing fees:** Racing fees will be paid based on the 4 dogs. The total racing fee is divided by four (4) and assessed to the handler of each participating dog. 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 dog whose spot it took.

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_

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