

## **NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, August 11 2012, Toronto Ontario - Agenda:**

### **Officers' Reports**

Chair's Comments:

Executive Director's Comments

Treasurer's Report

Secretary's Report

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Election Committee:

Nominating Committee:

Judges Committee:

- Geoff Brown, Raleigh NC - Approved to Supervising
- Toby Emo, Nunda NY - Approved to Supervising
- Glen Robbins, Ottawa ON - Apprentice to Provisional
- Jon DosPassos, Coatesville PA - Apprentice to Provisional
- C.12 Form - Proposed Modification
- Training video
- Thundershirts, Cool Coats, etc.,..

Rules Committee:

- Handling of suspensions
- Requirements for Hall of Fame nominations
- Specifying type of insurance required
- Consistency with elimination brackets
- Rewording of Section 8.3 Regional Champions
- Changing points for veterans class

- Exception for Iron Dog Award
- Ten consecutive calendar years for Iron Dog Award
- Comment period for supervising judge applicants
- Time limit to get alternates

Marketing Committee:

- Customized Awards
- In Memoriam Recognition of Flyball Dogs

Finance:

- 2013 Budget

Disciplinary Committee:

- Ginny - 090623, Request to remove excusal

Review Panel:

- Ramses - 111044, 05/26/2012
- Murdoch - 100054, 05/26/2012
- Rocky - 100073, 05/26/2012
- JD - 120525, 06/20/2012 - under appeal
- Rake - 041013, 07/28/2012

**Special Committee Reports**

Technology Committee:

NAFA/Flyball History Committee:

**Old Business:**

- Training Column
- Eight dog multibreed roster proposal

**New Business:**

NAFA Rules Committee Recommendations  
August 11, 2012 Board Meeting

1. [Handling of suspensions -- Diane Conroy](#)
2. [Requirements for Hall of Fame nominations -- Dave Walt](#)
3. [Specifying type of insurance required -- Karen Oleson](#)
4. [Consistency with elimination brackets --Leerie Jenkins](#)
5. [Rewording of Section 8.3 Regional Champions -- Karen Oleson](#)
6. [Changing points for veterans class -- Amanda Joudrey-Leblanc](#)
7. [Exception for Iron Dog Award -- Valerie Whiterock](#)
8. [Ten consecutive calendar years for Iron Dog Award -- Sally Miller](#)
9. [Comment period for supervising judge applicants -- Leerie Jenkins](#)
10. [Time limit to get alternates -- Christine Helmus](#)

**1. Handling of suspensions -- Diane Conroy**

*Excerpts from Diane's message:*

*There are a few things I would like you to consider to change under Discipline.*

*I'd like to see a rule change to:*

*When an individual is suspended, neither she or her dogs will be allowed to race until the suspension is changed.*

*Also, when a person gets suspended from racing, the owner of her team should receive a copy of the letter sent to the individual which outlines what she may or may not do.*

*Sincerely*

*Diane Conroy*

*Tampa Bay Barkaneers*

**Recommendations:** After some discussion, the committee recommends that the terms of a suspension be left to the discretion of the Board of Directors (if the suspension was the result of disciplinary charges) or the Executive Director (ED) (subject to ratification by the board). The committee believes that an automatic suspension of a person's dog(s) may not be applicable, or even feasible, in all possible cases. For example, it is not always clear who "owns" any given dog since ownership changes may not always be reflected in the NAFA database. One family member or friend may consistently run/own a dog registered to another family member or friend. Furthermore, any one person may be

listed numerous different ways in the database depending on what name was used at the time of CRN registration (e.g., maiden vs. married name). With regard to notification of a suspension, all suspensions are published in board meeting minutes. The committee recommends that if club owners have any questions or concerns about the limitations imposed by the suspension of a fellow club member, they should feel free to contact the ED and/or the board directly.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

## 2. Requirements for Hall of Fame nominations -- Dave Walt

*Can I suggest a change to the requirements for the Hall of Fame nominations that would include the dog be inactive in the database (have not raced for 18 months) before it is eligible.*

*So many sports require the athlete to be retired from the sport for a certain amount of time before being eligible and think it would be a good thing to add to NAFA's requirement as well.*

*Dave Walt*

**Recommendations:** The committee unanimously recommends that the board adopt this proposal, which would not take effect until the nomination period for the upcoming racing year (August 1 - September 30, 2013).

[\[Back to top\]](#)

## 3. Specifying type of insurance required -- Karen Oleson

*Proposed Rule Change to 6.1 Requirements (a)*

*Karen Oleson Tue, Jun 19, 2012 at 4:11 AM*

*To: "Rules@flyball.org" <Rules@flyball.org>*

*I would like to see Rule 6.1 – Requirements (a) changed to more specifically indicate the type of insurance required for tournaments held in the United States. I feel this change will help to avoid confusion by clubs who are in the process of obtaining insurance.*

*My proposed rule follows (changes are bolded and underlined):*

*Section 6.1 – Requirements*

*(a) NAFA® sanctioned tournaments may only be hosted by NAFA® or NAFA® registered clubs in good standing. The host club must follow current NAFA® Rules of Racing and Corporate Policies & Procedures. Any Club in good standing may be considered for sanctioning. At least fifteen days prior to the start of a tournament held in the United States, the NAFA® Tournament Sanctioning Secretary must receive a certificate of **liability** insurance listing NAFA® as an additional insured for that tournament with limits of at least \$1 million **general liability** per occurrence. In the event the Tournament Sanctioning Secretary does not receive a certificate of insurance with coverage as stated above, the tournament sanctioning will be revoked. The first Club to apply for sanctioning with a valid sanctioning request will receive sanctioning unless the weekend meets the criteria for a reserved weekend by another Club.*

*I've attached a sample of an insurance certificate NAFA® receives for the committee's use. I apologize if the image appears upside down.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

*Karen Oleson*

**Recommendations:** The committee unanimously recommends that the board adopt this proposal.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

#### **4. Consistency with elimination brackets --Leerie Jenkins**

*From 6/18/12:*

*I noticed, when looking at 4 team, 6 team, and 7 team, single elims, that the Alt and "not Alt" formats don't seem to me, to be consistent. For example, in the 4 team SE, the Alt placements, is the one that includes loser races. In the 6 and 7 team formats, the "not alt" format is the one that accounts for the loser races.*

*From 7/12/12:*

*SEs for 4, 5, and 6 teams are all consistent with each other. The default or "non-alt" version is WITH loser races (each team guaranteed 2 races). I did however, notice an error in the Alt placements for the 6 team SE. It stated first place is the winner of race 7. However, in the Alt format, there is no race 7. So, I modified to winner of race 5.*

*I modified the 7 and 8 team SEs to be consistent with the 4, 5, and 6 team SEs.*

*There is no alt or "with loser races" version of the 9 and 10 team SE. I'm assuming it simply isn't used.*

*(See the elimination brackets with the suggested edits submitted by Leerie appended to the rules committee recommendations.)*

**Recommendations:** To remove inconsistencies among the elimination racing schedules, the committee unanimously recommends that the board adopt this proposal.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

#### **5. Rewording of Section 8.3 Regional Champions -- Karen Oleson**

*Policy/Procedure Chapter 8 Awards Section 8.3 Regional Champions (e)*

*Karen Oleson Wed, Jun 20, 2012 at 5:34 PM*

*To: "rules@flyball.org" <rules@flyball.org>*

*As a result of fielding inquiries for NAFA® I notice that some rules/policies/procedures garner more questions than others. The following policy/procedure does just that.*

*Upon review of the wording I believe it can be improved such that it will be more understandable, garnering fewer questions without affecting the meaning.*

*The current Policy/Procedure reads (indented text that follows):*

*Chapter 8 Awards Section 8.3 Regional Champions*

*(e) A Club must compete in a minimum of four tournaments in separate tournament weeks within its home region in the Class for which the Regional Championship is awarded.*

*Classes must meet the following criteria to qualify for points and/or tie-breaking times to count toward Regional Championships:*

*(i) Classes must have a minimum of four teams competing;*

*(ii) Regular Classes limited below 20 teams that exclude a team at the conclusion of the automated draw will not count towards Regional Championship points or tiebreak times;*

*(iii) Multibreed Classes limited below 12 teams that exclude a team at the conclusion of the automated draw will not count towards Regional Championship points or tie-break times;*

*(iv) In a limited entry class of competition, if any entering Club is excluded at the conclusion of the automated draw, the class of competition will not count towards Regional Champion points or tie-break times.*

*(f) Points towards Regional Championships are awarded based on overall placements of in-region teams in an event based on the following point structure, to maximum of 30 points:*

*The wording indicates in (e) that criteria will follow, however the list which follows consists of one criterion (i) and three conditions explaining how criteria are not met ((ii), (iii), (iv)).*

*Since Regional Championships apply only to Regular and Multibreed, I added "Regular and Multibreed" to the first sentence, however I am not convinced it is necessary.*

*Changed: (i) through (iv) to criteria statements that must be met per the header sentence.*

*Finally in an effort to make the policy/procedure flow better the order of the criteria has been changed from general to specific.*

*Proposed wording (indented text that follows):*

*Chapter 8 Awards Section 8.3 Regional Champions*

*(e) A Club must compete in a minimum of four tournaments in separate tournament weeks within its home region in the Class for which the Regional Championship is awarded.*

*Regular and Multibreed Classes must meet all the following criteria to qualify for points and/or tie-breaking times to count toward Regional Championships:*

- (i) Have a minimum of four teams competing;*
- (ii) Include all clubs at the conclusion of the automated draw;*
- (iii) Regular Classes limited to fewer than 20 teams shall include all teams at the conclusion of the automated draw;*
- (iv) Multibreed classes limited to fewer than 12 teams shall include all teams at the conclusion of the automated draw.*

*(f) Points towards Regional Championships are awarded based on overall placements of in-region teams in an event based on the following point structure, to maximum of 30 points:*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

*Karen Oleson*

**Recommendations:** Members of the committee agree that the proposed wording helps clarify the criteria associated with regional champions, and therefore unanimously recommends that the board adopt the changes.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

## **6. Changing points for veterans class -- Amanda Joudrey-Leblanc**

*I'd like to propose that NAFA consider changing the point system for the Vets division. I feel that after all the years of racing these vets dogs put in, and that while they have slowed down, they should still receive points. Sometimes we watch vet teams that are running 26 to 28 seconds. The dogs and owners are still having fun doing what they love, and while I realize the dogs do not know they are getting points, the owners do, and sometimes those dogs are close to some very special titles that then take forever (or they may never) to attain. I'm not sure what would be the easier way for NAFA – either award a 25 point run to all clean vet runs? Or to change the point tier system for them? Perhaps 25 points for 28 seconds and less? 5 points for 32 seconds and less? 1 point for 35 points and less?*

*I feel the vets should get some special recognition points wise for their miles ran!*

*Thank you for considering.*

*~Amanda Joudrey-Leblanc  
Maple Leaps*

**Recommendations:** The committee wishes to acknowledge the contributions made to flyball by older dogs, especially those who have had long careers in NAFA. However, the committee believes that no additional advantages of running a dog in the veterans class are needed. Dogs already jump at the minimum height and can run with any club regardless of present affiliation. One member of the committee also expressed concern that if the proposal were adopted, some competitors might take advantage of the extra incentive to the detriment of their dogs by either racing older dogs more years than they should or by bringing dogs out of retirement for an easier chance to earn additional points.

For the above reasons, the committee recommends the board not adopt the changes requested in this proposal.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

## 7. Exception for Iron Dog Award -- Valerie Whiterock

*I recently read the minutes from the January 20, 2012 BOD meeting and I was happy to see that you discussed the Iron Dog Award requests for changes in requirements. I would, however like to see this issue re-visited. In short the minutes stated "The Rules Committee and Board received several requests for changes to the recently recognized Iron Dog Award. The requests generally asked that the award be modified to earning at least one point in ten years, rather than ten consecutive years." "Lee Heighton provided additional information to the Committee via email that there would be an additional 69 dogs who would currently qualify for the award if the requirements were changed to be ten years of racing, rather than ten consecutive years. The Rules Committee acknowledged that there are a number of truly great flyball dogs who do not qualify for the award, either because of injury, breed longevity, or other issues that may prevent dogs from earning a point in 10 consecutive years. At the time the Board created the award, it recognized the award would not be attainable by most dogs. **Members of the Board had also expressed concern that if the Iron Dog award were given for points earned in 10 nonconsecutive years, some dogs would be brought out of lengthy retirements to run again despite the potential detrimental effects.** Given that this award is so new, the Committee does not recommend adjusting the requirements, subject to reconsideration later."*

*If the issue was that "some dogs would be brought out of lengthy retirements to run again despite the potential detrimental effects", couldn't the Iron Dog Award have "grandfathered" in these "non-consecutive" dogs? The award could have stated that only "non-consecutive" dogs that had 10 years as of Oct 2011 would be considered. I believe that this may be an answer to your concerns.*

*I do also have a personal reason for asking that this award be amended, as I have a 15 year old JRT who sits by my side with over 10 productive "non-consecutive" years running flyball. I feel that the "grandfathered" dogs should be accepted for the Iron Dog Award, especially since in past years there was much less opportunity for these dogs to race; with the Open and Vets divisions just recently been instated. My boy will always be an Iron Dog to me, but I would really appreciate if he, and other wonderful "non-consecutive" dogs could received this honor from NAFA.*

*Thank you,  
Valerie Whiterock, NASDOG Racing*

**Recommendations:** The committee understands that there are many incredible, meritorious flyball dogs who unfortunately do not qualify for the Iron Dog Award. With regard to the grandfathering of non-consecutive years of racing, some committee members believe there would be no fair way to draw the line. If dogs with 10 non-consecutive years as of Oct 2011 were given the award, one could argue that equally deserving would be those dogs with 9 non-consecutive years of racing as of Oct 2011 and who continue to race for several years to come. While the committee does not intend to diminish the accomplishments of those dogs who have numerous non-consecutive years of racing, we recommend the criteria for the Iron Dog Award remain as originally declared.



[\[Back to top\]](#)

## 8. Ten consecutive calendar years for Iron Dog Award -- Sally Miller

July 13, 2012

Dear NAFA Board of Directors,

*I recently was looking at the web site and found out about the Iron Dog Award for those dogs that have had points for ten consecutive years. I think this is a wonderful way to honor those dogs. It takes a special dog to be able to compete for that many years. I have one of those dogs, Oreo (CRN 021003). Our first event with points was in Amana, Iowa in October 2002 and she retired herself last year in Amana in August 2011. That represents ten years of consecutive racing, but unfortunately it is ten calendar years and not ten years of NAFA years. I understand that you need rules to administer this award, but to say that my dog is any less than an "Iron Dog" than the NAFA year dog is not fair. I would hope it was not the board's intention to not include those dogs. My dog was 13 years old on her last race. I feel flyball is a demanding sport for the dog, so to still be racing at 13 is an accomplishment in itself. I feel very blessed that I was able to be in the sport for that long with my first flyball dog.*

*I would respectfully ask you to consider including ten calendar years in addition to the ten NAFA years for this award. I realize you had to start somewhere with the rules for this award. If there was a real reason why you decided not to include the ten calendar years, I would like to hear those reasons. Were there too many dogs that would be eligible? Too costly for computer programming? I would just like to know. In my heart, I know that Oreo is an Iron Dog, but I would like NAFA to honor her, along with any other dogs that have the same situation.*

*Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter. I look forward to hearing from you.*

Sally Miller

Oreo (CRN 021003) ~2002-2011

**Recommendations:** The committee discussed the fact that the date used to begin a "year" is rather arbitrary, which is to say for any given date, some dogs will have obtained a seemingly unfair advantage by having raced on days that closely span the transition point (e.g., Sep 30 - Oct 1 for racing year, Dec 31 - Jan 1 for calendar year, or Mar 31 - Apr 1 if a "year" that starts April 1). Thus, if the Iron Dog Award were expanded to include those dogs who race ten consecutive calendar years, it would be fair to include those dogs who race 10 consecutive years for all 365 possible transition dates, which is not feasible. Therefore, since the NAFA database and all associated statistics are based on the racing year (Oct 1 - Sep 30), the committee recommends that the board not make any changes to the criteria for the Iron Dog Award.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

## 9. Comment period for supervising judge applicants -- Leerie Jenkins

*Suggested rewording for Corporate Policies & Procedures, Chapter 2 - Judges, (j)(vii), where underline indicates additional text and strikethrough indicates deleted text.*

*Prospective judges for Supervising status may be proposed to the Board of Directors in writing by any Board member, judge, or participant in official NAFA® events. Such proposals must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from at least 5 different tournament directors the applicant has judged for, two fellow NAFA approved judges, and the Regional Director for the applicant's home region. Said letters of recommendation should contain personal observations of any of the qualities referenced in (iv) above. In addition, the name of the judge applying for supervising status will be published on the NAFA webpage for a period, ~~ideally~~ of at least seven days, to allow for comment to the Board.*

**Recommendations:** Committee members agree that the suggested change helps assure there is an adequate amount of time to obtain comments from flyball community, especially in light of how quickly announcements can be disseminated via the NAFANews YahooGroup and the NAFA Facebook page. Thus, the committee recommends that the board adopt the proposal.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

## 10. Time limit to get alternates -- Christine Helmus

*Date: Tue, Jul 17, 2012 at 3:37 AM  
Subject: [flyball.org] <rules> The use of alternates  
To: rules@flyball.org*

*In section 3.2.d it states that an alternate may be inserted after a heat is complete. The rule does not state how long a team has to get the alternate dog.*

*We think the rule should include a time limit or that the alternate dog should be in the arena at the time the alternate is decided to be inserted into the next heat.*

*Today the whole match can be held up when a team member needs to leave the ring to get the alternate dog.*

*Thank you  
Christine Helmus*

**Recommendations:** Members of the committee recognize there are unfortunately instances when teams do not properly prepare for planned and/or foreseeable substitutions by having one or more additional dogs ringside (e.g., multiple dogs are sharing a slot, having a backup ready for a green dog). Nevertheless, for a variety of reasons, the committee recommends that a limit not be placed on the time to get an alternate dog. For one, dogs often need to be crated far away from the ring at some tournament venues, especially outdoor tournaments where shade may be scarce; and extra distance means extra time may be required to make an unexpected substitution. It would also be a difficult to codify a rule that specifies when the clock to get an alternate dog should start ticking for all possible scenarios (e.g., injuries--immediately after the injury occurred vs. after the team has attended to the

needs of the injured dog/person). Some committee members also expressed concern that if a time limit were imposed, some competitors would feel compelled to take the fully allotted time even though a substitution could be made more quickly.

As an alternative to the proposal, the committee suggests the board discuss the possibility of adding the following text (or something similar) to either Section 3.2(d) and/or Section 8.3 of the Rules of Racing:

***Teams must be ready to start each heat in a reasonable amount of time. The first unreasonable delay by a team will result in a warning by the head judge. Subsequent offenses will result in a forfeit of the heat.***

Such an addition to the rule book may also help fix the problem created when teams spend an inordinate amount of time on tasks at the end of each heat that are unrelated to substitutions (e.g., reviewing video footage of passes). The committee trusts that head judges would only invoke such a rule in the most extreme and egregious situations.

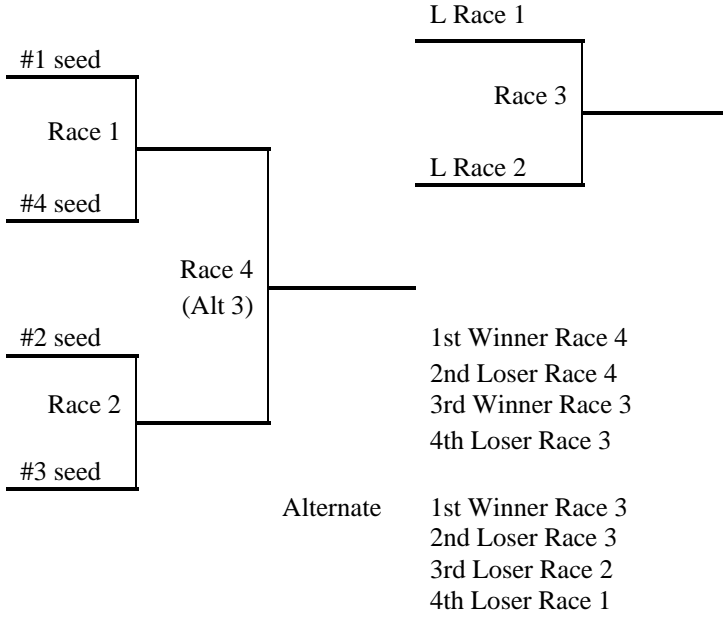
[\[Back to top\]](#)

#### **Appendix - Elimination brackets with suggested edits from Leerie Jenkins**

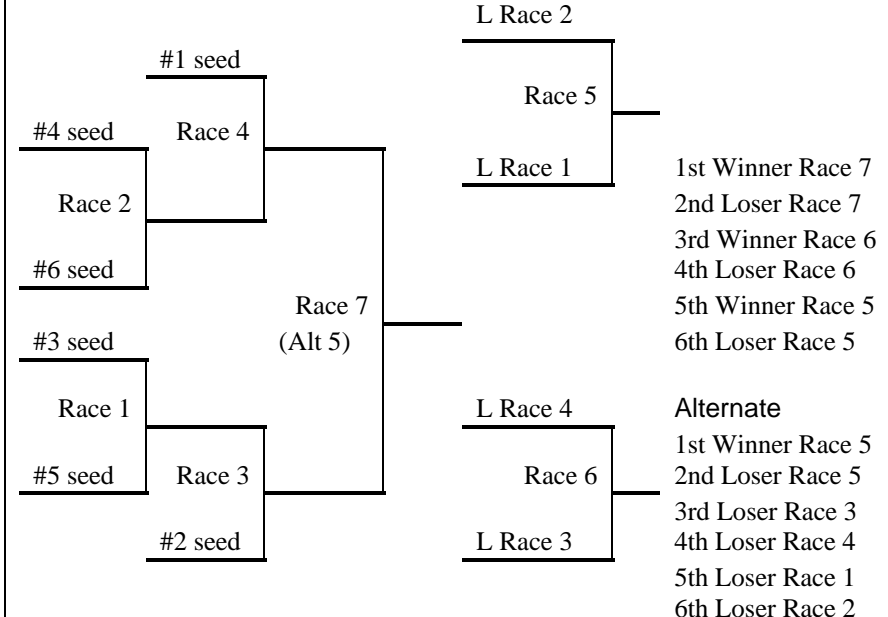
(Described in [item #4](#) above).

See the following pages.

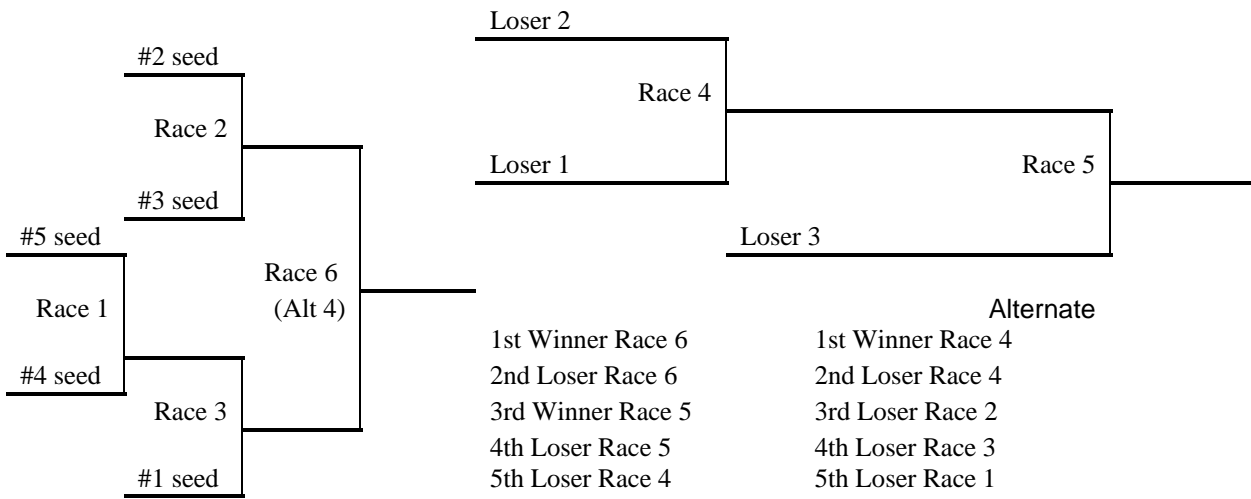
### 4 Team Single Elimination



### 6 Team Single Elimination



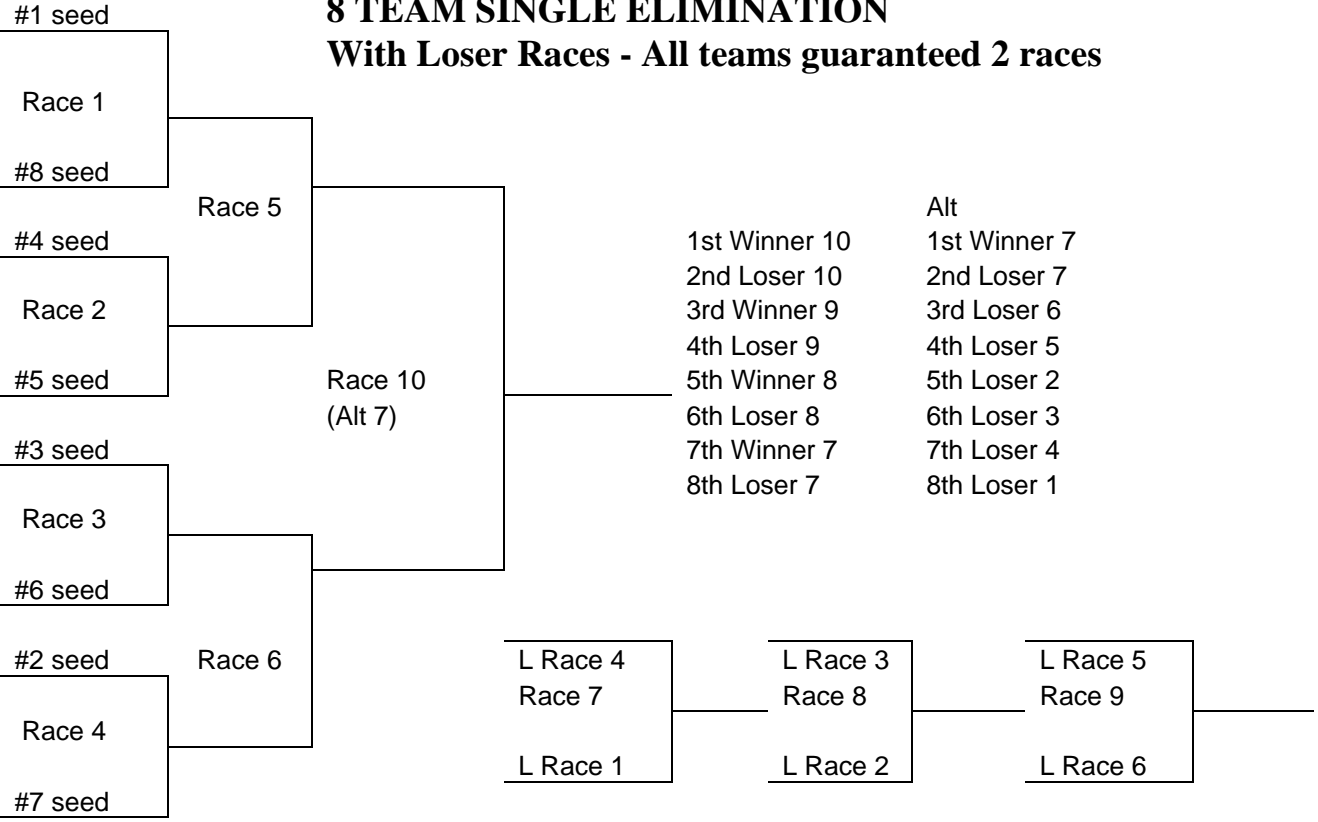
### 5 Team Single Elimination



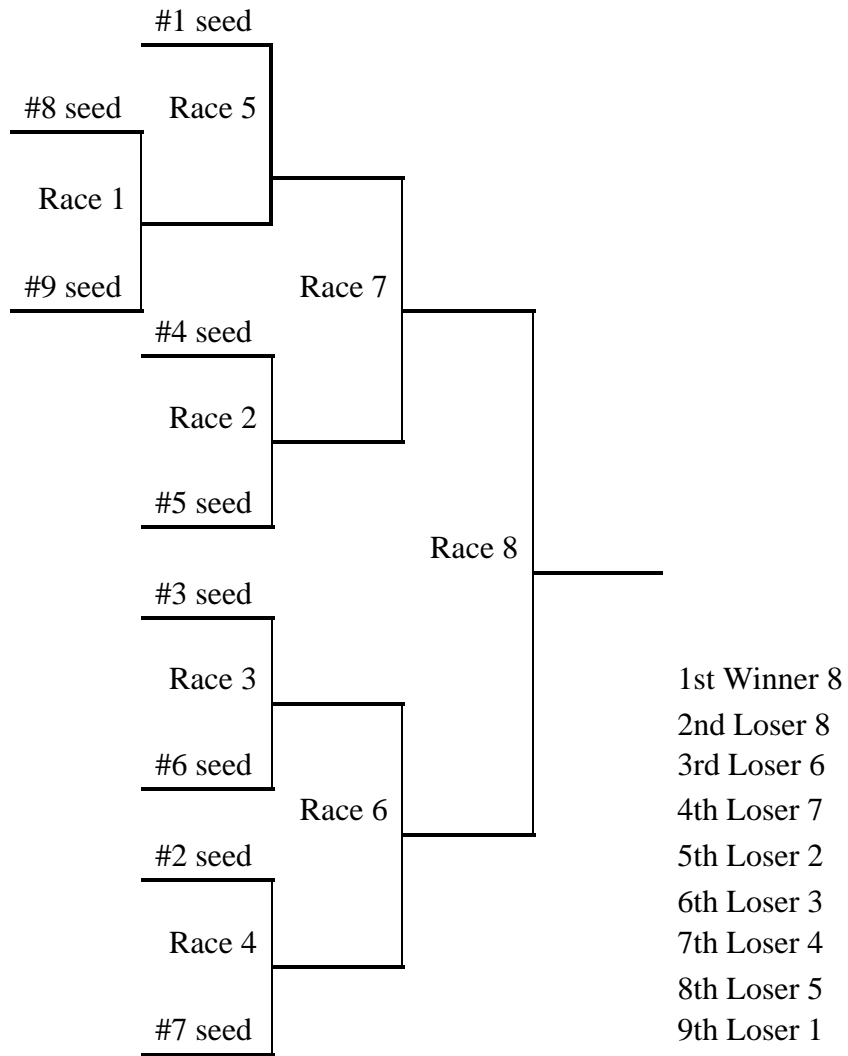


# 8 TEAM SINGLE ELIMINATION

## With Loser Races - All teams guaranteed 2 races



### 9 Team Single Elimination



### 10 Team Single Elimination

