

**AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION RULE ON TRIAL:
SANDBAGGING**



AFA Notification Number 30 - AFA Standard Specification for Flyball Jumps.

Issued June 2012

Background:

Members have written to the AFA Committee with concerns that some jump designs currently in use at competitions are hazardous to dogs and are capable of causing injury. They suggested that current leading edge jump designs were safer for dogs and should be introduced as a standard.

The AFA Committee, at its June 2011 meeting, resolved to issue a design specification for flyball jumps in Australia. The following Standard specification will be mandatory for adoption effective from 1st January 2012. Effective from that date all Jumps used in AFA approved Competitions, Demonstrations or Training Days must comply with the following Standard.

Jump Design and manufacture:

	Dimensions	Material
Uprights	As per AFA Rulebook.	PVC foam board or Plywood up to nominal ½” thickness
Baseboard	<p>Width: suitable for 6” height. Length: 800 mm</p> <p>This means that the lowest 7” height is made up of the 6” baseboard + a 1” slat, which means 7” height dogs will have the protection of a 1” slat.</p> <p>Note: this requires a jump set to have 2 off 1” slats in order to be able to make up the 8” height (6” + 1” + 1”).</p>	PVC foam board or Plywood up to nominal ½” thickness
1” slats	<p>Length 730 mm.</p> <p>This is to reduce the number of times the top slat jams in the uprights when hit by a dog, and becomes a trip and entrapment hazard.</p> <p>Note: see instructions below regarding use.</p>	<p>PVC foam board up to nominal ½” thickness</p> <p>This is so that slats will flex easily when hit by a dog and minimise injury.</p> <p>No other material may be used unless approved in writing by the Committee</p>
2”, 3” and 4” slats	<p>Length 800 mm.</p>	<p>PVC foam board up to nominal ½” thickness</p> <p>This is so that slats will flex easily when hit by a dog and minimise injury.</p> <p>No other material may be used unless approved in writing by the Committee</p>

It is recommended that the slots in the uprights be a loose fit (1 – 1.5 mm free play) for the slats so that they do not bind up when flexed.

The edges of the slots should be slightly chamfered or rounded, also to reduce binding.

Use and operation:

- The top slat must always be 1", including for 7" dogs (ie 6" baseboard + 1" slat). Flyballers need to be educated on the need for the top slat to always be the 1" for the safety of their dogs
- The 1" slats must be installed so that one end is lined up with the end of the baseboard, which ensures the other end extends just past the opposite upright. This increases the chance that the slat will release from the upright if hit hard enough, rather than jamming.
- The use of jump pads is to be discontinued where ever possible. Jump pads are seen to be a risk because the folded aluminium frame of many pads is by its shape a rigid strut that does not flex on impact, so a dog hitting it would hit the equivalent of a solid plank of wood overlaid with a layer of padding. To make it worse, it is known that foam padding deteriorates with age. However, it is understood that some dogs will only run with pads, so use of pads is not excluded, but it would be mandatory for the pad and particularly the padding to be in good order else a judge may prevent its use at a competition

Introduction of the new design:

- The Committee agreed that a standard jump design is desirable but it is not practical to require clubs to introduce it overnight.
- All new jump sets must be manufactured to the new design
- Existing jump sets in which the uprights and baseboard comply with the new requirements may be modified by the replacement of the slats. Clubs wishing to upgrade existing jump sets are to do so in the minimum time that suits them, but in any case, not later than January 2012.
- The new design shall be used at all competitions run after 1 January 2012.

Amendments to Rules to align with new Standard.

The following minor Rules amendments will be included in the next reprint of the Rules and Policies book to reflect the new Standard:

INSERT in Section 3.3(a) as second sentence " Supplied Jumps must comply with the AFA Jump Standard specification (effective from 1st January 2012)

DELETE Section 3.3(e) dealing with padding – now covered in Standard.

AMEND Section 3.3 (f) to read " Jump slats that are broken or bent must be immediately removed from use.

RENUMBER 3.3(g) as (f)

AMEND Jump drawing to show 6 inch Base Board.