

AFA Rule clarification Statement Number 19 – issued June 2010.

The AFA Committee at its Meeting on Monday the 28th June 2010 approved 4 amendments to the Rules for adoption as On Trial Rules effective from 30th July 2010 i.e. they will be applied at competition held after the 30th July 2010. The first 3 Rule amendments outlined below are seen by the Committee as being fairly minor in effect and accordingly the Committee will be placing them before members as part of the 2010 AGM.

The Rule amendments dealing with Height Cards and challenges thereto are more fundamental in nature and the Committee intends to leave these changes as “On Trial Rules” until the following years AGM.

The On Trial Rules effective from 30th July are outlined below:

Amendment 1. That Chapter 1.4 of the Rules be amended in order to clarify that no breakout times apply for Division 1 teams with declared seed times.

Rule Book Reference:

Chapter 1.4:

DELETE:

(c) New teams or teams which have not raced for four months must provide a declared seed time and will be subject to the declared breakout rule. When a team uses a declared seedtime, the seedtime declared by the team becomes subject to its own (one) 1second breakout not the division breakout.

INSERT:

(c) New teams or teams which have not raced for four months must provide a declared seed time and will be subject to the declared breakout rule. When a team uses a declared seedtime, the seedtime declared by the team becomes subject to its own (one) 1second breakout not the division breakout (except in Division 1 where no breakout applies).

Commentary and explanation:

It has been argued that the current wording of Chapter 1.4 could be interpreted to require that Division 1 teams with a declared seedtime should also have a breakout time. This amendment is designed to clarify that no breakout applies to any team seeded in Division 1 whether they have a web or declared seedtime. This is the status quo situation and is based on the logic that as there is no higher Division where the team could have competed and hence no need for breakout to apply).

Amendment 2. That Chapter 7 of the Rules be amended to eliminate reruns after false starts or errors for teams that have forfeited and hence cannot win the heat.

Rule Book Reference :

Chapter 7:

INSERT

- h) A forfeiting team that is required to race is subject to all the Rules of Racing except for the following:
 - i. False starts are not in effect, ie no re-start and no re-run.
 - ii. Any dog that receives a flag may complete its run but may not re-run.

The opposing team is subject to all the Rules of Racing.

Commentary and explanation:

The intent of this clarification is to speed up racing by eliminating false starts and re-runs for forfeited teams in heats on logic that they cannot win the heat and hence once any errors is made they also cannot qualify for any AFA Title Points.

Amendment 3. That Chapter 9 of the Rules be amended to clarify that Rules of Racing dealing with box malfunctions and distraction are active from the time teams enter the ring until the end of the race.

Rule Book Reference:

Chapter 9 d :

DELETE:

(d) Box Malfunction:

The box loader shall indicate to the box steward and Judge when there is a box malfunction by standing in front of the box and waving their arms. The heat shall be stopped. The Judge is to examine the box. If, in the opinion of the Judge, the box has malfunctioned the heat shall be run again. If the box is found to be working then the heat shall be forfeited. If another box is not available and the box cannot be repaired in a reasonable time, the heat and any remaining heats are to be forfeited. If the box malfunctions a second time (or the spare box malfunctions) in the same race, the heat shall be forfeited and all remaining heats in that race shall be forfeited.

INSERT:

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The box loader shall indicate to the box steward and Judge when there is a box malfunction by standing in front of the box and waving their arms.

i) If a heat is in progress, it shall be stopped. The Judge is to examine the box. If, in the opinion of the Judge, the box has malfunctioned the heat shall be run again. If the box is found to be working then the heat shall be forfeited. If another box is not available and the box cannot be repaired in a reasonable time, the heat and any remaining heats are to be forfeited. If the box malfunctions a second time (or the spare box malfunctions) in the same race, the heat shall be forfeited and all remaining heats in that race shall be forfeited.

ii) .If a heat is not in progress, the Judge is to examine the box. If, in the opinion of the Judge, the box has malfunctioned, the team may replace it without penalty. If another box is not available and the box cannot be repaired in a reasonable time, any remaining heats shall be forfeited. If the box malfunctions a second time (or the spare box malfunctions) in the same race, the heat shall be forfeited and all remaining heats in that race shall be forfeited.

This rule is active from prior to the first heat (during warm up period) until the last heat of the race has been declared by the Judge.

Chapter 9 (k)

DELETE:

(k) Distractions:

Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing balls, using a flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means nor by throwing any object for their dogs (i.e. balls, toys, Frisbees, dummies, gloves or treats). Team members are required to pick up loose balls. The first offence of any of these infractions shall receive a warning. A second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat.

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Commentary and explanation:

The intent of this clarification is to confirm that these Rules of Racing are active from the time of entering the ring until the end of the race.

Amendment 4 The intent of these rule changes is to clarify the rules around a team's running height, including the conditions and process for challenging a dog's running height, and the conditions and process for challenging a Height Card.

Changes to Chapter 6:

Section 6.1:

DELETE:

(d) Once the dog is measured, the judge is under no obligation to re-measure the same dog in the same competition.

DELETE:

(f) Any protest with respect to a dogs jump height must be verbalised to the Competition Organiser and/or the AFA Representative within 30 minutes of the heat in question by the Captain of a competing team in that division or combined division. (Re-number (g) to (n) as (f) to (m).

INSERT:

(d) Once the dog is measured, the judge is under no obligation to re-measure the same dog in the same competition (except in some cases when the dog's height is challenged – refer Section 6.4 below).

Section 6.2:

INSERT after existing section 6.2:

6.3 Running heights at competitions:

a) A Height Card must be present at a Competition in order to be taken into account at that Competition. Otherwise the dog shall be deemed not to have a height card for that Competition.

b) Where a Height Card is present for the designated Height Dog for a heat, the team shall run at the height specified on the Height Card.

c) A Height Card that is present at a Competition may not be challenged at that competition.

d) Timesheets

i) Teams entering a competition shall fill out the running height for any dog less than 14" in the entry form.

ii) The Competition Organiser shall enter the height in the time sheets.

iii) Dogs that have not yet been measured may have "NM" (Not Measured) in the entry form and should be measured prior to the Competition.

iv) Any dog that does not have a height marked on the time sheet shall be deemed to be a 14" dog.

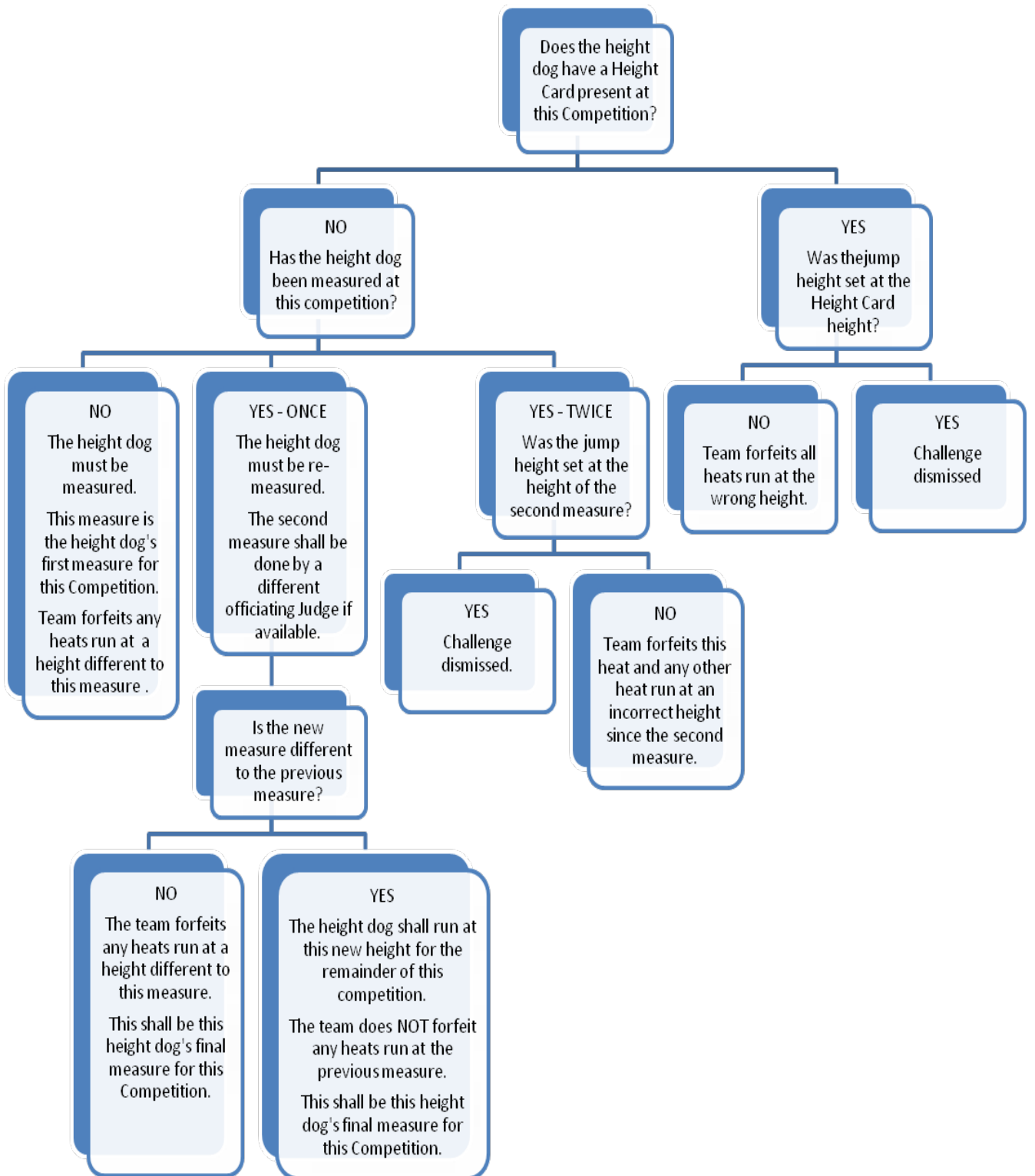
v) Heights may be written onto time sheets at any time during a Competition.

vi) Changes to timesheets shall be countersigned by an officiating Judge or AFA Representative.

e) Timekeepers who observe that a team is running a height different to the height indicated by the team's time sheet shall bring it to the Judge's attention as soon as possible.

6.4 Challenge to a team's Running Height.

a) An officiating Judge or the Captain of an opposing team may challenge the running height of a team in a heat. The challenge must be made within 30 minutes of the heat in question. The outcome of the challenge depends on the circumstances. Refer to the Team Height Challenge Flowchart below:



6.5 Process for challenging a Height Card:

- a) A Height Card may only be challenged in writing, in a letter signed by an accredited Judge or the Co-ordinator of an AFA affiliated Club acting on behalf of the Club, addressed to the Secretary of the AFA.
- b) An accredited Judge may challenge no more than three Height Cards in any calendar year.
- c) A Club may challenge no more than two Height Cards in any calendar year.
- d) Any Height Card may not be challenged more than once in three years (36 months).
- e) It is in everyone's interest for a challenge to a Height Card to be resolved in the shortest possible time. The original Height Card shall be considered valid until the AFA Committee has made a decision on the challenge, up to a maximum of three months (90 days) following receipt of the challenge letter. If the matter is still open after three months, the Height Card shall be suspended until the challenge is resolved.
- f) The process to resolve the challenge is as follows:
 - i. The AFA Secretary shall place the matter on the Agenda of the first AFA Committee meeting following receipt of the challenge letter.
 - ii. The AFA Committee shall, at the earliest opportunity, appoint a Case Officer to manage the challenge. The Case Officer must reside within a reasonable distance of the handler and the dog so they can meet as required. It is preferred but not mandatory for the Case Officer to be drawn from the AFA Committee. Conflict of Interest shall be considered in the selection.
 - iii. The Case Officer and the dog's Handler shall arrange for a measure of the dog to be taken at the earliest opportunity when all conditions necessary for a reliable and accurate measure can be met. This may, but is not required to, be at a Competition. The measure shall be made using an AFA approved wicket and procedure, by a Senior Judge or two Level 1 Accredited Judges, in the presence of the Handler and the Case Officer. Any other person(s) present shall be sufficiently far away to not affect the measure.
 - iv. Photographs shall be taken of the wicket set up on the suitable surface, the dog's stance at the time of the measure, and a close-up of the scale

with the arm in the position from which the final reading was taken. Numerals on the scale shall be legible.

- v. The result shall be written into a C-8 form and signed by the Judge(s), the Case Officer and the Handler if they agree.
- vi. The Case Officer shall report in writing (including the photographs) to the AFA Committee and make a recommendation based on the reading as follows:
 - 1. If the new reading is the same as the existing Height Card, the recommendation shall be to dismiss the challenge. If accepted by the AFA Committee, the Height Card shall be confirmed and may not be challenged again within three years (36 months) from the date of the current challenge.
 - 2. If the new reading is different to the previous Height Card, the recommendation shall be to revoke and destroy the old Card and issue a new one for the new height. If accepted by the AFA Committee, the new Height Card may not be challenged for a period of three years (36 months) after issue.
- vii. The AFA Committee shall, at its earliest opportunity, consider the Case Officer's report (both written and verbal) and the records, and vote to accept, reject or amend any recommendation.
- g) Disputes. If the Senior Judge, (or the two Level 1 Judges), the Case Officer and the Handler cannot agree on a reading on the day, they shall agree to meet at another opportunity to repeat the measure. If they cannot agree at the second opportunity, the Case Officer shall report the matter to the AFA Committee for consideration and any further action.

Decision re requests for Title Points Amendments post events .

In addition to the 4 Rule amendments shown above the Committee also determined to advise Members that in future there will be NO amendments to AFA Title points process after events where there has been a error in a dogs CRN and that error was as a result of the actions of either the member in nominating the dogs CRN on the entry or as a result of the Team Captain failing to confirm the correctness of CRNs as shown on the Teams racing schedule. The Committee requests that all Competition Organisers and judges inform Team Captains at the briefing before the start of racing

that it is their responsibility to carefully check and confirm the correctness of all dogs CRNS shown on the teams racing sheet. This action has been necessary given the growing incidence of requests to amend Title Points in circumstances where the error could have been corrected had the CRNs been checked and confirmed by the member/Team captain at the competition.