

Member motion for AFA AGM August 2022

Motion:

That any jump knocked from its original position in the lane will initiate a heat restart.

Suggested change to rule:

6.12 Where any jump is knocked over, knocked off square from its original position in the lane, where that jump will impact another dog on the team, the judge will

- immediately stop the heat
- restart the heat once the jump is set back to its original position and the safety hazard is removed.

The same conditions will apply to any other safety hazard identified by the judge, including but not limited to, a broken height or board, a loose dog in the ring.

Handlers are discouraged from sending their dogs down the lane over knocked jumps.

Where the jump is knocked, the steward or team member may return the jump to its original position once the judge has stopped the heat.

Rationale:

The current rule means there is some subjectivity in the judge deciding whether a knocked jump presents a safety risk. This motion proposes to change the rule to mean that any jump knocked from its usual position, where that jump will impact another dog on the team, will initiate a heat restart on all occasions.

Note that there is no intention to restart the heat if the final dog in the team knocks the jump. There is no ability to reset the jump for this dog prior to them returning and there is no other dog on the team impacted.

We know that our dogs, once they have commenced their run, will continue back to their handlers even over a jump that has been knocked down. But on each occasion, the knocked jump will have been because of an accident rather than any intention by the dog or handler. There is often no time to assess safety in the few seconds (or less than) where a jump is knocked, and as such handlers are potentially putting their dogs at risk. The current rule relies on the judge assessing the safety in this matter of seconds, or simply restarting the heat regardless; two judges at the same competition may make a different decision. This motion aims to remove the subjectivity and bring some consistency to the judging decisions.

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