

Rule Notification FY2324-6 - Mandating Jump Heights

At its meeting on 5 February 2024 the AFA committee resolved to require the jump height of every dog in a team for a race meeting to be specified on the team's entry form and the team's timesheet. The on trial rule changes to give effect to this decision are set out below and will be effective for race meetings from 1 March 2024. The rules published on the AFA website will be updated shortly.

Background

The rules currently provide that teams must include on their entry form the jump height of any dog with a jump height of less than 14 inches and which could be used as a height dog.

It had been brought to the committee's attention that many teams are not complying with this requirement. There have been numerous instances of teams entering without specifying a jump height for any dog in the team or specifying a jump height for one dog only and then that dog not running in particular heats. This makes it difficult for officials to check that jumps are set at the correct height and delays racing where teams have to be asked during a race to confirm jump heights.

The committee agreed that the simplest way to address this issue is to make it mandatory to specify a jump height for every dog entered in a race meeting. The committee notes that this is already a requirement for teams entering open class. The entry process for race meetings will be changed so that an entry form cannot be submitted unless a jump height is specified for every dog.

The committee noted that where a member is unsure of their dog's jump height an estimated jump height can be specified on the entry form. The dog can then be presented for measuring before the race meeting and if measured at a height different from the estimate the timesheet can be amended accordingly.

Members are reminded of the consequences under rule 6.4 if a team's running height is challenged and a dog is measured at a height different from that shown on the timesheet.

Members are also reminded of the option under rule 8.3 of obtaining a height card for their dogs and the benefits under rule 6.4 of doing so. An updated height card application form will be available on the AFA website before 1 March 2024.

Rule Changes

Amend definitions of **height dog** and **jump height** as shown:

height dog means the dog running in a **heat** with the lowest **jump height** of all dogs in the same **team** running in that **heat**. ~~Any dog used as a **height dog** must have its **jump height** recorded on the **timesheet** for its **team**. **Teams** must include on the **entry form** for a **race meeting** the **jump height** of any dog with a **jump height** of less than 14 inches and which could be used as a **height dog** for the **team**.~~

jump height means the jump height of a dog determined in accordance with ***rule 8.1*** or as shown on a ***pre-existing height card***. The ***jump height*** of every dog in a ***team*** must be recorded on the ***official timesheet*** for the ***team***. ***Teams*** must include on the ***entry form*** for a ***race meeting*** the ***jump height*** of every dog in the ***team***.

Delete from Appendix 6. Open Class:

The ***jump height*** of every dog in a ***team*** entered in ***open class*** must be included on the ***team's entry form***.