

## **Rule Notification FY2425-15 Jump Uprights**

At its meeting on 2 June 2025 the AFA committee resolved to change the standard for jump uprights in Appendix 1 to the rules by including a requirement that the base of the uprights must not be wider than 14 inches.

Having regard to the Rules Management Policy the committee determined that as the change directly relates to dog welfare it will be effective from 1 July 2025. The change will be included in the next published version of the rules.

The committee acknowledges the short period until the effective date of 1 July and will therefore allow a period of grace for compliance so that clubs that are hosting flyball events in July 2025 may use existing jump uprights with bases exceeding 14 inches. Clubs hosting flyball events from 1 August 2025 onwards must ensure jump uprights comply with the changed standard.

### **Background**

Rule 6.3 requires jumps for each team to be set for each heat at the lower of 14 inches and the jump height of the team's height dog for that heat. Rule 6.12 authorises a judge to stop a heat when the judge considers that a knocked down jump constitutes a safety hazard.

A recent incident was brought to the attention of the committee where a jump was knocked over and the judge decided not to stop the heat. The team's jump height was seven inches. It was subsequently found that the height of the knocked over jump was eight inches and it would have been inconsistent with rule 6.3 for the team's height dog to run over the knocked down jump.

It was evident that the height of the knocked over jump was due to the width of the base of the uprights of the particular set of jumps used being 16 inches. It was noted that many jump sets in use have uprights that are 14 inches or less wide at the base and that the height of those jumps when knocked over would not exceed the minimum jump height of seven inches.

The committee considered various options to address the issue. It concluded that the best approach is to specify a maximum width of 14 inches for the base of jump uprights. The committee took into account that the change to the standard for uprights will only affect those clubs currently using uprights wider than 14 inches and it will be a relatively simple matter for those clubs to comply with the changed standard by shaving off a small piece on each side of each upright.

Diagram to illustrate.

