

AFA Rule Notification to Members No. 63 – May 2017.

This Rule Notification deals with clarifications and minor amendments to Chapter 6 of the Rules dealing with measuring and height cards.

Set out below is the amended Chapter 6 with changes identified via use of different colour text. The changes are to apply effective from 5th May 2017. The Rules on the AFA Web site will be updated to reflect the changes and they will be incorporated in the hard copy version at the next reprint. It is suggested that members may wish to print copies of this Notification to insert in their Rule books.

Brian Lindsay (AFA Secretary).

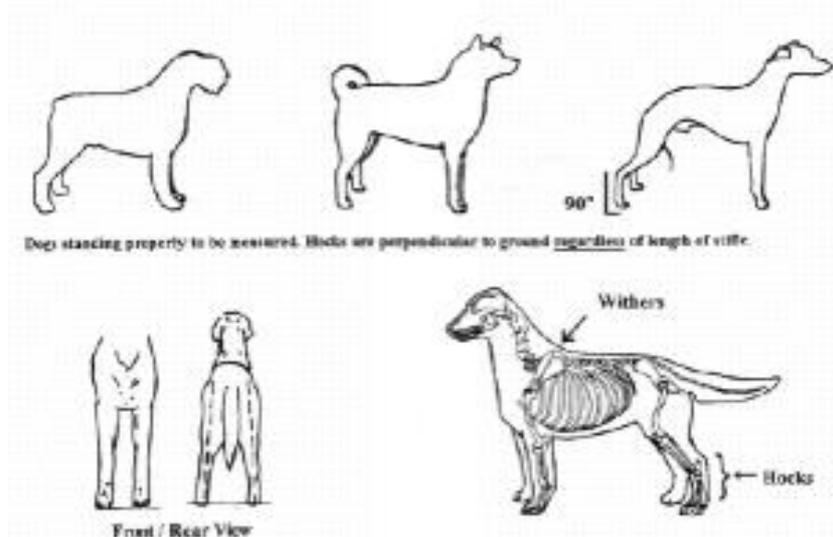
Chapter 6 – MEASURING AND HEIGHT CARDS

Section 6.1 – Measuring

- (a) At the discretion of the team, height dogs may be measured by the measuring Judge and a second official (Judge, AFA Representative or an experienced official appointed by the accredited AFA Representative) during times designated by the host club.
- (b) If the judge determines that a team is not jumping at the correct height in a round robin format, the team shall forfeit all heats run at the improper jump height. In the case of an elimination format, the team shall be excused from the competition.
- (c) The judge may, at any time, conduct the first measure of a dog at a competition.
- (d) Once the dog is measured, the Judge is under no obligation to remeasure the same dog in the same competition (except in some cases when the dog's height is challenged - refer Section 6.4 below)
- (e) If a dog is measured for a second time in a competition and the measuring Judge determines that the first measure was incorrect, the team shall not be penalised for heats completed in accordance with the first measure. However, the team will be required to jump the second measure height for any remaining heats run with that dog as height dog.
- (f) Measurements are to be open to public observation, but interference to the process is not permitted, including any distraction to the dog in the measuring judge's opinion. Photographing or video recording of the measure shall be at the measuring judge's discretion.
- (g) Only one (1) handler per dog shall be allowed in the measuring area.
- (h) Aggression during measurement will not be tolerated and Section 9.3 (Aggressive Dogs) will be observed.

- (i) Height measurements are to be recorded and signed by the measuring Judge [on the official timesheet](#). A dog's height [that](#) has been measured and recorded by [any](#) judge shall be the dog's official jump height for that competition, regardless of which ring the dog may run in, [subject to 6.4 below](#).
- (j) Heights are to be recorded on [an](#) AFA Height Card Application form [only](#) where the measure has been performed using an AFA approved, standard measuring wicket, [which shall](#) be made available by [the](#) AFA .
- (k) The measuring area will be determined by the measuring Judge. The Judge shall select an appropriate measuring surface. [The measuring wicket shall be calibrated to ensure accuracy](#) prior to measuring the first dog and any time it is moved. If the Judge determines that an appropriate measuring surface or that an AFA approved measuring device is not available, measuring shall be for the competition only and not for a Height Form (see Forms).
- (l) The dog's height shall be measured from the ground to the top of withers with the dog standing in an upright position as indicated by the illustration below. The correct stance of the dog is to be verified as acceptable by the second official involved in measuring (refer 6.1 (a)). The handler may steady the dog if necessary, but shall not physically support the dog during the measuring process. The front legs will be vertical with the paws directly below the shoulders. The back legs will be positioned with the hocks perpendicular to the ground and spread no wider than the width of the dog. The dog's entire head is to be in an upright position above the level of the withers as shown in the following illustration. The dog may be measured up to 3 times. The height measurement shall go to the lowest height for the benefit of the dog.

Dog standing properly to be measured.



Section 6.2 – Height Cards

Height cards are optional and may be applied for by submitting a completed application form (see “Height Form” under the “Members” / “Forms” page on the AFA website) to the AFA. There are a number of requirements:

- (a) Dog must [have raced](#) for at least 12 months before its first recorded measurement;

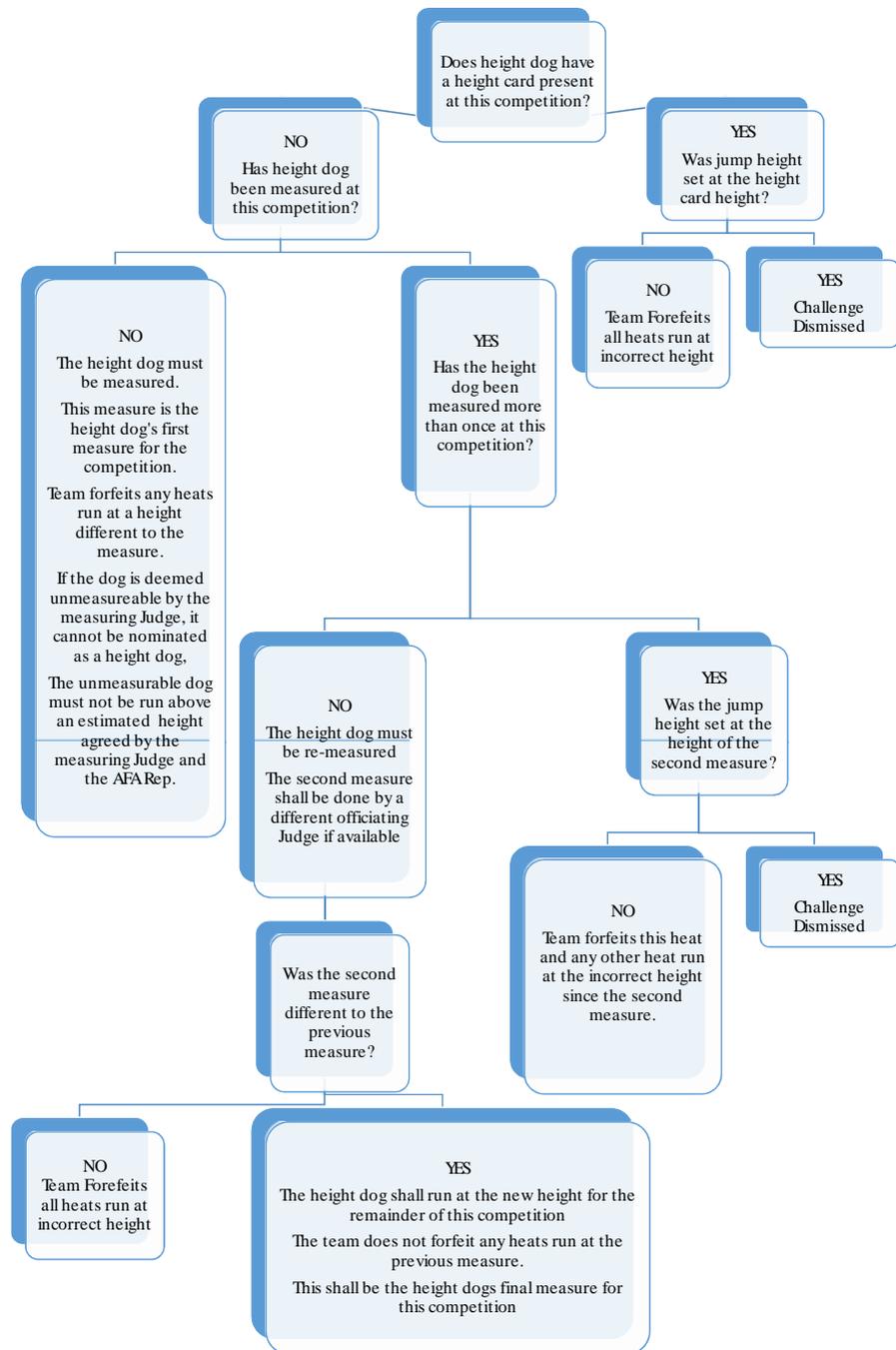
- (b) A dog must be entered in the competition in order to have its height measure recorded on a Height Card Application (Form C.8).
- ~~(b)~~(c) The Height Card form must be presented to the Judge before the dog is measured;
- ~~(e)~~(d) The form is considered complete when a dog has received the same measurement three (3) times by three (3) different Judges. Only one height card measurement may be attained per competition. Where the dog has to be measured a second time at a competition, the measure recorded on the form shall be the second measure. The measuring Judge must be an approved AFA Judge, but not necessarily officiating at the competition;
- ~~(d)~~(e) When the application form is completed, it must be forwarded to the AFA with an application fee (refer to Appendix F – Schedule of Fees). The form will be verified and a height card issued;
- ~~(e)~~(f) Height cards issued by the AFA will be good for the life of the dog, subject to 6.5. Once a height card has been issued, additional cards for the same dog may not be applied for. Lost height cards can be replaced with an identical card (refer to Appendix F – Schedule of Fees).

Section 6.3 – Running Heights at Competition

- (a) 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.
- (b) Timesheets
- (i) Teams entering a competition shall fill out in the entry form the running height for any dog less than 14” that could be a height dog for that team.
 - (ii) The Competition Organiser shall enter the height in the time sheets.
 - (iii)
 - (iv) Any dog that is to be used as a height dog MUST have a height marked on the timesheet. Heights may be written onto time sheets at any time during a Competition.
 - (v) Changes to timesheets shall be countersigned by an officiating Judge or AFA Representative.
- (c) 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.

Section 6.4 – Challenge to a Teams Running Height

- (a) A Height Card must be present at a Competition in order to be taken into account at that Competition. The Card is deemed to be present if the AFA Database can be accessed at the competition and it demonstrates that the Card is valid. Otherwise the dog shall be deemed not to have a height card for that Competition.
- (b) 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 during the race of the heat in question. The outcome of the challenge depends on the circumstances. Refer to the Team Height Challenge



Section 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 two Accredited Judges, in the presence of the Handler and the Case Officer. Any other person(s) present may not, in the opinion of the judges, cause interference to the measure or distract the dog.
 - (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 Height 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 measure as follows:
 1. If the new measure 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 measure is different to the existing Height Card, the recommendation shall be to revoke and destroy the 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. This may be at a meeting or via online circulation, discussion and approval.

(g) Disputes. If 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.