

Rule Notification FY2526-2 Standards for Jumps

At its meeting on 3 November 2025 the AFA committee resolved to address a number of matters concerning the standards for jumps set out in Appendix 1 to the rules and make additional provision regarding knocked over jumps. Full details are set out below.

The committee determined that the change relating to knocked over jumps directly relates to dog welfare and so will be effective immediately while the other changes will be effective from 1 January 2026. All changes will be included in the next published version of the rules.

Background

A number of issues had been raised with the rules sub-committee regarding the standards for jumps.

Logos and other marking on baseboard and slats – the baseboard and slats are required to be solid white other than for a specific exemption for logos and lettering on the baseboard. It was noted that it has become common for marks to be put on the ends of baseboards and slats, for example, to indicate their height or identify to which jump set they belong. The sub-committee agreed that the intent was that the requirement only applies to those parts of the baseboard and slats between the uprights.

Edges of one inch slats – there has been a general understanding that the edges on one inch slats should not have sharp edges but the standard is silent on this issue. The sub-committee agreed that there should be a requirement for the edges of one inch slats to be slightly chamfered or rounded to reduce the risk of injury to dogs.

Length of slats – it was noted that some clubs have been using one inch slats shorter than 730mm. The sub-committee could see no objection to this and agreed that the length specified for all slats should be a maximum rather than a fixed length.

The sub-committee recommended to the AFA committee that the rules be changed to reflect the above matters.

It was brought to the sub-committee's attention that the revised rule to require a maximum jump upright width of 14 inches may not fully address the concern that a knocked over jump may be higher than the minimum jump height of seven inches. Given the depth of the baseboard, and on the assumption that the slot is in the centre of the jump upright the exposed top edge of the baseboard may be above 7 inches if the jump is knocked squarely depending on the angle of the upright from the base to the top.

The sub-committee recommended to the AFA committee that the standard be amended so that the jump upright width must be such as to ensure that if a jump is knocked over the exposed top edge of the baseboard will not be more than 7 inches above the running surface.

Rule changes

Add the following note in the “Materials” column for baseboards:

Note: Numbers and letters are permitted on those parts of the baseboards which protrude beyond the uprights.

Add the following note in the “Materials” column for slats:

Note: Numbers and letters are permitted on those parts of the slats which protrude beyond the uprights.

Add the following in the “Material” column for 1” slats:

The edges of the slats must be slightly chamfered or rounded.

Insert before the lengths specified for baseboards and slats the words “Not more than”.

Amend the first sentence of the bullet point dealing with installation of one inch slats to read:

The 1” slats must be installed so that at least one end extends just past one upright.

Amend the maximum jump upright base width to read:

The width necessary to ensure that if the jump is knocked over the exposed top edge of the baseboard will not be more than 7 inches above the running surface.