

Proposed Amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)2

Proposal to reduce Jump heights and introduce Intermediate Height

The Council would like to propose reducing the jump heights and include a new height.

Jump Heights		Dog Height
Large Dogs	600mm	over 500mm
Intermediate Dogs	500mm	over 430 to 500mm
Medium Dogs	400mm	over 350mm to 430mm
Small Dogs	300mm	350mm or under

Aim

The aim of the changes are to recommend a set of jump heights that reflect the Kennel Club funded research projects carried out at the request of the Agility Liaison Council in January 2013, overwhelming support from the Agility Community and is practical for shows.

AHWSG

In its summary the AHWSG said they could not give us an answer to what is the correct height for a dog to jump due to the limited research and the inconclusive nature of the research.

It is suggested that any decision relating to jump height in dog agility also takes into account the competition environment (nationally and internationally), competitor perception and requirement and a judgment based on implementation of any changes, rather than being based solely upon scientific findings, that are at present inconclusive.

Competition environment.

As shown in annex F of the ALC agenda, the majority of countries around the world and other national organisations have a lower jump height. The Kennel Club jump heights are the highest in the UK.

Competitor views

In the discussions held by the ALC representatives across all regions, most of the views have been in support of reducing the jump heights, the majority of regions supporting 4 measured heights.

Nottingham Trent research

The research shows key changes occurring at 75% of height to withers and then again at 125% of height to withers. This proposal allows dogs from 240mm upwards to jump within this range.

Rational for removing LHO

The LHO has been divisive with the perceived perception of handlers and dogs moving up grades through LHO to get to Grade 6 quicker.

It has in many shows resulted in 6 heights, smaller classes and increased the number of dogs winning out of grades.

Not all shows offer LHO and handlers feel unable to attend Kennel Club shows as there are no runs for their dogs.

Implementation

There will be a transitional period of implementation.

If at the moment you compete with your dog in Large height you can continue to do this. Everyone has up to 2 years to get their dog measured for the new height - Intermediate.

New dogs to the sport would be measured straight away to compete at the Intermediate Height, unless they are obviously large.

Shows may not schedule the new height straight away, especially at the beginning of 2019, as they would have to publish their schedule before the end of this year (2018), before the changes are formally approved. Therefore, any existing dog currently competing in Large can continue competing in Large until they are measured and this takes the pressure off having to have your dog measured for January 1st.