

5th (Extra small) height Proposal

PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED:

- 1. Introduction of a 5th height – Extra Small.**
- 2. Obstacle height to be introduced as 200mm as detailed within the proposal.**
- 3. Height rule to be dogs measured 300mm or lower OR 280mm or lower (TBC).**
- 4. Dogs to be measured prior to being eligible to compete within the 5th height/Extra Small category by undertaking a first measure. Second measure to be completed in line with current measuring protocols.**

The Governance Panel is now requesting Council to consider several proposals in order to support the introduction of an extra small height for the 2026 Season. The following Proposals and protocols are the main areas that need to be addressed:-

- A. Obstacle heights.
- B. Dog height.
- C. Measuring Protocol
- D. Qualifiers.

A - Obstacles Rule changes

Discussions have taken place as to whether an extra small height should be 200mm or 250mm with research extending to other countries, potential of introduction of a smaller height within international competition and the impact on equipment suppliers and manufacturers.

The Governance Panel requests Council to consider the introduction of a extra small height at 200mm which is deemed to be the most appropriate option mitigating any impact on the issues identified above, provides a substantial reduction in height from Small and provides consistency across all heights of 300, 400, 500, 600mm.

B - Height rule changes

The introduction of a height at 300mm would reduce the small category albeit reduce the impact on those smaller dogs in relation to % of jump / dog height and potentially improve health and wellbeing overall. This would reduce the current Small height range to 301 – 350mm and a range of 49mm which needs to be a consideration.

The introduction of a height at 280mm would reduce the current Small height range to 281 – 350mm (range of 69mm) which is more in line with other height categories range (Medium (79mm), Intermediate (69mm)). The largest dogs in this category will be asked to jump 71% of their height compared with 86% small, 93% medium and 100% intermediate. Likewise, the impact on the small category would be the shortest dogs being asked to jump 107% of their height at the withers compared to 114% in Medium, 116% in Intermediate and 120% in large.

C - Measuring Protocols – H(1)(B) 4 (2) and (12)

Consideration will need to be given in relation to measuring protocols, lessons learnt from the introduction of intermediate height but ensure that individuals are not disadvantaged in successfully competing in championship classes and qualifiers, which will not be available in the short term, due to the introduction of a 5th height.

Whilst it is the Governance Panels preference that a height measure for a 5th height class should be mandatory it is recognised that this would disadvantage current competitors and would need a suitable introductory period. It is therefore proposed that all dogs who wish to compete in extra small must be measured to be eligible to run as detailed below by attaining a first measure.

It is not proposed at the current time that all small dogs should be mandatory measured and effectively measured out of Small if measured under the prescribed height, although this may be subject to further review on welfare grounds.

Proposed measuring protocol:

Dogs currently competing in Small will only be eligible to run in extra small once they have attained at least one extra small measure and it is recorded in their record book. The second measure must happen within current measuring guidelines.

Dogs presenting for their first measurement can choose whether to compete in Small or extra small categories if they measure under the required Small height. Measurers must record the dog's height in their record book, along with the height category they have elected to run in. The dog is then only eligible to compete in that chosen height at competitions.

If a dog measures under the Small height and initially elects to run in Small (S), they may later choose to switch to extra small. However, this change will make them ineligible to compete in the Small from thereon.

It is proposed that Measuring equipment suppliers will be notified as soon as possible to ensure equipment is available and measuring could start late 2025.

D - Qualifiers

It is requested that the RKC prestige events committee look at the possibilities of which Qualifiers and Championships would be available and review all options ready for 2027.