

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 June 2011

When we first announced this event in August 2010, the WAO organizing committee made a commitment that we would review the jump heights and the jump height cut-offs immediately after the first event. We also said that we would continue to review them each year, and we would tweak them as we thought necessary to get the fairest and most competitive four divisions. We want to be flexible enough that we can take what we learn from each event and make changes to make the next year even better. Competitors should be aware of this going forward and anticipate that some rule changes may occur immediately after each WAO and be effective for the following year.

Our goal in defining the jump heights and cutoffs is to look at agility from a worldwide perspective and not with a bias toward any one country. And it's not just about looking at how high dogs have to jump, it's about evaluating the range of competition within each jump height division—in each division, you will have dogs that measure at the very bottom of the cut-off range and dogs that measure at the upper end of the range. We believe that the changes we put forward are good ones when looking at the sport as a whole, from an international perspective. Dogs measuring 411mm competing against dogs measuring 499mm (dogs that normally compete internationally at 650mm) was not fair. But we think that dogs measuring 411-440mm can be competitive against dogs up to 485mm if they are jumping 525mm. We have also seen 486mm dogs proven that they are extremely competitive at 650, both nationally and internationally.

We have made an error, but it's not with our proposal itself. In our excitement with how well the first event went, we responded too quickly to requests that we allow all three medal winners to return to defend their titles in 2012. When we decided to make that announcement, none of us considered that we were going to be reviewing the jump heights the following week, and any changes we made then might impact these medalists. It was an oversight for which we apologize. From a customer service perspective, we don't think it's fair to penalize these medalists. With that in mind, we have decided to wait until after the 2012 event to make a height cut-off change in what was the 550 division. The jump height itself, however, will change to 525mm for the 2012 event. We still want to provide a fairer jump height for dogs measuring over 411-440mm in the hope that these dogs will attend the event in 2012.

The changes to the jump height cut-offs for the 300 and 400mm divisions *will* be in effect for the 2012 event since these do not adversely impact any returning medalist—while a returning 300mm or 400mm dog may measure down into a lower height because of the cut-off changes, the dog has the option of running at the same height as in 2011. At the WAO, dogs are always allowed to jump at a higher height than what they measure into. It's only the returning 550mm champions that present a problem. So returning 550mm medalists may choose to return as a wildcard in their event in either the 525mm division or the 650mm division.

We also want to make all competitors aware that dogs measured at the 2011 WAO will *not* need to be measured again if they return in 2012 or a subsequent year. This should eliminate

concerns for people who have dogs that are on the borderline of a jump height cutoff; you don't have to worry about someone getting a different measurement for your dog each year.

Jump Height Name	Dog Height at Withers	Jump Height	A-frame Height	Ascending Spread Length	Long Jump Length	Tyre Height at Centre
300	320mm & under (12.60")	300mm (11.81")	1.7m (5'7")	300mm max	600mm (23.62")	450mm (17.71")
400	410mm & under (16.14")	400mm (15.75")	1.7m (5'7")	400mm max	800mm (31.49")	550mm (21.65")
525	500mm & under (19.69")	525mm (20.66")	1.7m (5'7")	525mm max	1050mm (41.33")	675mm (26.57")
650	Over 500mm (19.69")	650mm (25.59")	1.7m (5'7")	650mm max	1300mm (51.18")	800mm (31.49")

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