

Special Measuring Committee Recommendations to NAFA BoD

This document contains recommendations to the overall measuring process/program and is presented to the NAFA Board of Directors for review and consideration. Note the language in this document is not intended to be the final language used in the NAFA Rulebook. It is assumed that the Rules Committee will use this to create the final wording. The Judges Committee will also need to update the Judges Training Program and the Regional Director Handbook will also need updating.

Three goals of New Measuring Plan

1. Make measuring easier for competitors, RDs and judges.
2. Make measuring consistent.
3. Ensure fair checks and balances in the overall process.

High Level Summary of Recommendations

1. Change device from wicket to laser and ruler effective Oct 1, 2021. Either the wicket or the new device can be used between April 1 2021 and Oct 1, 2021.
2. Create measuring training videos for competitors, judges and regional directors.
3. Implement a measuring certification program for all judges.
4. Regional directors to be trained and play a larger role in measuring, and work as a team with judges to minimize conflict of interest concerns.
5. Implement mandatory measuring
 - a. Permanent Measurement obtained after the age of two (2) with 2 matching measurements and is good for the life of the dog
 - b. On implementation dogs over ten (10) years of age are exempt from mandatory measuring requirements
6. Eliminate the Certified Measuring Judge position/program.
7. Eliminate challenges from competitors and judges.
8. Implement Owner-Initiated Remeasure process.
9. Eliminate need to measure for World Record (assumes the height dog has a Permanent Measurement).

1. Measuring Equipment

- 1.1. NAFA's official measuring device will be the combination of laser level and specialized ruler.
- 1.2. Competitors should have the option to have measuring done on a suitable table with non-slip surface or on the floor
- 1.3. NAFA may provide grooming tables to Regional Directors on a case-by-case basis. Discussed with RDs – no issues, they would let us know if they need a table and NAFA will supply (remove the grooming arm). If they have one they can use it – if facility has one they can use it.

2. Training Videos for Competitors and Judges

- 2.1. NAFA to produce and release videos on four topics:
 - 2.1.1. Video 1: Explanation of laser level and specialized ruler measuring system to competitors
 - 2.1.2. Video 2: Training for competitors on presenting your dog for measuring and the proper stance. Include training tips/advice for teaching your dog a stand
 - 2.1.3. Video 3: Training for judges on measuring with the new device as well as the proper stand
 - 2.1.4. Video 4: Training for supervising judges for how to teach measuring to other judges
- 2.2. Judges training requirements are outlined in Section 5 below
- 2.3. RDs will be required to watch videos 1, 2 and 3 to oversee the measuring process and helping to determine that the stand is correct. This will be documented in the NAFA database. Any acting RDs would need to also have completed this training to serve as an RD.
 - 2.3.1. The Judge and the RD should be on the same page during measuring.
 - 2.3.2. RDs should report any concerns relating to measuring to the ED
 - 2.3.3. RDs did not object to concept of an increased role in measuring – need to specify this more however. RDs will need to go through some measuring training as well – probably something under a supervising judge so they understand the proper stand. Not hands on training for RDs (they don't measure a dog). RD training completed or another certified judge is present to oversee before permanent measuring is allowed.
 - 2.3.4. In the event that an RD is not trained, that acceptable substitutes would be another certified judge (approved or supervising)
- 2.4. Competitors are encouraged to watch video 2 and are welcome to watch any of the videos.

3. Mandatory Measuring Program (for dogs setting height) ¹

- 3.1. Temporary Measurement: Dogs under two (2) years old are required to have at least one (1) official measurement to be listed as the height dog. This height is valid until the age of two. Owners can choose to remeasure a dog under 2.
- 3.2. Once 2 years of age - Mandatory measuring is in effect until you have your Permanent Measurement
- 3.3. Permanent Measurement
 - 3.3.1. To obtain a Permanent Measurement a dog must receive 2 matching measurements from 2 different Approved or Supervising judges. The Measuring Judge for the tournament is who you are required to measure under, unless you have already measured under that judge and you need a second judge to obtain your permanent measurement. You can get two measurements in the same tournament weekend – 2 one day tournaments for example. Must be 2 separate tournaments.

- 3.3.1.1. If the judge and handler are on the same club, we recommend that the measurement is videotaped and sent to the Judges Committee for review to avoid any perceived conflict of interest.
 - 3.3.1.2. If a Judge is concerned about any perceived conflict of interest, they can choose to videotape the measuring and send to the Judges Committee for review
- 3.3.2. If the post two-year measurement matches the pre-two-year measurement and it is with a different Approved or Supervising Judge from the pre-two-year measurement, then the Permanent Measurement is obtained.
- 3.3.3. To allow for special circumstances in regions where judges are limited the same Judge should videotape the second measurement from a separate tournament week (assuming it matches the first measurement) and send to the Judges Committee for review. The Judges Committee can approve the Permanent Measurement based on the video.
- 3.3.4. When there are 2 one day tournaments on the same weekend if a dog obtains its first measurement on Day 1 that measurement can be used on Day 2 without the dog having to measure a second time in that same weekend. Have the option but don't have to.
- 3.3.5. Once you have two matching measurements from two different judges (or one judge and video approval) then a Permanent Measurement is obtained which will be recorded in the NAFA database, displayed on the dog's CRN page on the website, and is valid for the life of the dog.
- 3.4. Exceptions
 - 3.4.1. 10 years of age at the time the rule goes into effect – no measuring at all is required. Jumping an obviously unreasonable height will be considered unsportsmanlike and brought forward to NAFA
 - 3.4.2. Dogs who received height card will be converted to a permanent measurement under CMJ are grandfathered and their height card is still valid.
- 3.5. If any competitors have concerns with the measuring they should discuss with the Regional Director, another Judge present, Head of Judges Committee or ED. NAFA will follow-up and respond as appropriate.

4. Owner Initiated Remeasure (OIR) Process ²

- 4.1. After the age of two (2), the owner of a dog can request a one-time during the life of the dog Owner Initiated Remeasure.
- 4.2. The OIR process is:
 - 4.2.1. If the first OIR measurement does NOT change the jump height from the current Permanent Measurement, then no further measurements are given and the Permanent Measurement remains unchanged.
 - 4.2.2. If the first OIR measurements places the dog at a different jump height (in either direction), then a second OIR measurement is required to take place on a separate tournament week. If this second OIR measurement matches the first OIR measurement, then NAFA will consider this the new Permanent Measurement and update the database accordingly. For debate by the BoD, should this second OIR be in a separate tournament week or can it happen in the same tournament week as the first OIR?
 - 4.2.3. If the second OIR measurements does not match the first one, then a third OIR measurement is required to determine the dog's jump height, and this will become the new Permanent Measurement (assuming this third matches either one of the first two OIR measurements) and recorded in the database as such.
- 4.3. Until such time that the dog has received all required OIR measurements, the dog must continue to compete at the current Permanent Measurement height.
- 4.4. OIR measurements can be performed by the same judge as the original Permanent Measurement

5. Measuring Judges Training and Certification

- 5.1. Initial Training Requirements for Approved Judges to be Certified for Measuring
 - 5.1.1. Initial certification to measure under the new device requires all judges:
 - 5.1.1.1. Be a Provisional or Approved and Supervising Judge in good standing
 - 5.1.1.2. Watch training videos 1, 2 and 3
 - 5.1.1.3. Measure at least 10 dogs with the new device within the 12-month training period
 - 5.1.1.4. Send a video setting up the measuring device and measuring at least 3 dogs from the same day (don't sent separate videos in – we aren't tracking) to the Judges Committee for review and approval. Can be in person as long as from a different region (makes sense at CanAm in particular)
 - 5.1.1.5. Judges Committee will review the video and either approve the judge to be certified for measuring or recommend additional training. Supervising Judges, from a different region, once they are certified for measuring will help review videos.
 - 5.1.1.6. Measuring certification will be documented in the NAFA database
- 5.2. Ongoing Judges Measuring Requirements
 - 5.2.1. Measuring of 5 different dogs in a NAFA year to maintain status. To maintain status Judges can measure "non-height" dogs or dogs with a Permanent

Measurement already and mark the dogs as “for certification ONLY” and it won’t impact the Permanent Measurement of the dog.

- 5.2.2. If a Judge does not meet this requirement, they will lose their judging status for the upcoming year and will need to go back a step in the Judges Training Process. Same rule that is in effect currently.
- 5.3. Training of New Judges in the Interim Period until the new Rule is in Effect
 - 5.3.1. Train on the new laser/rule device only
 - 5.3.2. Novice Judges should be sure to complete their measuring assignments under a Supervising Judge that has completed the new measuring certification.
 - 5.3.3. Apprentice and Provisional Judges that have already completed their measuring assignments do not need to repeat them. They will only need to go through the same training outlined above to be certified on the new device.

6. World Records

- 6.1. If the height dog has a Permanent Measurement at the time the World Record is achieved, they do not need to re-measure.
- 6.2. If the height dog does NOT have permanent measurement (i.e., is older than 2 years of age but only 1 measurement completed) and assuming that the one measurement they have was done during that same tournament week, they do not have to re-measure.
- 6.3. If the height dog is younger than 2 years of age or 10 years of age or over at the time the rule went into effect (this is a temporary issue) and:
 - 6.3.1. Measured that same tournament week then no do not have to re-measure.
 - 6.3.2. Not measured that same tournament week, then yes a measurement will be required for the World Record to be counted. The measurement should occur before the end of the tournament day and it is not required to be videotaped.
 - 6.3.2.1. If measure higher than what the team jumped in the World Record, then the World Record does NOT count. In this case the dogs still keep the points and win/loss from the heats.

7. Timeline for Release and Implementation

The below is only an example of possible dates. The BoD should consider the final implementation timeline. Consideration should be taken to avoid go-live at CanAm as the first tournament.

- 7.1. Release Video 1 on the device and ruler at the AGM.
- 7.2. Assume Racing Resumes for all regions April 1, 2021 (adjust dates below as needed based on when racing resumes)
- 7.3. April 1, 2021: Transitional Racing begins and training on new device begins. Judges will begin certification for measuring process.
- 7.4. April 1, 2021: Release the Training Videos (all 3)
- 7.5. October 1, 2021: Finalize updated rulebook. Mandatory measuring is not in effect at this time however you can start to obtain permanent measurements. (NOTE: CanAm will be a good place to have folks start to get their permanent measurement – maybe have people register for measuring so we have an idea of the number of people)
- 7.6. Judges Training Period: During this period, all current rules are in effect (i.e., wicket would be used for official measuring, no mandatory measuring, CMJs still in effect, etc.). Measuring would also happen under the new device for training of judges and competitors. If Judge is certified for measuring on the new device, then the measurement under the new device can count towards Permanent Measurement. During this time either device is considered an approved device. However, Judge must be certified on new device for that device to count.
- 7.7. Mandatory Measuring and all of the new rules do not go into effect until 12 months AFTER Normal Flyball has resumed (likely October 1, 2022)
- 7.8. Normal Flyball = all regions are allowed to play (i.e., no restrictions for large gatherings and all age groups have opportunity to get the vaccine) and the US/Canada border is open.

8. For Future Consideration: Measuring Official

We do not recommend this is implemented immediately but is something the NAFA board should consider in the future. Maybe this is on an as-needed basis at the approval of the board (to be sure we don't oversaturate a region with too many officials). They would have to apply just as judges do.

- 8.1. Create a new position called a Measuring Official. Someone who is interested in going through the training and certification to become an approved measuring official, but they are NOT a fully certified NAFA Approved judge. Their only role would be to perform measuring at tournaments, no other judging capacity.
- 8.2. To become a certified Measuring Official, one must:
 - 8.2.1. Watch videos 1, 2 and 3
 - 8.2.2. Read rulebook measurement program sections
 - 8.2.3. Go through the same measuring training and requirements under Supervising Judges as outlined in the Apprentice Judges training program.
- 8.3. It was also discussed that measuring could become separate from the Approved Judges (i.e., all aspects of judging in the ring) role and an individual could potentially be certified to be an Approved Judge of the ring but not for measuring.

References

1. The Mandatory Measuring process outlined above was modeled after the AKC Agility measuring process. The below AKC process, taken from the AKC website, is provided for reference.

How does the measuring process work?

For the judge's planning purposes, the Trial Secretary should provide the judge with a list of dogs that need to be measured. This list is comprised from all the entries for the trial where "My Dog Needs To Be Measured" was check-marked on the entry form.

- If an AKC Agility Field Representative or a Volunteer Measuring Official (VMO) is present at the event the following dogs **must** be measured for a regardless of the jump height they entered. **All dogs that have not:**
 - Completed all of the required measurements for a permanent to be issued by AKC, or
 - That do not have a valid Temporary jump height yellow measuring form (for dogs under 2 years old)
- If a VMO or Field Rep. is available, the dog must be measured before it runs.
- If a VMO or Field Rep. is not available to measure the dog before it runs, then the **Judge of Record** needs to measure the dog prior to running, **only** if they have not previously been officially measured.
 - Dogs jumping in the 24 and 26-inch jump height are excluded from being measured by the judge of record.
 - Any dog that has been officially measured at least once and has a yellow measuring form that has not expired on their second birthday **does not** have to be measured by the Judge of Record.

How do I get an official permanent AKC ?

When there is an official to measure dogs at an event, they will have Agility Measurement forms available for owner's to fill in with their ownership information and their dog's information. This form is signed by the owner and presented to the official.

If your dog is measured twice in one day, the last measurement taken in the day is the "official" one effective from that point forward. There is a time noted on all measurement forms to determine which form is the current measurement.

For dogs two (2) years old and older:

- At two (2) years of age two measurements are required by two different "Officials" (VMO's, AKC Agility Field Reps, or Director of Agility).
- If these two measurements put the dog in two different agility jump heights, then a third measurement is required to determine the dog's official jump height.
- The handler will retain all yellow measuring forms until the second (or third) measurement is taken and the permanent jump height card is received from AKC. These yellow forms are your official documents.
- No permanent height card will be issued by AKC until the final (second or third) measurement is officially recorded. Keep your yellow forms until you receive the jump height card from AKC.

There is an exception for dogs measuring over 22 inches. For these dogs, the owner may request AKC to issue a permanent jump height card after only one official measurement:

- The owner's request to issue a permanent card for a dog that measures over 22 inches after only one measurement will negate the option of any additional measurements for that dog's permanent jump height card.

- To receive the card after only one measurement, the owner must sign and check the appropriate box on the Agility Measurement Form acknowledging the request to issue a permanent jump height card for dogs over 22 inches.
- When the owner makes this decision, it still allows for them to request a “challenge” measurement for the dog using the Challenge Measurement Process in the future if they choose to do so.

What if my dog isn't two (2) years old yet?

- For dogs between 15 months and two (2) years of age, only one measurement is required for an official Temporary measurement.
- The handler will retain the yellow measuring form and this form is the dog's Temporary jump height card; no card will be issued by AKC.
- This temporary jump height card form expires on the dog's second birthday.
- Once the dog turns two (2) years old, they must be measured as indicated above.

2. The Owner Initiated Remeasure process outlined above was modeled after the AKC Challenge Measurement Process. The below AKC process is provided for reference.

Challenge Measurement Process: What if I disagree with the original official measurement for my dog?

Dogs under two (2) years of age:

- For dogs between 15 months and prior to their second birthday, a handler may “challenge” the official measurement their dog received.
- The measuring official shall be informed that the handler would like a “challenge” measurement and shall check the challenge box on the form.
- For dogs under two (2) years, only one measurement is required for the Challenge Measurement Process.
- Once the single challenge measurement is complete for a dog under two (2) years of age, the measurement is effective immediately.

Dogs two (2) years old and older:

- After the age of two (2) years, the owner of a dog is allowed to make use of the Challenge Measurement Process one-time over the dog's lifetime.
- The Challenge Measurement Process mimics the original measuring process and consists of a minimum of two (2) official challenge measurements.
 - No changes to the dog's official measurement will be effective until the entire Challenge Measurement Process has been completed.
 - Until such time that the dog has received all required challenge measurements, the dog must continue to compete at the “original” jump height.
- If the first two challenge measurements place the dog into the same jump height class, then AKC will issue a new permanent jump height card.
- If the first two challenge measurements put the dog in two different jump heights, then a third challenge measurement is required to determine the dog's official jump height class.
- Once the Challenge Measurement Process has been completed (with two or three measurements) and the owner has the yellow forms from the measurements, the new measurement is effective immediately.
- The last measurement (based on date and time) from this process is the official measurement for the dog. This measurement should be listed on all future entry forms.
- AKC will record all of the challenge measurements and will issue a replacement permanent agility for the dog.