

# USDAA® Official Rules & Regulations – Amendments effective January 1, 2009

The following rule changes related to equipment specifications for construction and performance have been approved effective January 1, 2009, unless otherwise specified.

- The Long Jump shall have new specifications as follows:

### Championship Program

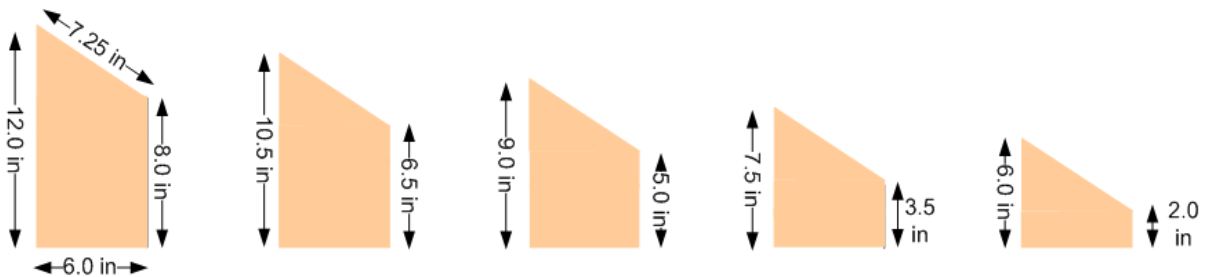
Jumping Height	# of Planks	Height at Back Edge of Plank	Overall Span
12"	2	7 ½", 6"	20"
16"	3	9", 7 ½", 6"	36"
22"	4	10 ½", 9", 7 ½", 6"	48"
26"	5	12", 10 ½", 9", 7 ½", 6"	60"

### Performance Program

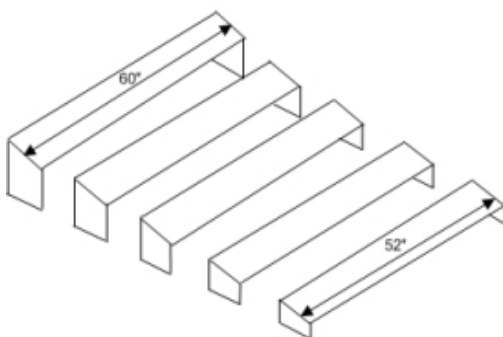
Jumping Height	# of Planks	Height at Back Edge of Plank	Overall Span
8"	1*	7 ½"	6" (app)
12"	2	7 ½", 6"	24"
16"	3	9", 7 ½", 6"	36"
22"	4	10 ½", 9", 7 ½", 6"	48"

\*Note that 7 ½" board is used instead of the lower 6" board when only one board is used.

All planks shall be 7¼" wide and measure in length between 36" and 60", have a pitch measuring approximately 33 degrees from the plane parallel to the ground, resulting in a 4" drop in height on each plank from back to front. See diagram below for visual construction specifications for each unit at each height.) The planks shall be equally spaced over the span for each jump height.



*It is recommended that side supports exceed 6.0 inches in width in order to flare out (not shown) for stability. Boards should be evenly spaced from the first board to the last board.*



*The length of each long jump element may be slightly less in length than the previous higher element in order to permit nesting for storage.*

*Max Width: 60"; Min. width: 36".  
(Diagram shown is an example only.)*

*[This rule was adopted to create a more dynamic jump by conforming the long jump to specifications used historically in the sport and in current use overseas. The effect is a jump that has the appearance of a wall to the dog on approach, with space between planks not being visible on initial approach in the normal flow of the course, and with slightly greater height than previous regulations.]*

- A tire should be firmly tethered into a sturdy frame that will not topple with the potential torque that might be created should a dog hit a tire at high speed. Some “give” is recommended but “bungees” or similar highly pliable tethers that may permit the dog to “carry the tire” or create “sling-shot” effect are strongly discouraged. Should a tire be constructed to temporarily break apart upon contact by the dog, the pull-force necessary to break the tire must meet specifications to be announced, and all parts of the tire shall remain suspended within the frame in such a manner as to not create risk of injury to the dog, The Board anticipates an announcement by year-end for the specifications for pull-force and whether an automatic reset is permitted, along with judging criteria when such a tire is used. When a break-apart tire is utilized, the tire jump as a whole must meet all other specifications for the tire jump.

*[This rule is to address safety concerns relative to the tire. The present use of bungees has indicated a tendency to interject added risk by creating additional torque by the dog carrying the tire with them should their rear legs not fully clear the height, increasing the stress on the frame, or by creating a sling-shot effect flipping the dog or catapulting them back. A more rigid tether should permit the dog to slide through without the risk of additional forces. In the case of a breakaway tire, the same would be true, and the pull force required to break a tire could be increased if the force of impact is absorbed by the tethers.]*

- Weave pole spacing shall be set at 21” (subject to specified tolerance in Appendix A), when measured center of one pole to center of the next. Further, when poles are taped, tape must be firmly attached to the poles and not be frayed or create drag if the dog should make contact with the pole while weaving.

*[The purpose of this rule is to conform weave pole spacing to the standard utilized by most USDAA groups under the present regulations, which are intended to focus on demonstration of a dog’s suppleness while weaving the line of poles; while speed is always an element in performance, it is not the goal of the weave poles to demonstrate speed.]*

- Jump cup holders/supports shall not protrude more than 2” from their mount on the wing and shall not have any sharp edges.

*[This rule is to recognize the wide variety in design of jump cups and to reduce the risk of a dog being cut or bruised by jump cup supports.]*

- The See-Saw shall be of sufficient thickness and structural integrity such that it will not flex or torque excessively when it hits the ground. Either the base or other visual indication of the pivot point must be visible to the dog when approaching the ramp from the front.

*[This rule is to draw attention to maintaining the structural integrity of the plank, so that added torque that may arise from a non-rigid plank or base does not increase the likelihood of injury to a dog.]*

- Granulated rubber surface materials may be used on contact obstacles; matting and carpeting remain unacceptable.

*[A variety of new materials have become available in recent years that appear to provide the durability and stability desired on ramps. Matting and carpeting, however, are still prohibited due to the tendency of such materials to shred or fray. ]*

- The wishing well is removed from the rule book.

*[The wishing well has not be used in more than ten years due to design and function issues for different heights of dogs. It originally was a specialty jump in England used when only one jump height existed, but its adaptability to a variety of heights made it impractical. The jump could still be utilized under the regulations of "Other Jumps and Hurdles", but must clearly conform to these provisions. ]*

- The viaduct is to be added to the rule book with specifications. The width of the main unit may not exceed 8". The top portion must consist of displaceable, lightweight blocks (rounded in appearance) – or- a jump bar suspended above the main section. Two arches (one required) to be cutout in the central base unit to simulate a viaduct in the classical style.

*[The viaduct has been a standard jump in use throughout Great Britain and other parts of Europe. It adds to the color and flavor of a course presentation, and is much like a wall jump, which is also permissible. The primary difference between the two being the absence of arches through the wall.]*

- Clubs are encouraged to place a visual indicator attached either to the side of the A-frame or the supporting chain to assist in distinguishing the height setting of the A-frame from a distance. As previously announced, the A-frame shall be set at angle of no more than 99 degrees for dogs jumping 22" and 26", and no less than 104" for dogs jumping 12" and 16", and for all dogs in the Performance Program.

*[It is determined that the angle (i.e., slope) determines the degree of force upon the dog when engaging the ramps, and therefore the critical factor in setting the A-frame for performance to assure a consistent measure for the A-frame. It should be noted that other factors related to other specifications for the style of construction can impact the height when the angle is accurately set. Depending on the actual length of these measures (length of ramps, pointed or flat top), it should be noted that the height of the A-frame could vary as much as five or six inches, when the A-frame is properly set compared to another of different design. Therefore it is important the angle be measured accurately, and that marks be place on the sides of the A-frame to show a straight line when the A-frame is set at the appropriate angles in order that judges and competitors can determine the A-frame is at the correct setting. See separate [White Paper](#) for diagrams and clarifications.]*

- Spread jumps - spread jumps need to be winged and the wing needs to be generally in line with the back bar. Bar width must be 5' in length.

*[This rule was adopted to enhance the visibility of a spread hurdle by providing more consistent appearance and providing a consistent span (within permissible tolerance as set forth in Appendix A) between wings on spread hurdles.]*