

## APPENDIX D—REGISTRATION OF DOGS & JUNIOR HANDLER TEAMS

A dog must be registered in order to compete in USDAA® events. The responsibility to provide a registration number for entry to an event rests solely with the competitor.

The dog becomes eligible to compete in competition at eighteen (18) months of age, or fourteen (14) months for entry into the Intro Program.<sup>D.01</sup>

The following procedures for certification of a dog's height have been established for the determination of a dog's minimum jumping height as provided in Section 3.2 of these rules and regulations.

### Registration Application

A dog or junior handler dog team may be registered by —

- completing application online through the USDAA web site at [www.usdaa.com](http://www.usdaa.com),
- mailing a completed registration form and fee to the USDAA office, or
- submitting a registration application and fee along with entry to an event.

The written registration application shall meet the form and content as prescribed by the Board of Directors, which may be downloaded from the USDAA web site at [www.usdaa.com](http://www.usdaa.com).

Where a dog is not recognized by a major breed registry and cannot be definitively identified as to breed or birth date, the dog shall be classified as an "All Breed" or other approved designation and an estimate of the dog's birth date shall be made and entered on the form.<sup>D.02</sup>

USDAA issues a temporary registration card bearing the information included on the registration application. Any errors on the card must be reported to USDAA for correction to assure correct issuance of title certificates. The registrant shall be liable for cost of reissuance of cards if lost or stolen, or for the reissuance of title certificates that contain previously unreported errors.

### Height Certification

On the back of the temporary registration card is the Judges Certification form. To receive a permanent registration card, a dog must measure over 21" (53cm), or must meet specific age and measurement requirements as set forth below.

All measurements must be made on a flat surface utilizing a USDAA-approved measuring device. Final determination of suitability of the surface and calibration of the device (provided by the club) shall be made by the judge.

Should a surface be found not level enough to provide for an accurate measurement and/or an approved device is rendered not functional, the judge shall evaluate each dog's height for that event only, notify the event secretary of any discrepancy between height class entered and the dog's measured height and no measurement shall be recorded on the temporary card.

The following height certification policies and procedures apply:

- Only one measurement per day and two within a seven (7) day period may be obtained.
- For multiple-day events, only the first measurement shall be effective for determining the proper height class for that event.
- Dogs must be at least eighteen months of age for measurements to be officially recorded.
- A measuring judge must be fully approved at the Advanced or Masters level (or Advanced under supervision provided the judge's supervisor observes the process) and must be a judge of record for the event, except as otherwise provided below.
- At least one of the judges must be a Certified Measuring Judge (or "CMJ"), and all three judges must agree to the height classification, or additional measurements are required, unless the two concurring measurements are by CMJs.
- Any measurement that is made resulting in a dog being required to jump at a higher height than indicated on the temporary registration card or event entry form (when a temporary registration card is not available) must be reported by the judge to USDAA via the Event Judging Report. The dog must be placed in the proper height class for the event based upon the measurement.

- If the dog is less than three years of age and any of the measurements are less than one inch beneath the cutoff height (for example, >11" to 12" for a dog in the 12" height class), the dog must be re-measured by a CMJ after age three to establish its permanent height.
- Where a CMJ differs in opinion from other judges rendering height measurements after age three, a second CMJ must make an independent measurement. If the two CMJs disagree, then a third CMJ shall make an independent measurement. The two CMJs that are in agreement shall determine the dog's official jump height class designation as set forth in Section 3.2 of the rules and regulations.

### Permanent Height Cards

In cases where a competitor wishes to avoid controversy when official measurements are in disagreement, the competitor may request an official CMJ committee evaluation which must be requested from USDAA in writing. Upon receipt of a request, USDAA shall appoint a CMJ committee to make an evaluation and render a decision. USDAA reserves the right at any time to call for an evaluation upon review of a dog's measurement record.

A permanent registration card may be issued upon satisfactory completion of the foregoing procedures to certify the dog's height and –

- no measurement between eighteen (18) months of age and three (3) years of age is within one inch beneath the cutoff height for their official height class, or
- the dog has three measurements as described above and is at least three years of age when the CMJ measurement consistent with other measurements is obtained, or
- the CMJ measurement obtained after age three is consistent with other judge signatures obtained prior to age three
- the two CMJ measurements obtained after age three (3) are in agreement

A temporary card meeting the foregoing criteria may be used as a permanent card until the original, signed, temporary card is sent to USDAA for certification; however, any temporary card that is not processed for a permanent card within three (3) years of issuance, may be assessed a renewal fee or marked as expired. If expired, a reinstatement fee will need to be paid to reinstate the registration. A dog may not be entered into competition with an expired card.

A competitor should allow three (3) to six (6) weeks for issuance of a permanent card. A competitor may request an official certification letter or print a copy of their dog's record status from the Competitor Services section of USDAA's web site, either of which may be used until the permanent card is received. Photocopies of temporary cards are not acceptable for measurement certification at events.

A competitor must present their registration card at check-in to confirm that the dog's registration number has been properly recorded on event records and that the dog is entered in the proper height class. The responsibility for confirmation of the registration number rests with the competitor.

### Challenging a Permanent Height Card

Any judge may challenge a dog's permanently registered height by filing a written request for evaluation with USDAA, which shall appoint a panel of CMJs to evaluate the dog's height. A dog may not be challenged more than once in a twelve-month period.

## **APPENDIX D FOOTNOTES**

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*D.01 Age of competition and performance standards have been established so as not to encourage rigorous training prior to full physiological development of the dog.*

*D.02 USDAA reserves the right to request proof of a dog's age, with such proof being represented by an official record of breed or litter registration from a recognized registry, or if a dog is not so registered, a photograph and a veterinarian's letter of opinion, stipulating that the age represented on the registration application is a reasonable estimate. Such estimate shall become the official "birth date" of record and may not be changed at a later date without significant, substantive evidence to the contrary.*