

## Agility Committee 2020 Equipment Changes Background and Rationale

### Background

In October 2019, the Agility Committee started to look at the requests for standardisation of equipment. The AC's rationale for the altered dimensions of equipment is that the community wanted standardisation. This means that if you go to any show in the country, the length and height of the obstacle will be the same. Currently, the range in some of the dimensions of our equipment is substantial.

### Initial Resources

- Standardisation Survey – which provided a starting point for the “what” and “how” of the project
- Club Equipment Survey – This was collated to provide information on what the dimensions and type of equipment the clubs had.

### Initial Meeting

- The initial meeting in December narrowed the list of items to be considered for standardisation and outlined the plan for them. The items of equipment were:
  - a) Weaves
  - b) Dogwalk
  - c) Aframe
  - d) Seesaw

### Consultation Period

- The consultation was done throughout the first few months of 2020 with both clubs and individuals invited to input twice during this period.

### Regulation Change

- Set for 1 July 2020

### Grandfather Clause

- The changes contain a grandfather clause which allows clubs to plan their upgrade of equipment over the next 4 years.

## Rationale General

In looking at each piece of equipment, the following were initially considered:

What do clubs have currently?

How much variation is there?

Is there a sensible choice amongst the existing equipment?

What dimensions of this obstacle are used by other countries?\*

\*Please note that the reason we looked at what is used around the world is not due to a desire for us to copy the overseas associations necessarily, but rather to utilise their enormous "user base" to see what is working for all heights and speeds of dogs around the world. It does follow that if there are many hundreds of thousands of runs completed over many years on equipment overseas without issue, it is effectively research which we do not need to duplicate using our time and resources.

## Equipment specific Rationale

### Weaves

Of concern amongst the respondents who wanted the weaves standardise was the range of weave pole thickness and their reaction (eg whipping etc) as well as base twist and wobble. The AC found that we did have a currently available weave set which set the requirements of eliminating variation, whip and wobble. The initial proposal narrowed the options to one set of specifications but input and suggestion during the consultation process saw the addition of a second option of base construction (while retaining the same pole thickness etc)

A formal comparison with weaves overseas was not completed as they type of change required was mostly around specifications which were not necessarily outlined in overseas regulations. Worldwide most associations do not specify base width, flex of poles, height of supports etc.

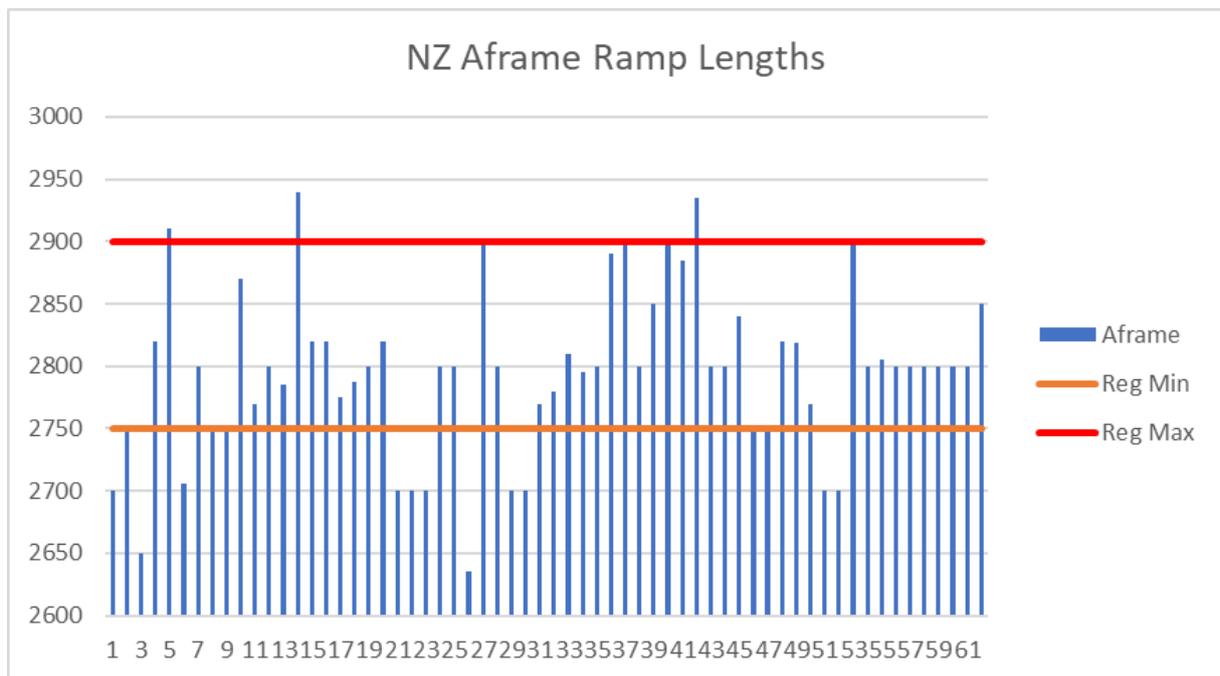
## Aframe

Collation of information provided by clubs on existing equipment and an examination of overseas associations sizings

### 1. What we have

NZ Clubs provided detail on their current Aframe. Any where we were not provided with the actual sizes have been removed from the list. This has left 62 A-frames countrywide.

Ramp Length – A graph showing the length of the Aframe ramps in use in NZ is below. The two red lines represent the limits of the current regulations.

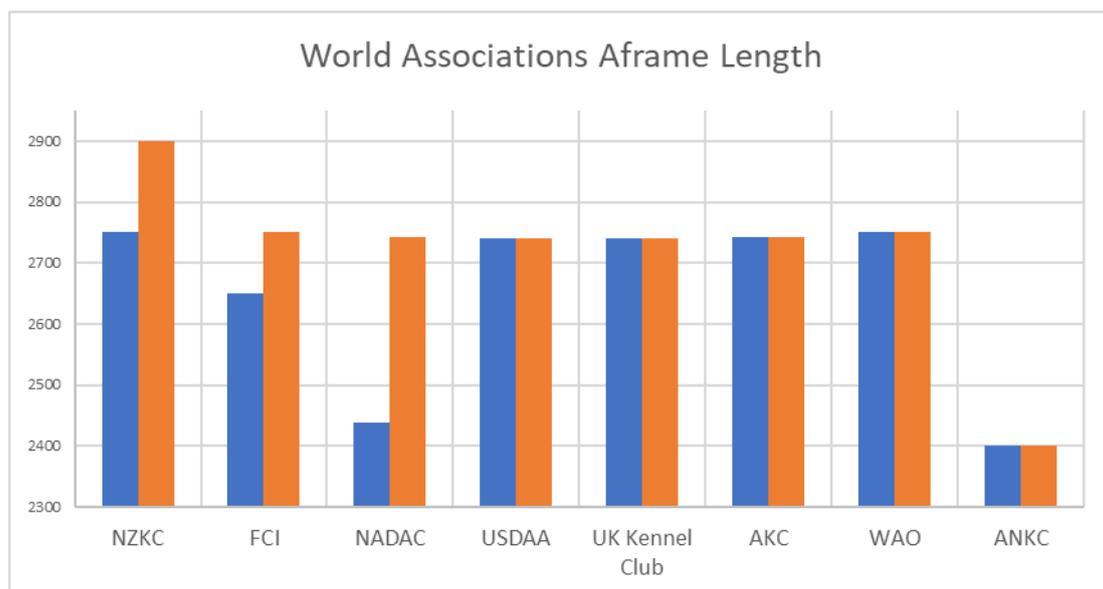


It is possible that the outliers are simply the result of inaccurate measurement although one is significantly short and may be an error in recording. There is quite a lot of variation seen. Range is approx. 350mm.

2. What others have

A comparison of the International associations' regulations against ours of the Aframe is below - in both numeric and graph form.

|           | Ramp length min | Ramp length max | Width    | Height min | Height max |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|------------|------------|
| NZKC      | 2750            | 2900            | 900      | 1730       | 1825       |
| FCI       | 2650            | 2750            | 900      | 1700       | 1700       |
| NADAC     | 2438            | 2743            | 910-1210 | 1420       | 1524       |
| USDAA     | 2740            | 2740            | 915      | 1572       | 1676       |
| UK Kennel | 2740            | 2740            | 915      | 1700       | 1700       |
| AKC       | 2743            | 2743            | 889      | 1676.4     | 1676.4     |
| WAO       | 2750            | 2750            | 915      | 1700       | 1700       |
| ANKC      | 2400            | 2400            | 900      | 1587       | 1587       |



There are several things to note here.

- Our width is ok and is common all over the world
- The lower end of our ramp range is fine in relation to others
- There is too much range in our ramps
- The top of the range is very long

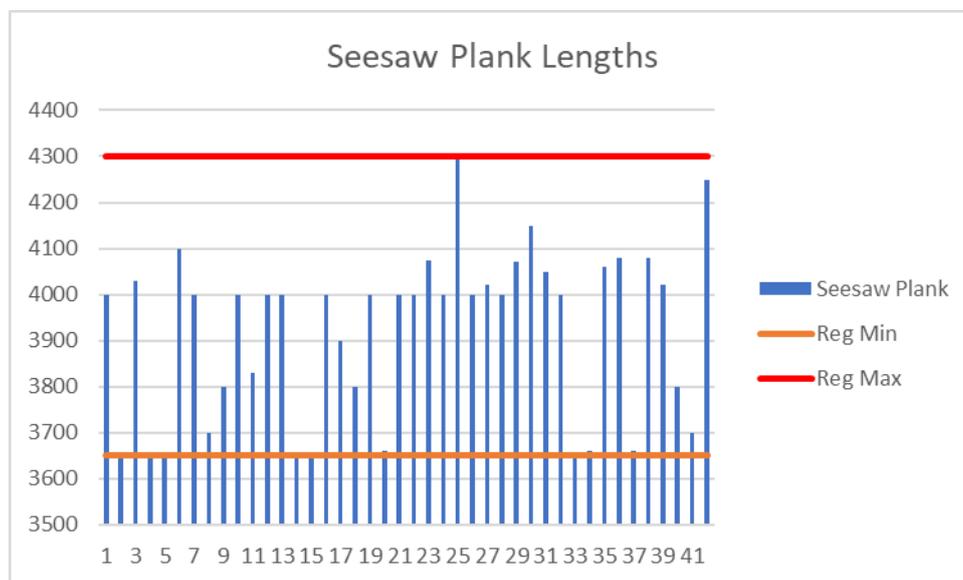
In looking at the existing A-frames in NZ, it became obvious that there was the possibility for selecting one end of the current range of ramp lengths and with lowering the apex, issues around standardisation of this obstacle would be complete.

## Seesaw

Collation of information provided by clubs on existing equipment and an examination of overseas associations sizings

### 3. What we have

NZ Clubs provided detail on their current seesaws. Unfortunately, the pivot height was not requested so we have no data on how many clubs have 600mm pivots and how many have 70mm pivots. Graph below shows the actual reported lengths of the seesaws in use in NZ.

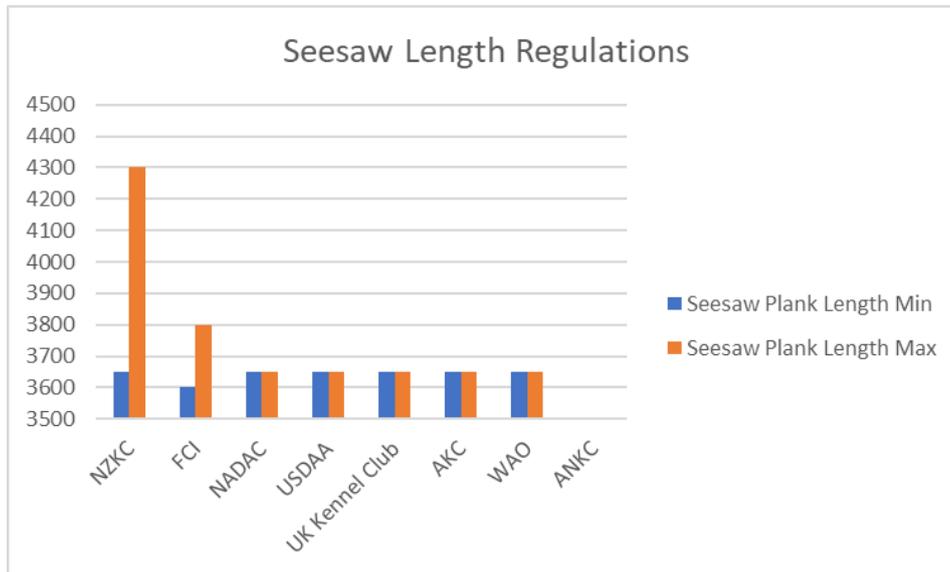


Significant variation in the length of the plank as you would expect with our regulation allowance.

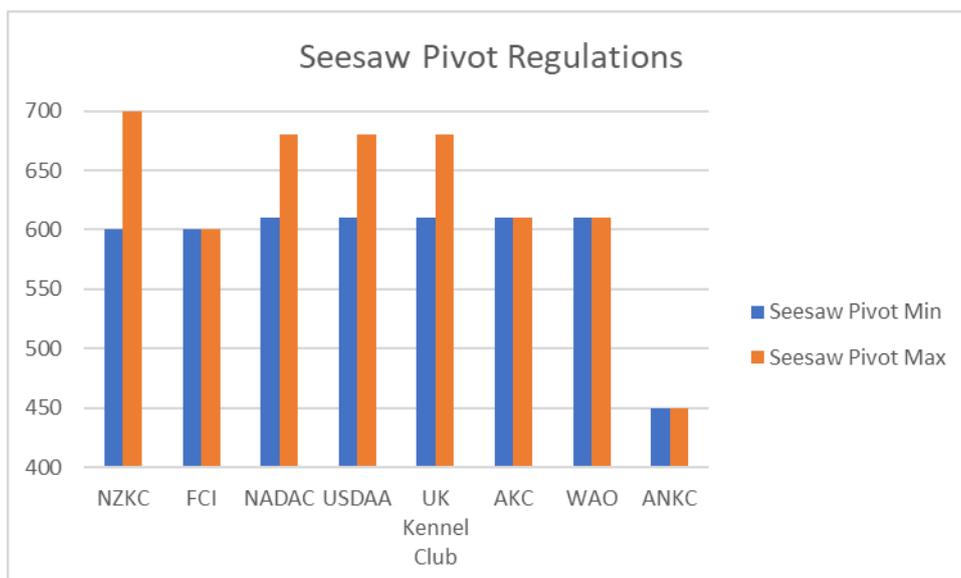
### 4. What others have

|                | Length min | Length max | Height    | Pivot min | Pivot Max |
|----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NZKC           | 3650       | 4300       | 1200-1400 | 600       | 700       |
| FCI            | 3600       | 3800       | 1200      | 600       | 600       |
| NADAC          | 3650       | 3650       | 1220-1360 | 610       | 680       |
| USDAA          | 3650       | 3650       | 1220-1360 | 610       | 680       |
| UK Kennel Club | 3650       | 3650       | 1220-1360 | 610       | 680       |
| AKC            | 3650       | 3650       | 1220      | 610       | 610       |
| WAO            | 3650       | 3650       | 1210      | 610       | 610       |
| ANCK           | 3500       | 3500       | 900       | 450       | 450       |

Please note that the yellow highlighted measurements are calculated as not supplied in the regs.



The above graph shows the extreme range of length of the NZ seesaw plank as against the other associations.



There are several things to note here.

- Our width is ok and is common all over the world
- The lower end of our seesaw plank range is fine in relation to others
- There is too much range in our seesaw plank
- The lower end of our seesaw pivot range is ok in relation to others
- There is too much range in our seesaw pivot

The Agility Committee resolved to standardise the plank length to 3.6m and lower the pivot point to 500mm removing the variation and decreasing up end height.

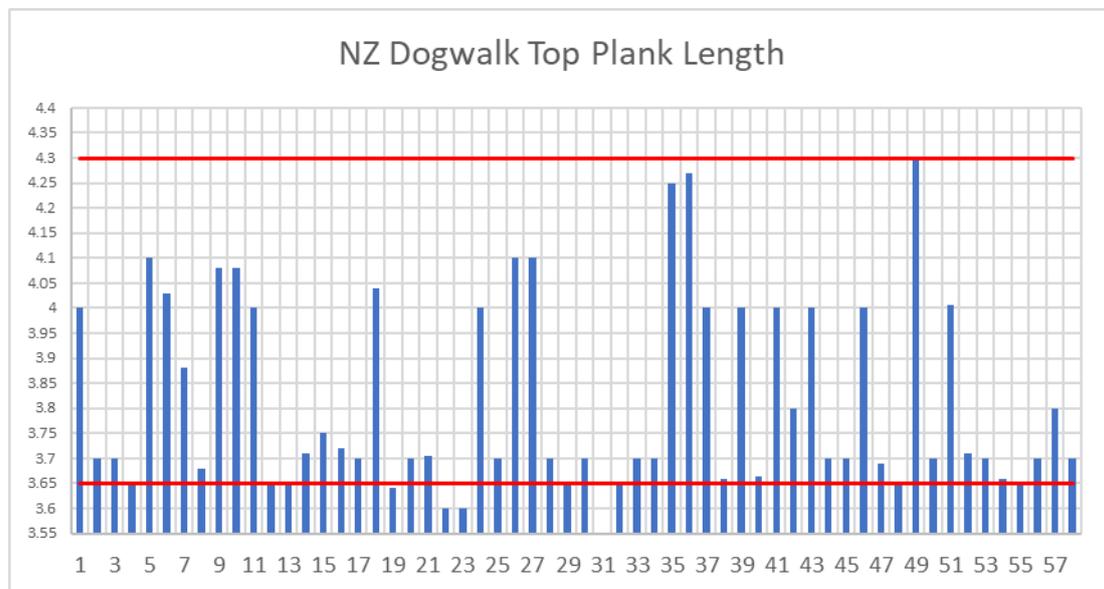
## Dogwalk

Collation of information provided by clubs on existing equipment and an examination of overseas associations sizings.

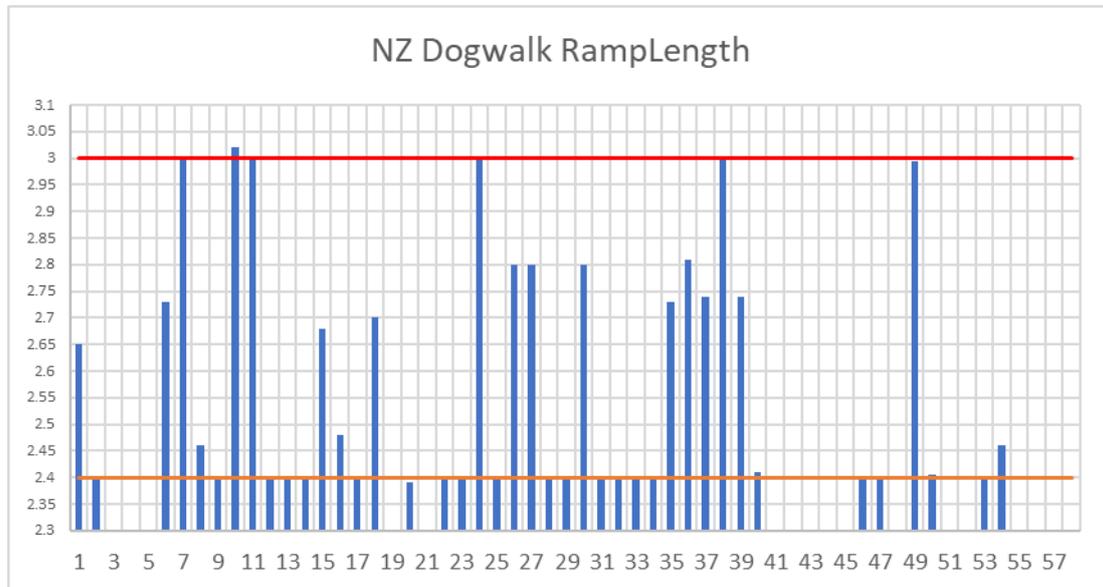
### 5. What we have

NZ Clubs provided detail on their current dogwalks. Any where we were not provided with the actual sizes have been removed from the list. This has left 58 dogwalks countrywide.

Top Plank – A graph showing the length of the top plank is below. The two red lines represent the limits of the regulations.



Ramp length of existing dogwalks. As below – all ramps were inside the length required for the most part. The empty spots are where the length was not supplied.



There is significant variation in our ramp length as you would expect given our regulations.

#### 6. What others have

|           | Height          | Width          | Top plank      | Ramps          |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| NZKC      | 1 to 1.2m       | 300mm          | 3.65m to 4m    | 2.4 to 3m      |
| FCI       | 1.2m to 1.3m    | 300mm          | 3.6 to 3.8m    | 3.6 to 3.8m    |
| NADAC     | 1.17m to 1.27m  | 300mm          | 3.5 to 3.65m   | 3.5 to 3.65m   |
| USDAA     | 1.219m to 1.37m | 300mm          | 3.65m          | 3.65m          |
| UK Kennel | 1.2m            | 250-300mm      | 3.66m          | 3.66m          |
| AKC       | 1.219m          | 300mm          | 3.657m         | 3.657m         |
| WAO       | 1.2m            | 300mm          | 3.65m to 3.71m | 3.65m to 3.71m |
| ANKC      | 1.2m            | 300mm to 330mm | 3.5m           | 3.5m           |

- Our width is ok and is common all over the world
- The lower end of our top end plank range is fine in relation to others
- There is too much range in our top plank
- We are the only ones with ramps a different length than the top plank
- Our ramps are very short and there is a large variation in the range

Looking at the measurements of all the current equipment around the country the variance was so great that there was no length that would best suit the majority of existing equipment, therefore we had to look elsewhere for guidance. Our original proposal was to follow the standard of a majority of other countries and go with 3.6m length for all 3 ramps, and the height of 1.2m. After releasing this information, the majority were in agreement with this, with the exception of lowering the height to 1m which was done for the second release for consideration.

Another suggestion provided during consultation included going to 3m up and down ramps (rather than the proposed 3.6m) . Part of the rationale was that it was at the upper end of the existing range. The graph above shows that very few clubs would had ramps this length. Another reason was that the angle of incidence would be the same as 3.6m ramps at 1.2m high which is correct.

The Agility Committee discussed this option at length on two occasions. It was ultimately resolved that the advantages of the longer ramp providing the ability for stride alterations as well as the slightly shallower angle of the 3.6m ramps at 1m was the Agility Committee's desired solution by unanimous vote.

A dogwalk built at the new height was videoed and the Agility committee was happy with the picture it presented.

### Slats

Slats in NZ are already superior to many used around the world in terms of material and size. However, with rubberised contact equipment in full use for many years now (in excess of 15 years) an many people having equipment at home at full spec but without slats providing plenty of test data, it is obvious that slats are not required on the contact gear.

The question was asked in the first round of questions around the slats and feedback was that people who responded were happy for them to go.

The reasoning for slats to be made optional in the previous version of the changes was that clubs had a lot to change and we did not want to force the removal of the slats from the cross-over in these updates as well (as the crossover was not otherwise being altered). However, with the change to the longer grandfather clauses, we have added the removal of slats from all equipment by the end of the grandfather clauses.

### Grandfather Clause

While all new equipment will be required to meet the new specifications, existing equipment will have a period per type of equipment in which both interim and final changes must be made.

After consultation, and in light of the Covid-19 situation in NZ, the initial grandfather clauses were extended to approx. 4 years for those pieces of equipment requiring the most dramatic change.

As can be seen a significant body of work was completed and the Agility Committee spent a great deal of time considering the implications of the change proposed. The decisions made came out of solid research and full and thorough consideration of all input and options provided during the feedback period.