



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Agility Department

August 27, 2013

Subject: **Break-Away Tire**

The AKC Agility Department is reviewing the breakaway tire regulation that requires that the tire stay open once it has been broken apart. After discussion with AKC Field Staff and the Agility Advisory Committee, effective September 3rd the tire will not be required to stay open once it has been broken open during this additional 6 month review period ending on March 3, 2014. All other aspects of the breakaway tire design and the judging of the breakaway tire will remain the same.

Effective September 4, 2013, clubs holding AKC agility trials must use a break-away tire in place of the standard tire jump. There will be a six month period (September 4, 2013- March 3, 2014) during which time the tire may stay apart upon being broken open or the tire may be allowed to automatically reset. The tire will be judged if it is broken open as an "F" which will result in a non-qualifying score "NQ".

Judges and clubs please review the revised information on how to properly test the break point of the tire listed which is listed below.

Change to the Regulations are as follows for the next 6 months:

Chapter 3, Section 12. Tire Jump.

The Tire Jump consists of a tire (or a circular object that resembles a tire) suspended from a rectangular frame. The tire is constructed of two 180 degree segments that are connected at the top to allow for independent movement of each segment. The connection must be adjustable to allow for calibration/testing at the trial site by the Judge of record for the class. The setting for the connection is 16-20 pounds of horizontal force with 18 pounds preferred. The setting will be confirmed by using a calibrated scale (in foot pounds) attached to a tire side mounting point. With one side secured to the frame, the opposite side is pulled using the scale until the segments pull apart. When the tire is broken open it must stay open and not automatically reset. The inner diameter of the tire is 24 inches plus or minus an inch, and the wall is 3 to 8 inches thick. The tire must be connected to the frame at 3 points. There must be at least 7 inches between the outside of the tire and the sides of the frame, and the frame must be tall enough to accommodate the tire at the seven different jump heights, as specified for the Bar Jump. The uprights of the frame shall be secured to the base and the base must be weighted or secured properly to the running surface. The jump height is measured from the ground to the bottom of the tire opening. The tire shall not be displaceable off the frame. The tire shall have a minimum depth of 2 inches and must be made of flexible material, such as rubber or plastic to allow some give if hit by the dog.

Judges

Tire Calibration:

In order to properly calibrate the tire, one side of the tire has to be firmly secured to the frame. Replace the bungee or elastic strap with a non-elastic strap (a dog leash would do in a hurry). After one side of the tire has been secured, use the provided fish scale to gently pull the segments apart.

Once you are satisfied that the tire meets the required 16-20 lbs. requirement, secure the tire to the frame with the provided strap or elastic band. Leave them loose enough as to not apply any additional pressure on the tire.

Judging Position:

Judges will still be required to be in the proper position to see that the tire has been broken apart. You must physically see the tire come apart and not rely on any sound to justify a fault. Please refer to the JG diagram 3.3.3 (page 89) for the proper judging position of the tire.