

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

Place Albert 1^{er}, 13, B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique), tel : +32.71.59.12.38, fax : +32.71.59.22.29, Internet : <http://www.fci.be>

FCI REGULATIONS FOR SHOW JUDGES

CONTENTS

- 1 General
- 2 Minimum requirements regarding application, education, examination and nomination as Show Judge
- 3 Additional breeds
- 4 Definition of categories of show judges within the FCI
- 5 General conditions for admission as a show judge
- 6 General duties of a Show Judge
- 7 Travel and insurance arrangements
- 8 Behaviour
- 9 Penalties
- 10 Enforcement dispositions



NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders and numbers

1. General

The regulations set forth in **the paragraphs 1 through 8 are compulsory for all FCI National Canine Organizations and contract partners and must be considered as MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS of the FCI** for any individual to be accepted as a show judge by *the* national canine organization *of the country where he has his legal residence and which is* a member of the FCI (hereafter named "FCI National Organization", shortly "FCI-NO"). It is up to each FCI-NO to increase and specify the general requirements set by the FCI. However, under no circumstances, may the rules of each country be in conflict with these FCI regulations.

2. Minimum requirements regarding application, education, examination and nomination as show judge

The applications of the candidates wishing to become show judges must be accepted under the official FCI-NO's regulations of the country *where the applicant has his legal residence*. It is the responsibility of each FCI-NO to provide adequate courses for its candidates to get the necessary education, to prepare the necessary examinations and to take care of their official approval as show judges.

The FCI-NO must provide a satisfactory basic judges training programme in order to educate the trainee on the subjects mentioned in paragraph 2. Such training programme must be on offer for the student-judges on a regular basis.

The same programme should be attended by the judges wishing to confirm their knowledge after a long absence from judging as well as for judges wishing to apply for additional breeds.

Such programme should be attended by the candidates before they are required to take the written examination.

In order to be recognised by the FCI as international show judge, the candidate applying for a very first breed must comply with the following requirements:

- a. Must be of legal age.
- b. At the time of application to become a trainee for one or more breeds, the applicant must prove that he has previously been a breeder with a registered affix and must have dogs registered with the official studbook of his country
or
alternatively that he has achieved successful results as a dog exhibitor for at least 5 years
or
alternatively that he has had active and responsible involvement in the canine activities for a minimum period of 5 years.
- c. Must have been on duty at official shows as a ring steward or secretary at least 5 times over a minimum period of one year in order to become knowledgeable about procedure and regulation matters.

- d. The candidate must be examined by the official examination committee nominated by his FCI-NO and take a written preliminary examination showing sufficient knowledge on the following subjects:
1. Anatomy, morphology and movement of dogs
 2. Genetics, health and character
 3. Knowledge of the breed standard(s)
 4. Behaviour, principles and techniques of judging
 5. National show regulations and other additional national rules
 6. FCI Show Regulations, these FCI rules for show judges and other additional rules

The candidate must **“PASS”** the written examination in total.

- e. Complete breed knowledge is one of the most important factors in judging and a qualified judge must be thoroughly conversant with the FCI breed standard in order to make decisions based upon knowledge of the breed being judged. The practical training must allow the trainee to gain a complete knowledge and understanding of the breed(s), of all regulations, as well as procedure in the ring. The practical training consists of the successful completion of an amount of shows where the candidate receives education, subject to having passed the written examination. It is the responsibility of the FCI-NO to establish a period of time and the amount of practical training.
- f. The practical education must be taken under the supervision of FCI recognised and well-experienced show judges. The candidate has to write reports on the dogs he judged during the education and forward them to the judge who has the responsibility of confirming the aspirant judge's knowledge, and his performance and behaviour to the official committee in charge. After successful completion of the practical education, the aspirant has to take a practical test supervised by the official examination-committee. This examination committee has to provide a written statement about the test and its results.
- g. Once approved by his FCI-NO and included in its show judges list, a candidate first has to judge over a minimum period of 2 years the breed(s) for which he has been approved in **the country where he has his legal residence** before he is allowed to accept to judge at FCI shows with CACIB outside **the country where he has his legal residence**.

It is the responsibility of each FCI-NO as member of the FCI to include in their official list of judges of the FCI only those individuals who have fulfilled the requirements stated above, to keep their list as well as all the information about every judge updated and to forward it to the FCI Office every year. This list must indicate clearly the breeds for which the judge is licensed to give the CACIB, the groups he is licensed to judge and whether or not he is licensed to judge the Best in Show. The FCI Breed Nomenclature must be observed when writing this list.

A judge – or candidate judge – who has been living for more than three years in a country different from **the** country **where he had his legal residence** is obliged to take further education and to get his approval for new breeds from the country where he lives at present. This disposition does not apply to International FCI all-breed judges.

3. ADDITIONAL BREEDS

Show judges who are already approved to judge one or more breed(s) in any given group and wish to be approved for additional breeds must apply in writing, must take practical education and pass a test on the standard of the breed(s) they are applying to judge additionally. A practical test for said breed(s) is also compulsory.

In the case of an absolute impossibility to provide the dogs of a certain breed for the practical test, the candidate must, as an alternative solution, pass an extensive test on the standard of the breed(s) he is applying to judge. This rule applies only to experienced judges who are adding a new breed or new breeds.

4. DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES OF SHOW JUDGES WITHIN THE FCI

A Show Judge of a FCI-NO can be:

- a) FCI Breed Judge
- b) FCI Group Judge
- c) FCI All Breed International Judge
- d) FCI All Breed National Judge

The FCI-NO has to forward to the FCI complete information concerning every judge who is permitted to judge outside **the** country **where he has his legal residence**.

- a) A FCI Breed Judge is a person who has been approved by his own FCI-NO to judge one or more breed(s).
- b) A FCI Group Judge is a person who has been approved by his FCI-NO to judge at group level one or more groups of the FCI official groups according to the FCI Nomenclature of Dog Breeds. The group judge's education has to last a minimum of one year each for the first five groups he applies for. A FCI group judge is approved to award the CACIB to any breed of said group. Once approved, FCI group judges from FCI-NO are permitted to judge Best of Group (BOG) competitions at CACIB shows for the group(s) for which they are qualified.

If a new breed is recognised by the FCI, a FCI group judge is automatically allowed to judge it providing that this breed is in a group which he is qualified to judge.

If a breed is transferred to a group for which a judge is not qualified, the judge retains his right to judge the breed in question.

In order for an aspirant to be permitted to become a FCI group judge, he must have been officially and regularly judging for at least 4 years at national and international shows. For the rest, the nomination to become a FCI group judge has to be entirely under the jurisdiction of the concerned FCI-NO, paying particular attention to the number of breeds registered in the country in question.

- c) An FCI All Breed International Judge is a judge who has been approved by his FCI-NO to judge all breeds of the FCI recognized groups. Only these judges are approved to officiate at CACIB Shows around the world for all the FCI recognized breeds.

If a new breed is recognised by the FCI, an FCI all breed international judge is automatically allowed to judge it.

In order for an aspirant to become an FCI all breed international judge, he must have been approved for at least five of the FCI groups. For the rest, the nomination to become an FCI all breed international judge has to be entirely under the jurisdiction of the concerned FCI-NO, paying particular attention to the number of breeds registered in the country in question.

However these judges can be made eligible as FCI all breed international judges only ten years after the approval for their first group. The FCI-NO has to consider that a judge can only be an all breed international judge when he has been educated and approved for different breeds in all groups. These breeds are at least a certain amount of breeds that are common in the country where the judge **has his legal residence**. The information about approval and nomination as an FCI all breed international judge has to be sent to the FCI office.

- d) An FCI All Breed National Judge is a judge who has been approved by his FCI-NO to judge all breeds at national level. This judge is approved to judge all FCI recognized breeds at CACIB shows only in **the** country **where he has his legal residence**. However this judge can only be approved to judge all breeds in his own country when he has been approved as a judge for at least five FCI groups. This applies only to FCI-NO where the number of dogs entered at shows does not normally exceed 80 (eighty) breeds. The FCI all breed national judge is allowed to officiate outside **the** country **where he has his legal residence** only for the breeds for which he is approved by the FCI as group or breed judge. The information about approval and nomination as a national all breed judge has to be sent to the FCI.

5. General conditions for admission as a Show Judge

Only those judges who are included in the list of show judges of any FCI-NO in accordance with previous conditions are allowed to award a CACIB at international shows. The breeds which the judges from FCI contract partners are allowed to judge are clearly listed in the individual contracts signed by the FCI and contract partners.

- Judges who have been approved by their FCI-NO but have not been judging for a period of 5 years or longer, must take a new practical test before being allowed to judge again. The FCI-NO, before granting a new authorization to judge, must verify the capacity of the applicant to judge the breed, or breeds, he had previously been authorized to judge.
- Judges emigrating to a country whose national canine organization (hereafter named "NO") is not an FCI member or contract partner can, on application to the FCI, remain admitted for the breeds for which they had been licensed in an FCI-NO, provided that no disciplinary action is or has been taken against them, that the inviting organizer is informed about it and that the FCI agrees to it accordingly. The FCI Office keeps a corresponding list and issues the authorizations to judge. The FCI has jurisdiction over these judges. Those judges do not have the possibility anymore to take FCI education for further breeds and/or groups.
- Judges emigrating from one country whose NO is member of the FCI to another one remain admitted and should be approved by the FCI-NO of the new country **where he has his legal residence** for the breeds they had been licensed by their former FCI-NO, provided that no disciplinary action is or has been taken against them. An application must be sent by these judges to the FCI-NO of the new country within a maximum period of 3 years after changing **legal** residence. This FCI-NO will then be responsible for these judges.

6. GENERAL DUTIES OF A SHOW JUDGE

At shows in countries whose NO is a member of the FCI, show judges must always follow the valid FCI standards of the breeds they are judging, as long as these are not in conflict with national law. They may not interpret any standard in such a manner to be in conflict with the functional health of a dog.

When judging, any show judge has to obey strictly these judges regulations as well as the FCI show regulations and all other rules of FCI.

The judges have to prepare for each show by studying the standards and all other important regulations.

Judges must always be thorough and careful in their work, obey the conventional rules of ethics and respect their judges' colleagues and the exhibitors.

7. TRAVEL AND INSURANCE ARRANGMENTS

a. Travel arrangements

Judges are free to make private arrangements with show organizations, which may differ from those stated in the Appendix to the Dog Shows and Show Judges Regulations of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale. However, when such personal arrangements have not been made, they should expect to be provided with the benefits stated in the appendix.

It is advisable that financial arrangements should be laid out in advance in the form of a contract or written agreement between the judge and the show organization and have to be honoured by both parties

b. Insurance

The judge should sign up an insurance contract (flight cancellation, accidents, etc) whenever he is invited to judge abroad. Considering the high number of different possibilities offered in the member countries, the judges is recommended to act as follows:

- The judge who frequently officiates abroad should sign up this insurance contract for the whole year;
- The judge who seldom judges abroad should sign up this insurance contract on a show-per-show basis.

8. BEHAVIOUR

1. General

Every show judge of any FCI member organization accomplishes an important duty in the international dog society. His behaviour should therefore be reliable and beyond reproach whether officiating or in his private life.

Consequently:

- A judge should never be late for his judging appointments or leave the show ground before he has completely fulfilled the duties that were assigned to him.
- A judge should not criticise the work of another judge.
- Under no circumstances can a judge solicit appointments to judge.
- A judge is not permitted to consult the catalogue of the show before or during his judging.
- In the ring a judge must behave properly and examine all dogs indiscriminately. He should be soberly and properly dressed, in accordance with the duty to be fulfilled, and should always be correct and urbane.
- A judge cannot smoke in the ring.
- A judge cannot drink alcohol in the ring.
- A judge cannot use a mobile phone in the ring while judging.
- A judge can neither enter a dog nor handle a dog at a show where he is officiating as a judge

- A partner, any member of his immediate family or any person living with the judge in his household may enter and handle any dog of such breed(s), which this judge is not judging on that day of the show.
- The dogs that a judge handles at a CACIB show where he is not acting as a judge must be either bred, owned or co-owned by him, by a partner, by a member of his immediate family or any person living with him in his household.
- A judge may not judge any dog that he has either owned, co-owned, conditioned, kept or sold in the six months preceding the show where he is officiating. The same applies to dogs owned by a partner, a member of his immediate family or any person living with him in his household.
- A judge is not allowed to travel to the shows where he is judging with those exhibitors who are showing under him at those events.
- Under no circumstances should a judge socialise or stay with the exhibitors who will be showing under him. A judge may do so only AFTER his judging appointment is completed.

2. Accepting Assignments

- a. An FCI Show Judge can only judge at FCI shows or shows organized by FCI-NO or FCI contract partners. He is not allowed to judge at events not recognised by the FCI unless those events are held by countries which do not come under the FCI jurisdiction (else than member or contract partner). However, in this case, he must get the authorization from the FCI-NO of **the country where he has his legal residence**.
- b. Upon receiving an invitation to judge in a country outside **the country where he has his legal residence** a judge has to make all necessary inquiries to ascertain that the show organization comes under the jurisdiction of the FCI or is organized by an organization recognised by FCI.
- c. If the show is organized by a club, the judge must verify that this club is officially recognised by the FCI-NO or FCI contract partner of the country where the show is being held.
- d. When judging outside **the country where he has his legal residence** a judge must be fluent in at least one of the four languages of the FCI (English, French, German or Spanish). In case a judge is unable to fulfil this requirement, he is responsible for providing his own interpreter if the show organizer requests it.
- e. A judge may under no circumstances agree to judge a breed at any show for which he is not approved by his own national organization. The same applies for judging at Best in Group and Best in Show level.
- f. All the judges, including those from countries that are not members of the FCI, must under all circumstances follow the FCI breed standards when they are officiating at FCI sanctioned shows.

- g. The judges from countries that are not members of the FCI and judges from FCI associated member countries are only licensed to judge the breeds recognised by their national canine organizations when officiating at FCI international shows.
- h. All the judges from countries that are not member of the FCI must fill in the standardised questionnaire issued by the FCI (enclosed) if they are invited to judge at an FCI show. It shall be sent to them by the inviting NO in due time and must be returned signed for approval
- i. It is absolutely forbidden for a judge to charge a double reimbursement for any expenses related to a judging assignment. If a judge is found to have claimed a double reimbursement, he will be severely punished by his FCI-NO.

3. Permissions for judges

FCI breed judges must have a written permission, issued by their respective canine organization in order to judge at FCI Shows. Only judges who are authorized by their national organization to judge these breeds are allowed to judge dogs. While on assignment, they are obliged to judge strictly and exclusively in accordance with the FCI breed standard that is currently valid.

FCI group judges from federated FCI-NO are allowed to judge, without any official authorization from their national canine organization, all the breeds of the groups for which they are qualified as well as Best of Group for the groups for which they are qualified. They can judge the Best in Show competitions provided that the national canine organization and the inviting country approve it and he is approved as a FCI group judge for at least two of the FCI groups.

FCI all breed international judges from federated FCI-NO are allowed to judge, without any authorization from their national canine organization, any breed, any competition, including Best of Group and Best in Show.

FCI all breed international judges are allowed to judge any breed recognized only at national level, providing that the breed standard is made available to them in due time by the show organizer. The same applies to FCI group judges for the breeds that are in the group the judge is approved for.

At all international FCI shows at least 2/3 of the invited judges on the panel have to be FCI judges (breed-group-all breed) approved by a FCI-NO.

9. PENALTIES

1. Any judge violating, in any way, the FCI show regulations and/or the national ones as well as the FCI regulations for show judges falls under the jurisdiction of his FCI-NO, which has to penalize the judge in question if the violation has been proven. The FCI-NO are obliged to pass a rule which enforces them to penalize any misconduct or any violation from their judges.
2. It must be guaranteed that the judge in question shall be heard, either verbally or in writing. The judge must be given the right to appeal against the decision. No person having been involved in imposing the penalty may be a member of the authority where the appeal is made.
3. The FCI-NO should foresee the following penalty options:
 - a) Settle the case without penalization
 - b) Issue a warning with or without threatening to ban the judge from judging
 - c) Banning the person to judge for a certain period of time
 - d) Cancellation as a judge
 - e) Refusal or withdrawal of the permission(s) to judge abroad
4. After becoming legally effective, the FCI has to be informed about the decision by its FCI-NO.

10. ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITIONS

The Executive Committee of the FCI, especially when parts of these regulations become invalid, may, on its own final decision, take action on changing parts of these regulations in order to ensure the validity of any international event held under FCI rules and to enforce the application of these regulations.

The invalidity of one part or parts of these regulations does not force the whole regulations to become invalid.

These rules come into force immediately upon approval of the General Committee of the FCI and must be distributed to all FCI members and contract partners.

The English version is the authentic one.

These regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee at the meeting in Berlin, on October 31st, 2007. They become effective from January 1st, 2008

The changes in bold and italic characters were approved by the FCI General Committee in Madrid, 24 February 2010.

**Appendix to the DOG SHOWS AND SHOW JUDGES REGULATIONS
of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale**

COMPLEMENTARY RULES FOR THE TRAVEL EXPENSES OF THE JUDGES

1.

All normal travel expenses to include real kilometrage (reimbursement to be decided by the FCI General Committee, a minimum of 0.35 €/km), parking, train, bus, taxi, flight (a reasonably priced economy ticket including a cancellation insurance – if possible - and an option for changeability), as well as meals during travel to the show, incurred by a judge have to be reimbursed immediately on arrival or following whatever previous arrangements made with the organiser.

2.

For judging at World, Section and International Shows a judge is allowed to charge, in addition to the above mentioned costs and to cover his small expenses, a “day-fee” of 35 euros (covering all insurance expenses) for each day of judging as well as for each travel day.

The English text is the authentic document.

The Appendix was approved by the FCI General Committee in Zurich, November 4th 2008.