

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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Guidelines for the organization of FCI Dog Dancing competitions



APPROVAL OF COMPETITION

To organize an FCI competition, the club must be approved to host FCI competitions by the NCO member of the FCI.

FCI international competitions have to be approved by the FCI.

The judge's expenses will be fully covered by the organizer following the general instructions of the FCI. This includes all the expenses generated during the entire duration of the judging performance (either from travel, accommodation, or food). It applies also in case travelling takes place on days separate from the competition.

INVITATIONS

The invitation to an FCI competition should contain the following information:

- Competition place and date.
- Entry details – including when entries close.
- Name and nationality of judges.
- What official and unofficial classes participants can enter.
- Ring size and judges' places.
- How and when to hand in the music and in which format.
- If the host country has any additional rules and regulations, which the participants must abide to.
- Contact details for further questions.
- Type of flooring described for handlers to adapt their routines accordingly.

The above-mentioned information should be available for the handlers, when entry opens.

INFORMATION FOR HANDLERS PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION

The following information must be available to the handlers no later than 4 weeks prior to the competition:

- Running order (***please notice that according to the regulations for International Dog Dancing Championships should be filmed and published***).
- ***Training schedule***
- Timetable (as accurate as possible), with time for music check-in, classes and presentation.

The following information must be available to the handlers no later than 2 weeks prior to the competition:

- Name of Chief Steward
- Name and contact info for a vet that will be available on the day.
- How to deal with bitches in season at the venue.
- Phone number for emergencies on the day
- Colour of flooring.

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

Requirements for technical equipment:

- The organizers should have the possibility to play the participants' music from at least mp3 files on a portable USB device
- A computer-system or calculators for the scorekeepers.
- A music player, which plays music of a reasonable quality.

It would also be good to consider if live streaming of the Championship is possible and what kind of technical equipment this would require.

HELPERS

The organizers must have the following helpers available for the show. Some of these tasks can also be combined if it does not affect the quality:

- Chief Steward - responsible for all the requirements to arrange the competition and for ensuring that the show is held in accordance with the FCI rules.
- DJ – responsible for music check-in and for starting and stopping the music during the competition.
- Ring Steward/s – responsible for sending dogs and handlers in and out of the ring and guiding participants to where they need to be on the show grounds.
- Judges – in accordance with the FCI rules
- A vet. The vet does not have to be present on the show grounds all day, but the organizers are responsible for having contact info for a vet, who is available during the competition.
- Score-keeper – to keep order of score sheets and results. In FCI Championship competitions there should be at least two scorekeepers.
- A Speaker - to announce the next competitor in the ring and keep spectators informed on the events. The organizer must provide sufficient equipment to make the speaker heard loud and clear.

The organizers can have the following helpers available for the show:

- Webmaster – to keep everyone up to date on the events.
- Judges' secretary – to make sure the score sheets come from the judges to the scorekeeper.
- Translators – if necessary - to communicate with one or more of the judges.
- Timekeeper to help the judges follow the schedule
- ***Timekeeper to make sure the props are in and out of the ring within the allowed time frame.***

INSURANCE

Competition organizers must prepare for possible damages in the competition by acquiring an insurance policy, or through other means. Organizers must have group insurance for judges and competition officials, and liability insurance to cover personal or property damages to audience, officials or outsiders.

The handler must have a valid insurance, covering sports injuries. Handler and/or dog's owner are responsible for the damage that they or their dog causes.

THE ORGANIZERS' OBLIGATIONS

The organizer must make sure that the following is available on the day of the show:

- A ring with an even, non-slippery surface and clear markings to show where the ring starts and ends.
- A warm-up area near the ring, preferable with the same surface as in the ring to ensure that the dog knows what to expect, when entering the ring.
- Chairs and tables for the judges and helpers.
- A place for bitches in season where they can stay safe until they can enter the venue
- A “white dog”, i.e. a performing but not competing dog should be used as the first entrant in the competition ring.
- A relatively quiet place for dogs and handlers to be, when not competing. There must be access to water and sanitation. It is preferable that the handler can keep an eye on the ring and on their dogs at the same time.
- Food and drinks for the judges and helpers.
- Organizers are responsible for the judges' expenses according to the general FCI rules and regulations.
- The organizers are responsible for planning and managing their budget.
- The organizers take care of complying to national legislation in regard of playing music at a public event.
- The organizer should take care that it is possible for the dogs to enter and exit the ring without having to meet at the doorway.
- The organizers must plan sufficient time for each team to compete and be evaluated. At a Championship level, this would mean a minimum of 7 minutes per performance schedule.
- The organizers should also consider the changing facilities.

TO BE FURTHER NOTED WHEN ORGANIZING FCI CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS

- The dates of the FCI international Championship competitions should be published as soon as the competition has been approved by the FCI, preferably at least a year in advance.
- The invitations to an FCI Championship level competition should be sent out at least six months prior to the competition.
- Judges for an FCI international Championship should be invited preferably at least a year in advance.
- In case of a judge cancelling the appointment due to medical reasons or other similar force majeure, the organizers must announce the replacement without delay.
- Information about the FCI Championship competition must be easily available for everybody online. Closed social media platforms are a useful addition to this, but not sufficient as the sole info channel. The online information should be available at least six months before the competition.
- A female is ineligible to compete from the date of the mating and until the puppies are 8 weeks old.
- For a dog to be eligible to enter, it must be registered by an FCI member, contract partner or cooperating partner.
- Opening and closing ceremonies are expected.
- The results should be published online within two weeks after the competition in addition to announcing them at the venue.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN ORGANIZING FCI CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS

Invitation of judges

It is recommended that you invite judges that have made themselves familiar with the FCI rules and regulations by taking part in the FCI Dog Dancing Judges Conferences. These are available from the FCI website if the judge did not have the possibility to participate when the conferences were held. It is furthermore recommended that your head judge comes from a FCI members country and have experience in judging by the FCI rules and regulations. This is required in order to make sure that the head judge will meet their extended responsibility through sufficient familiarity with the FCI rules and regulations and their application in competitions.

Scorekeeping

It is very important that the results at a Championship are calculated correctly, when they are published, and the risk of human error should be eliminated as much as possible. This could be achieved by using two separate score keepers and comparing their results before publication in order to find any errors or inconsistencies. In addition, the score keeping system used should be reliable even in the case of failing internet connectivity.

Draw of running order

It is recommended that the draw of the running order is performed by someone, who is not competing at the Championship (so if the head organizer is also competing, then the draw should be performed by a helper, who is not competing) and it is recommended that it is done as follows:

- 1. First you make a random draw of running order for all participating countries. You list the countries in the order that is drawn:
1 Country A
2 Country B
3 Country C
4 Country D*
- 2. You make a random draw of running order for the individual dog and handler team on each national team. If a national team consists of less than 4 dog and handler teams, then a blank note should be included for each "empty space" to make sure you do not automatically have an early running order just because you come from a small national team. In this example Country B has lonely entered 2 dog and handler teams and therefore there were blank notes included in their draw:
Dog and handler team 1 from Country A
Dog and handler team 2 from Country A
Dog and handler team 3 from Country A
Dog and handler team 4 from Country A
Dog and handler team 1 from Country B
Blank from Country B
Blank from Country B
Dog and handler team 2 from Country B
Etc.*

3. ***Then you combine the two lists and the running order will be:***

1 Dog and handler team 1 from Country A

2 Dog and handler team 1 from Country B

3 Dog and handler team 1 from Country C

4 Dog and handler team 1 from Country D

5 Dog and handler team 2 from Country A

Dog and handler team 2 from Country B would have been here, if there had been a full team – but Country B only has 2 dog and handler -teams and in the random draw, the 2nd spot on this teams running order was blank – therefor we move on to the next country's 2nd dog and handler team.

6 Dog and handler team 2 from Country C

7 Dog and handler team 2 from Country D

8 Dog and handler team 3 from Country A

Dog and handler team 3 from Country B would have been here, if there had been a full team – but Country B only have 2 dog and handler teams and in the random draw, the 3rd spot on this teams running order was blank – therefor we move on to the next country's 3rd dog and handler team.

10 Dog and handler team 3 from Country C

11 Dog and handler team 3 from Country D

12 Dog and handler team 4 from Country A

13 Dog and handler team 4 from Country B

14 Dog and handler team 4 from Country C

15 Dog and handler team 4 from Country D

According to the Championship rules, the random draw must be documented on video.

Once a draw has been made it cannot be undone or redone unless it was not done according to the rules. In this case the president of the FCI Dog Dancing Commission should be consulted for advice and the head judge should be informed before proceeding.

Team Competitions and prizegiving ceremonies

It is recommended that the team competitions for Heelwork To Music and Canine Freestyle swap places every second year, so that the Heelwork To Music team competition is held on Friday in even years (2024, 2026, 2028 etc.) and Saturday in uneven years (2025, 2027, 2029 etc.). Likewise, the Freestyle team competition should be held Friday in uneven years (2025, 2027, 2029 etc.) and Saturday in even years (2024, 2025, 2028 etc.). If the competition is held on other days of the week, consider Friday to equal first competition day and Saturday the second.

It is also recommended that you celebrate the National Team Winners on the day of the Team Competition.

So, if the Freestyle Team Winners have been found on Friday, then the prize giving ceremony and the celebration of the winning national freestyle teams should also be held on the Friday.

Likewise, the prizegiving and celebration of the winning HTM teams should be held on the same day as the HTM team competition.

This is to ensure that the winning national teams are celebrated and honored for their combined efforts as a team. If all prize giving ceremonies for national teams and individual dog and handler teams) are held on the last day of the Championship (Sunday), the Team celebrations will easily be subdued by the celebrations of the individual winners.

In the EOC, the overall winners (winners of all competitions combined) should be celebrated on the last day of the Championship.

Prizes

The following prizes are expected at a World Championship:

- *5 trophies or rosettes for each of the 3 winning (1st, 2nd and 3rd place) Freestyle Teams.*
- *5 trophies or rosettes for each of the 3 winning (1st, 2nd and 3rd place) HTM teams.*
- *1 trophy or rosette for each of the 3 individual placings in each discipline (HTM and Freestyle)*
- *1 trophy or rosette for each of the dog and handler teams qualified for the Individual Final in each discipline (HTM and Freestyle).*
- *A souvenir such as a rosette or trophy for each participant at the Championship.*

The following prizes are expected at a European Open Championship:

- *A trophy or rosette for each member of the 3 winning (1st, 2nd and 3rd place) Teams.*
- *1 trophy or rosette for each of the 3 individual placings in each discipline (HTM, Freestyle)*
- *1 trophy or rosette for each of the dog and handler teams qualified for the Individual Final, in each discipline (HTM, Freestyle).*
- *A souvenir such as a rosette or small trophy for each participant at the Championship.*

These Guidelines were approved by the FCI General Committee in Budapest, May 2018.

The English version is the authentic one.

The amendments, in bold and italic characters, were approved by the FCI General Committee on 22nd January 2025 (Vienna). They enter into force upon publication.