

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)

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

REGULATIONS AND RULES for INTERNATIONAL FCI RALLY OBEDIENCE TRIALS



*These Regulations and Rules are used in
International FCI Rally Obedience Competitions (FCI CACIROB),
FCI World Championship Competitions and
FCI Section Championship Competitions*

February 1, 2025

CONTENT

| | |
|---|----------|
| CONTENT | 2 |
| 1. GENERAL REGULATIONS..... | 4 |
| 1.1. Arranging official FCI Rally Obedience trials..... | 4 |
| 1.2. National rules concerning FCI Rally Obedience trials..... | 4 |
| 1.3. Eligibility to participate in FCI Rally Obedience trials | 4 |
| 1.4. Handler's obligations to compete | 4 |
| 1.4.1. Behaviour..... | 4 |
| 1.4.2. Handler's handicap | 4 |
| 1.5. Dog's obligations to compete..... | 5 |
| 1.5.1. Eligibility to compete | 5 |
| 1.5.2. Age..... | 5 |
| 1.5.3. Dog's equipment | 5 |
| 1.5.4. Health | 6 |
| 1.5.5. Anti-doping and vaccination regulations..... | 6 |
| 1.5.6. Dog's behaviour/Aggressiveness | 6 |
| 1.5.7. Bitches in season and in breeding | 6 |
| 1.5.8. Changes in appearance..... | 6 |
| 1.5.9. Spayed or neutered dogs..... | 6 |
| 1.5.10. Confirmation of identity of the dog | 7 |
| 1.6. Management of the competition..... | 7 |
| 1.6.1. Judges | 7 |
| 1.6.2. Trial Secretary | 7 |
| 1.6.3. <i>Secretaries</i> | 8 |
| 2. CLASSES AND AWARDS..... | 8 |
| 2.1. FCI Rally Obedience International Class..... | 8 |
| 2.2. Rally Obedience Awards..... | 9 |
| 2.2.1. National Rally Obedience Champion | 9 |
| 2.2.2. International FCI Rally Obedience Certificate (FCI CACIROB)..... | 9 |
| 3. PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT | 9 |
| 3.1. Number of competitors judged per day..... | 9 |
| 3.2. Number of handler's starts or dog's starts per competition | 9 |
| 3.3. Competition Ring..... | 9 |
| 3.4. Equipment..... | 10 |
| 3.4.1. Exercise Signs/Exercise Sign Holders/Exercise Number Signs..... | 10 |
| 3.4.2. Jumps..... | 11 |
| 3.4.3. Cones | 11 |

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 3.4.4. | Other Equipment | 12 |
| 3.5. | Course Layout..... | 12 |
| 3.6. | Course Orientation..... | 13 |
| 4. | GENERAL PERFORMANCE RULES..... | 13 |
| 4.1. | Entering and exiting the ring | 14 |
| 4.2. | General instructions | 14 |
| 4.3. | Exercise area | 15 |
| 4.4. | Step and stepping | 16 |
| 4.5. | Parallel Alignment..... | 17 |
| 4.6. | Turns | 17 |
| 4.7. | Cone exercises | 18 |
| 4.8. | Recall and In Front exercises..... | 18 |
| 4.9. | Height of a jump | 18 |
| 5. | DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FCI CLASS EXERCISE SIGNS | 19 |
| 5.1. | 1 point signs | 19 |
| 5.2. | 2 point signs..... | 22 |
| 5.3. | 3 point signs..... | 25 |
| 5.4. | 4 point signs..... | 28 |
| 6. | JUDGING RULES..... | 32 |
| 6.1. | General Rules for judging the exercises..... | 32 |
| 6.2. | Overall impression..... | 33 |
| 6.3. | Disqualification | 33 |
| 6.4. | General Deductions | 34 |

Rally Obedience (ROB) training teaches a dog how to act in a cooperative and controlled way. Emphasis should be put on establishing good contact between dog and handler and on achieving the dog's willingness to obey. Handler and dog should display a good overall relationship.

These Regulations and Rules have been compiled to promote the sport of Rally Obedience and to support competitive Rally Obedience across national borders. They are applied at FCI Rally Obedience trials in countries, in which the national canine organisations (NCOs) have chosen to follow them.

In international trials with FCI CACIROB and FCI Rally Obedience Championship Competitions such as the FCI World Winner Competition these rules must be followed from 1.1.2024.

1. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1.1. Arranging official FCI Rally Obedience trials

Each national FCI member decides which clubs and organisations are allowed to arrange official FCI Rally Obedience trials and competitions in its country.

1.2. National rules concerning FCI Rally Obedience trials

It is recommended that the NCOs or their licensed organisation publish on their website all necessary information concerning their national rules, special national requirements, details of their legislation that apply to animals entering their country and trials, so that competing throughout all FCI members can be promoted.

1.3. Eligibility to participate in FCI Rally Obedience trials

Eligibility to participate in FCI Rally Obedience competitions is defined by the regulations of the dog's/handler's NCO and those of the NCO where the competition takes place. The national rules state which dogs/handlers are allowed to compete in FCI Rally Obedience trials. Eligibility conditions for competing should be published on the website of the NCO concerned.

1.4. Handler's obligations to compete

1.4.1. Behaviour

The handler's obligations as a competitor start when the handler enters the competition premises and end after the final prize-giving ceremony. Handlers must follow the rules and directions as instructed.

The judge may disqualify a handler from the competition if the handler does not abide by the rules or behaves in an unseemly way (for example punishing the dog). The judge's decision is final, and no competitor shall impugn the decision of the judge.

1.4.2. Handler's handicap

Competitors with handicaps may compete and are expected to be able to perform the exercises as specified in the regulations, but may have exceptions on special aids, alternative performance of exercises or other exceptions.

Examples of exceptions for competitors with handicaps:

- Handlers in wheelchairs should perform the exercise 312 (Side shift between legs) as exercise 311 (Side shift behind) and may optionally turn the wheelchair 90° in side-shift exercises.
- Visually impaired handlers may have a helper with them on the course, as well as they have a bell or a similar sound signalling device on the dog with the purpose of determining where the dog is placed. There may be unlimited communication between the helper and the handler.

In case of handicaps not covered in the Rules, the NCO of the organising country will decide how to proceed.

Note the exception for FCI Rally Obedience World/Section Winner Competitions: If in the national team there are handlers with handicaps not already covered in the Rules, the team leader must contact the committee as soon as possible, but not later than at least 3 months before the competition.

Handicaps should not limit anyone from competing but should also not cause significant advantages over other competitors.

1.5. Dog's obligations to compete

1.5.1. Eligibility to compete

It is up to every NCO to decide which national Rally Obedience Classes are recognized and what requirements need to be fulfilled before a dog is allowed to compete in FCI Rally Obedience International Class.

If a dog has once entered the FCI International Class level, the national rules should describe the circumstances under which moving back or down to national classes is allowed. This information should be available on the national websites.

1.5.2. Age

The age at which International FCI Rally Obedience trials and competitions can be entered should be stated in the national rules of each NCO. The dog should, however, be at least 18 months old, if a higher age is not specified by the national rules of the NCO, where the competition is arranged or the NCO, in which the dog is registered.

1.5.3. Dog's equipment

In the competition ring

It is up to every NCO to decide if collars in the competition ring are forbidden, mandatory or permitted. If permitted/mandatory, only ordinary collars (buckled or with clip) are allowed in the competition ring, choke and half choke collars are not permitted.

The dog must be taken off leash before entering the competition ring.

After exiting the ring, the leash must be taken on.

Blankets, mantles, muzzles, harnesses, raincoats, shoes, stockings, bandages, tapes, etc. on the dog are forbidden during the performance. It is allowed to use small bows or bands on dog's fur to keep the fur away from the dog's eyes.

On the competition premises

Barbed or electric collars and other constraining devices are forbidden and will lead to a disqualification of the **handler**. This restriction begins from the veterinary check prior to the competition and is valid until the end of the competition/event.

Beside this it is up to every NCO to decide which equipment on the competition premises is forbidden, mandatory or permitted.

1.5.4. Health

Only healthy dogs are allowed to compete.

1.5.5. Anti-doping and vaccination regulations

The national vaccination regulations and anti-doping regulations applying in the NCO where the trial takes place must be followed. National regulations concerning vaccination and anti-doping regulations should be published on the website.

1.5.6. Dog's behaviour/Aggressiveness

Aggressive dogs are not allowed to enter the competition premises. The judge will disqualify any dog that attacks or attempts to attack a person or another dog. The incident is noted in the dog's working book (if available) and must be reported to the NCO having last registered the dog and to the NCO of the host country. If the duration of the event is more than a day, the disqualification is valid also for the other days and thus the dog cannot compete.

1.5.7. Bitches in season and in breeding

Bitches in season are allowed to compete in accordance with the national rules of the NCO where the trial is held. This information must be posted on the website of the NCO which arranges the trial. Bitches in season must, however, perform last (at every single round of the competition). They must be kept off the competition premises and nearby surroundings until all other dogs have completed their **course**.

Bitches expected to give birth within 30 days and bitches that have given birth less than 75 days before the competition date must be excluded.

1.5.8. Changes in appearance

Dogs with docked tails or cropped ears or ones that have had some other changes in appearance made for cosmetic reasons, are admitted only in accordance with the legal regulations of the dog's home NCO and those of the NCO where the trial is arranged. All information on restrictions due to changes in appearance of the dog should be easily available and stated in the national rules and should be posted on the website of the NCO.

1.5.9. Spayed or neutered dogs

Spayed and neutered dogs are allowed to compete. In some countries chemically neutered male dogs are not allowed to compete due to anti-doping regulations. This information should be posted on the national website of the NCO. See also special regulations for § 2.2.2.

1.5.10. Confirmation of identity of the dog

If it's necessary, the trial management is responsible to check the identity of the dogs outside the ring before or after the competition. National rules may require that all dogs must be checked.

1.6. Management of the competition

FCI Rally Obedience trials and competitions are under the management of the (chief) judge of the day and the trial secretary. If there is more than one judge in a competition, one of the judges is appointed chief judge (of the competition/day/round) and chairman of the judging team.

If competitors from abroad enter the competition, it is recommended that a mutual language for communication is agreed upon beforehand.

If incidents that occur have not been dealt with within these regulations and directions, the judge (or team of judges led by the chief judge) decides how to proceed or how to evaluate the incident.

1.6.1. Judges

Judges for FCI Rally Obedience trials and competitions must be licensed by the NCO of their own country.

The qualifications and language skills of judges invited from other countries should be confirmed. Usually, the inviting NCO contacts the NCO of the invited judge to confirm the competence.

Ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias: National regulations define ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias. At international competitions with FCI CACIROB, the FCI ineligibility rules must be followed as well as the eligibility rules of the organising country, if not otherwise stated.

1.6.2. Trial Secretary

For FCI Rally Obedience trials and competitions a trial secretary must be appointed. Preferably the NCOs also follow these rules when arranging National Rally Obedience trials and competitions in their countries.

The trial secretary is responsible for organising the event. The trial secretary finalises and supervises all required levels of work to prepare and conduct a trial. The trial secretary must guarantee the orderly execution of the event and must be at the judge's disposal for the duration of the event.

The trial secretary is responsible for:

- obtaining necessary event documents (authorization, trial sheets, trial lists, etc.)
- checking competitor's documents (pedigrees, vaccination certificates, etc.)
- providing required equipment (ring markings, exercise signs sets, jumps, etc.)
- organising experienced judge secretaries (in agreement with the concerning judge)
- having sufficient volunteers available (for preparing the ring, writing the results, timekeeping, etc.)

1.6.3. Secretaries

Secretaries for FCI Rally Obedience trials and competitions should have sufficient practice in assisting Rally Obedience judges at their work. Preferably the secretary is a judge or an experienced instructor for Rally Obedience.

The language skills of the judge and the secretary should be suitable, so that they can communicate with each other without any complications.

If the competition is judged by two or more judges, there should be an equal number of secretaries.

2. CLASSES AND AWARDS

2.1. FCI Rally Obedience International Class

Every team starts with 100 points. Deductions are made based on the judge's assessment of the team's performance in accordance with § 6 Judging Rules. The team is being judged while within the ring and cannot get less than 0 points.

If two or more judges are judging in the same ring, every one of them is making the deductions and noting down the teams' total points. The average of all judges' total points (2 decimal points) results in the final total points of the team.

The final grades are "excellent", "very good" and "good". Points needed for a final grade are given in the table below:

| Evaluation | Total points | Awarded percentage |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Excellent | 90 – 100 | at least 90 % |
| Very Good | 80 – 89.99 | 80 % – 89.99 % |
| Good | 70 – 79.99 | 70 % – 79.99 % |
| Failure | 0 – 69.99 | 0 % – 69.99 % |

A disqualification leads to a score of 0 in the judging protocol of the concerning judge. The run can continue even if the team is disqualified, but if needed, the chief judge can stop the team's performance. In serious cases, such as mistreatment of a dog and/or aggressive behaviour of a dog, the judge team can stop the run based on a disqualification decision from only one judge. If two or more judges disqualify the team, it leads to a general disqualification (DQ).

Rank order

If two or more teams end up with the same number of points, the fastest running time (2 decimal points) will be ranked highest. The time is measured from entering the ring (first team member who enters) to exiting the ring (**first** team member who leaves).

2.2. Rally Obedience Awards

2.2.1. National Rally Obedience Champion

It is up to every country to decide which National Rally Obedience Champion Titles are existing and what requirements need to be fulfilled before a dog/team is awarded with these titles. To promote the sport of Rally Obedience across national borders also handlers from other countries should have the possibility to get these titles too. Thus this information should be available on the national websites.

2.2.2. International FCI Rally Obedience Certificate (FCI CACIROB)

At International FCI Rally Obedience Competitions (FCI CACIROB – **Certificat d’Aptitude au Championnat International de Rally Obedience de la FCI**), which *must* be approved in advance by the FCI, only breeds that have already been accepted by the FCI, on a provisional or definitive basis, can take part. The winning dog (with two testicles, if a male) of the competition is awarded the “FCI CACIROB”, if it earns a final grade of “excellent”. The second-best dog of the competition (with similar restrictions as above) is awarded the “FCI Reserve CACIROB”, if it earns a final grade of “excellent”. For these two awards to be confirmed by the FCI, the dogs must be registered with a studbook of an FCI member or contract partner/cooperating partner. Breeds that have been only accepted by the FCI on a provisional basis or dogs that have been only registered with the appendix (waiting list) of a studbook are allowed to compete but are not eligible for the “FCI CACIROB”/ “FCI Reserve CACIROB”.

To get the title “FCI International Rally Obedience Champion” the dog must comply with the “Regulations for the FCI International Championship”.

3. PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

3.1. Number of competitors judged per day

It is recommended that a judge does not judge more than 50 teams per day in FCI Rally Obedience International Class. In all the other (national) classes the national rules of the country, in which the competition is arranged, should be followed.

3.2. Number of handler's starts or dog's starts per competition

A handler is allowed to compete at an International FCI Rally Obedience Competition with as many different dogs as he wants.

However, on a competition day at an International FCI Rally Obedience Competition, a dog cannot be handled twice by different handlers.

3.3. Competition Ring

The size of the Rally Obedience competition ring should be at least 20 m x 20 m without obstacles. It must be clearly marked.

If two or more rings have been built up close together, they should be clearly separated from each other to avoid disturbance between them. In indoor competitions the ring must be entirely covered with a non-slip surface.

It is up to the (chief) judge to decide whether the ring size, the ring markings and the surface is acceptable or not.

3.4. Equipment

It is the responsibility of the organising committee and the trial secretary to keep the following equipment as well as the Regulations and Rules and other necessary instructions, relating to them, available on the competition premises. It is up to the (chief) judge to decide whether the equipment is acceptable or not.

3.4.1. Exercise Signs/Exercise Sign Holders/Exercise Number Signs

Exercise Signs

It is recommended that in every NCO only the original signs of the FCI Exercise Signs Set (see chapter 5 or Appendix 1 of these regulations - own document) are used, and not translations of them. For International FCI Rally Obedience Competitions (FCI-CACIROB) the use of the original (English) signs is mandatory.

The exercise signs should be so prepared, that they are A4-sized and, especially if they are used for an outdoor competition, have a protection against rain, damages and dirt.

For every competition ring two complete FCI Exercise Signs Sets should be provided.

Exercise Sign Holders

Fitting exercise sign holders should be so constructed that they are giving the teams and the judges/secretaries a good possibility to get a clear and good view of the concerning exercise sign. It is important that the holders don't need too much space and are safe for both the handler and the dog. For example, if an outdoor competition is arranged, it should be ensured that the exercise sign holders are fixed on the ground and **cannot** be blown away by winds or storms.

For every competition ring at least 22 exercise sign holders must be provided.

Exercise Number Signs

Exercise number signs should be so constructed that they are giving the teams and the judges/secretaries a good possibility to get a clear and good view of which number the concerning exercise sign is. It is important that the exercise number signs don't need too much space and are safe for both the handler and the dog.

For example, if an outdoor competition is arranged, it should be ensured that the exercise number signs are fixed on the ground or on the exercise sign holders and could not be blown away by winds or storms.

For every competition ring at least 20 exercise number signs from 1 to 20 must be provided (the start and the finish signs have no number sign).

3.4.2. Jumps

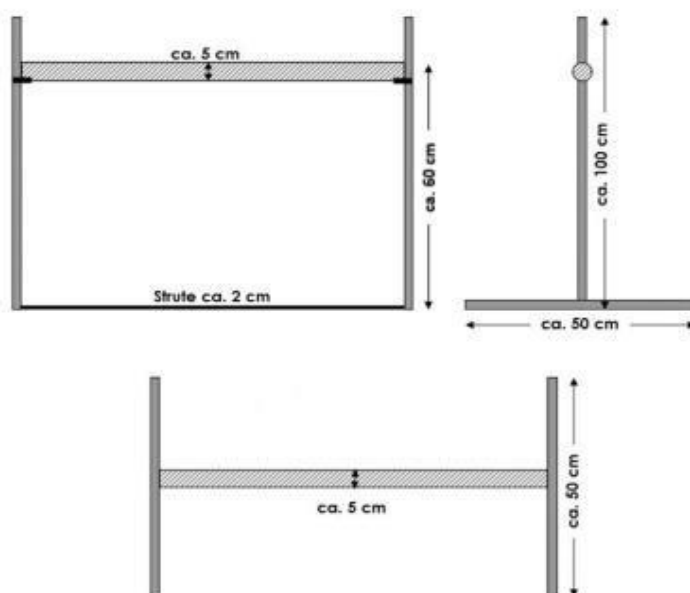
For exercise signs 222, 320, 420 and 421 only open jumps with the following properties should be used (see also the figure below):

- The open jump should be approximately 100 cm wide. For reasons of stability there can be a connecting thin bar at the bottom, not more than approximately 2 cm high from the ground.

The feet of the hurdle should be such that the hurdle is stable. The recommended length of the feet is 50 to 100 cm, depending on the construction. The sidebars of the jump should be approximately 1 m high.

- The bar of the open jump (rectangular board, 3 to 5 cm high, or a round bar, 3 to 5 cm in diameter) lies freely at the required height. There should be supports only for the bar and the supports should be placed so that the dog can drop the bar regardless of the direction from which the dog jumps. It is recommended that the supports of the bar are slightly concave (spoon like), so that the wind does not drop the bar easily. The jump must not have side wings.
- The open jump must be so constructed that it is adjustable in height from 10 cm to 40 cm at intervals of 10 cm.
- For every competition ring at least 2 open jumps should be provided.

OPEN JUMP



3.4.3. Cones

A sufficient number of cones must be available. The cones should be appropriate and suit their purpose. In choosing their size, visibility and colour, their function should be considered.

For example, the cones which are used in exercises 119, 120, 121, 122 and 221 to point out figures, or in exercises 319, 408 and 409 to mark the point of recall (if not another recall sign is positioned), should be small with a height of about 15 cm.

Instead of them, the cones for exercises 410, 417 and 418 should be clearly visible to the dog and thus being larger with a height of about 40 to 50 cm.

3.4.4. Other Equipment

Chalk, spray paint, tape strands or equivalent means can be used for marking the competition rings, the training fields or other important points in the course.

For exercise 221 (“Distractions”) a variety of toys and treats (not dangerous for the dog) should be provided. A coverage for the temptations (if treats are used) is obligatory.

Electronic timekeeping is obligatory at FCI CACIROB Competitions and FCI Championship Competitions. At other FCI Rally Obedience trials at least a stopwatch handled by a timekeeper must be provided.

3.5. Course Layout

The judge has the right to create the course layout for the competition/day/round. If two or more judges are judging one class/round together, one of them will determine the course layout (or **each** judge creates a course layout and one will be chosen for example by drawing).

The course layout will be posted on the wall of the competition ground at least one hour before the start of the concerning class/round.

When designing a course layout judges should focus on a good mix of:

- fluent, stopping, position, figure, distance, sending, jumping and recall exercises
- left handed and right handed parts

If two or more judges are judging together, they should send their course layouts at least one week before the start of the competition to the other judges, to give every judge the opportunity to prepare himself/herself for the courses.

The following general regulations, when planning the course layout, should be followed:

- The length of the course is 18-20 exercises in addition to the start and the finish sign.
A single sign can be used maximum two times per course.
- The course must contain at least 7 of the 4-point signs and at least 5 of the 3 point signs.
- It must be indicated in the course layout whether the dog should be on the left or the right side at the start.
- All exercises (except 417 and 418) can be performed with the dog on the left or the right side of the handler.
- The distance between exercises is approximately 3-5 m, depending on the course and the concerning sign. The exercises must be naturally placed in relation to the direction of the team, and always after the proceeding exercise. It must be noted that some signs need more space (see also § 5).
- All measurements and angles are approximated.

- With jump exercises, the sign is placed 2 m before the jump, and there is a 2 m landing area after the exercise. With exercise 320 (send over two jumps), the distance between jumps is 4 m (2 m + 2 m). There can be 2 jumps in total in a course, but these can be reused in multiple exercises. All jumps must be placed on the handling side.
- In cone exercises the height of the cone must suit their purpose (see § 3.4.3.).
- In figure exercises (119, 120, 121, 122, 221) the sign can be placed 1.5 to 2 m away from the first cone or attached to the first cone.
- After exercises which contain a recall as part of the exercise, the recall is done next to a cone which is placed approximately 5 m after the sign and 1 m away from the walking line (on the opposite side where the dog is handled). The height of the recall cone is about 15 cm (see § 3.4.3.). In alternative to the recall cone one of the special recall signs 321, 322, 323, 421, 422 are possible.
- When planning and building the course, the judge must make sure that the course can be performed by dogs of all sizes without the risk of getting unreasonable close to sign holders of other exercises and other obstacles.
- If problems occur, while building up the planned course, like having to less space or having noticed dangerous places, the judge has the right to arrange small changes in the original plan. However, the judge must inform the handlers at the beginning of the course orientation about these changes.

3.6. Course Orientation

There will be a course orientation per round. At the beginning the (chief) judge gives a small introduction (not more than 5 minutes) explaining the specific details of the course layout for the handlers. After that the competitors will have 10 minutes under the supervision of the (chief) judge to familiarise themselves with the course layout, without their dogs. The competitors can ask the (chief) judge questions within those 10 minutes. Handlers who compete with two or more dogs are allowed to take part in a maximum of two course orientations.

The first team must be ready to start the course 5 minutes after the course orientation has finished.

If the number of competitors in a round is more than 15, the handlers are divided in two or more groups of equal size and thus there will be two or more course orientations (up to 15 handlers = 1 group, 16 to 30 handlers = 2 groups, 31 to 45 handlers = 3 groups, 46 to 50 handlers = 4 groups).

4. GENERAL PERFORMANCE RULES

The Rules for performing the exercises comprise of:

- A) A general part (§ 4) which concerns performing all exercise signs and
- B) A part (§ 5) which describes the performance of the individual exercise signs

If not otherwise stated in the description of the individual exercise signs, these general regulations and directions for performing the exercises are applied to all exercise signs.

If incidents occur that are not covered in these Regulations and Rules, the judge decides how to proceed or how to evaluate. The judge's decision is final and no competitor shall impugn the decisions of the judge.

4.1. Entering and exiting the ring

- The dog must be taken off leash before entering the ring, and the dog must be on leash right after exiting the ring. The handler must keep the leash hidden during the course and place it into a pocket or leave it outside the ring.
- After taking the dog off leash, the dog may only wear a collar, if allowed/mandatory (and fur accessories, if needed). See also § 1.5.3.
- The handler may wear a training vest. Extra pockets, extra skirts, etc. are not allowed.
- During the whole performance (including entering and exiting the ring) no motivation items (toy, food, treat pouch, leash) should be visible or in the hands. The handler shall not drop anything in the ring. Training aids or outside help of any kind is forbidden.
- When the team (handler and dog) is ready, they must wait for the judge's permission to enter the ring. The (chief) judge invites the team into the ring.
- It is indicated in the course layout whether the dog should be on the left or the right side when entering the ring. The dog must enter the ring on the correct side.
- The team walks together to the start sign. The dog is directed to sit by the handler and the team starts to perform the exercises in the given order.
- The handler and the dog are under judging and timekeeping from the moment they enter the ring until the moment they leave the ring together. While the dog is in the ring, it must be under the handler's control.
- When the team has passed the finish sign it leaves the competition area at a normal pace. The dog must leave the ring on the correct side.

4.2. General instructions

- The handler or the dog are not allowed to stop during the course or an exercise when a stop is not part of the exercise.
- When the handler stops, the handler's feet do not have to be even, one foot can be slightly forward compared to the other foot. When the handler stops, the handler's feet can be apart.
- The handler can use both hand signs and body movements (additional steps excluded) to guide the dog in exercises (for example, **directing** the dog to **a** down **position** or to the front).
- The handler is allowed a small change in the defined tempo (normal, slow, fast) so the turning, spinning, figure, stepping, jumping, side shift and backward exercises can be performed in a more suitable way for the dog.
- The distance between the handler and the dog during heeling and exercises should not be more than 50 cm apart from exercises in which the dog is directed away from the handler or remains in a certain position until recall.

- Fluent exercises are exercises in which both the dog and the handler are moving. Beside normal pace the fluent exercises 105-113 can also be performed at a slow pace or at a fast pace. If so, the sign before the fluent exercise(s) defines the pace in which the exercise(s) are performed. Also, the heelwork done between these exercises must be done at the given pace. ***The given pace must be kept, until a sign shows a new pace or the team has reached the finish sign.***
- In side shift exercises 310-**314** and 405-406 the handler must walk *in* a straight line forward or to the direction from which the team came from.

4.3. Exercise area

During performing an exercise, at least at one point a part of the team must be within the exercise area. Note, that it is not allowed to go past the sign first and then start performing the exercise.

The exercise is performed on the left side of the sign when the direction of the course does not change (A). Exercises 417 and 418 begin according to (A), even though the direction is changed.

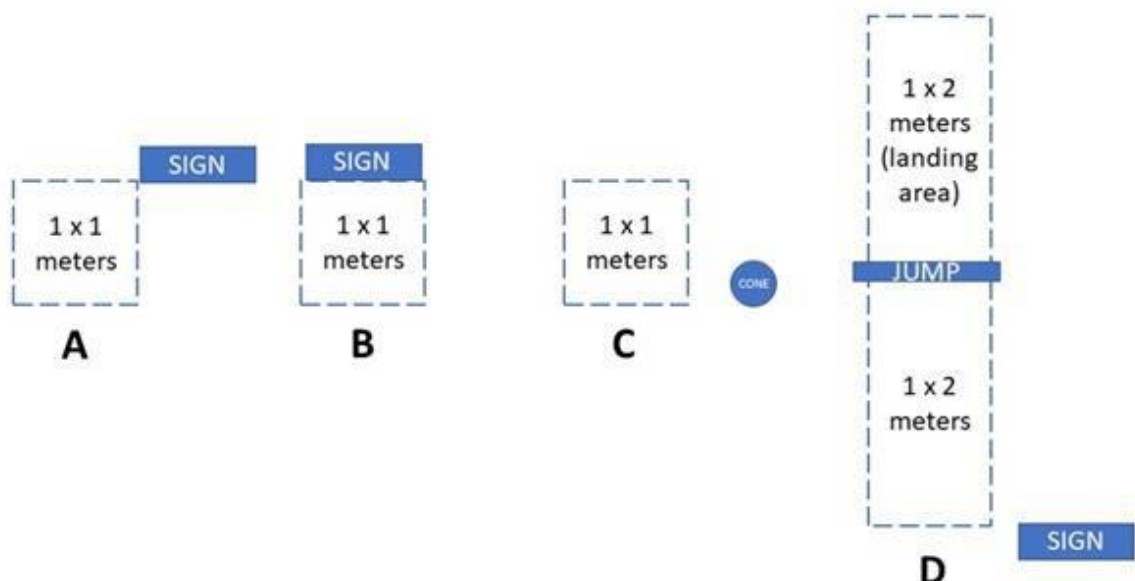
Exercises 319, 408 and 409, where the dog is left in position, a part of the dog must be in the exercise area. In exercise 321, 322, 323, 421 and 422, where the handler calls the dog, a part of the handler must be in the exercise area.

When the direction is changed or side steps are shown, the exercise is performed in front of the sign (B). The same counts for figure exercises 119, 120, 121, 122 and 221.

Recalls are done in front of the special recall sign (B) or next to the recall cone (C).

Exercises 222 and 320 begin at the earliest next to the sign. A landing area after the (last) jump is defined, where the dog must stay until the handler catches up with the dog (D). The exercise area is 1 x 2 meters, if no other instruction has been given.

For a better understanding see the pictures below:



4.4. Step and stepping

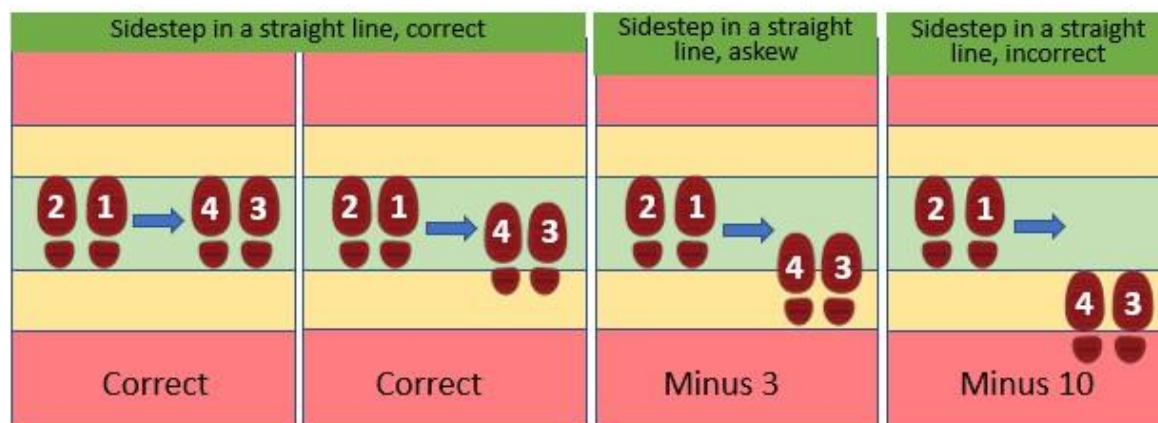
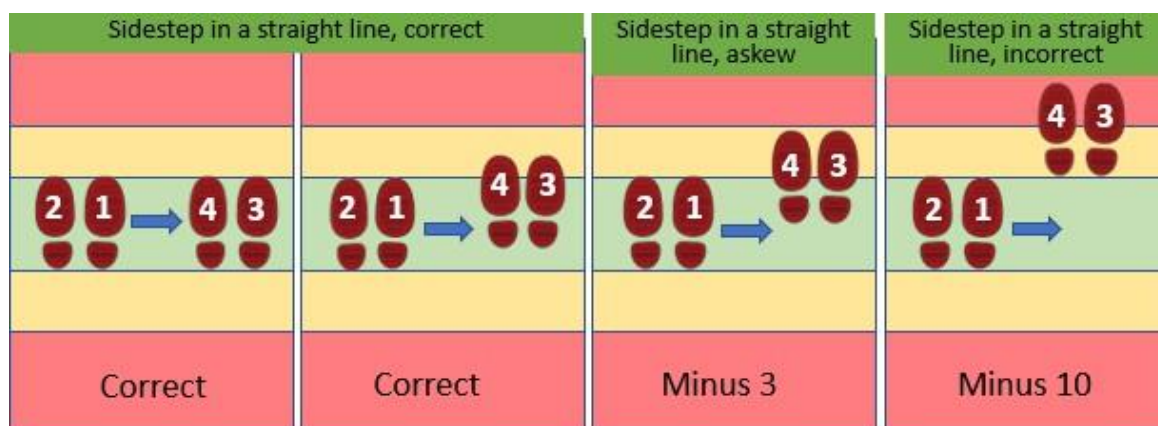
In general, a handler has taken a step when there is a clear space between the forefoot heel and the rearfoot toes and the foot is clearly lifted from the ground. Steps do not have to be equally long.

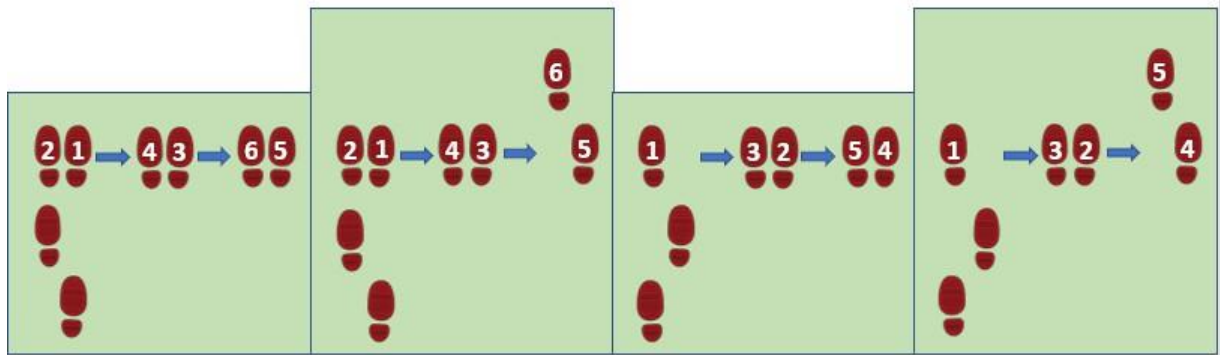
In static exercises the handler is not allowed to step on the spot or keep shifting the feet. If the dog is stepping on the spot, it does not cause a deduction.

In exercises in which the step count and the direction of the step(s) is defined, additional, missing, wrong directed or incomplete steps are considered as an exercise performed incorrectly. In all the other exercises the handler can do as many steps as needed to perform the exercise correctly and pleasantly with the dog (see also § 4.6. Turns).

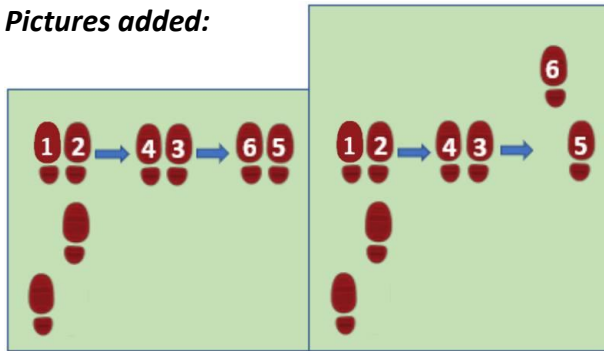
In side step exercises the length (width) of a side step must be at least the length of the handler's foot. The side step(s) must be taken in a straight line to the left or right (see the upper pictures below). Cross step(s) are not allowed.

The handler can perform the **start and** end of side steps in two ways: either by quickly putting the feet together without stopping or by just taking a step forward after the **last** sidestep without touching the ground with the foot in question (see the lower pictures below).





Pictures added:



In exercises in which the dog is directed to the front of the handler, the handler is not allowed to take steps backwards, the exception being exercise 306 when the handler must show the steps backwards.

In exercise 412 backward steps are counted from the foot clearly lifted from the ground and moved backwards. In the last backward step the following foot must be clearly lifted from the ground. The handler can gather their feet.

4.5. Parallel Alignment

The dog must stay aligned with and parallel to the handler while heeling and in all phases of an exercise in which the team is facing the same direction.

The same counts equally for all in front exercise parts: The dog should stay central, straight and parallel in opposite to the handler and keep this position, when the handler is moving sideways or backwards.

4.6. Turns

The following turns must be performed on the spot (equivalent to an A4 sheet):
114-115, 211-218, 307-308, 414-415.

The following turns can have maximum diameter of 50 cm when be performed:
105-113, 201-203, 310, 313-314, 405.

4.7. Cone exercises

In the spiral, slalom or distractions exercises (119, 120, 121, 122 and 221) the team should pass the cones within a distance of 50 cm.

In exercise 410 the cone can be located at an angle up to 90° either to the left or the right side at a distance of 3 to 5 m away from the sign. To complete the exercise, the dog must be within 1 m from the cone while standing. If all four paws are outside the 2 m diameter, the exercise has been performed incorrectly. If possible, the perimeter of the imaginary circle should be marked. There must be at least 2 m between the cone and the recall cone.

In 90° turn right/left around cone exercises (417 and 418), the cone is placed 1 to 2 m straight forward from the end of the sign. The dog can either walk or run, the pace is not defined, when going around the cone. The handler may slow down while the dog is going around the cone.

4.8. Recall and In Front exercises

The distance of the recall cone in recall exercises (if there is no special recall sign) and in exercise 410 is 5 m straight ahead from the previous exercise sign. The distance of a special recall sign to the previous exercise sign is written in the description of the sign. A false start by the dog equals to incorrectly performed exercise.

After recalling the dog, the handler, while walking, may slow down for the dog to reach the handler before the following exercise. The following exercise must have a distance of 5 m from the recall cone or special recall sign.

In exercise 420 (stop, recall over jump) the recall can be done anywhere after the handler has passed the jump.

All exercises, in which the dog is directed to the front of the handler, end with the dog on the left as instructed in the exercise 209-210, 306, 322-323, 411 and 416 (return to left handling). If no instruction of the completion after sitting in front is written, the handler can choose, if the dog returns to heel position from the right or the left side.

4.9. Height of a jump

It is important that the correct height of all jumps is set up before the concerning team is entering the ring. The height of a jump is defined by the dog's height at the withers:



- under 30 cm: 10 cm
- 30-39 cm: 20 cm
- 40-49 cm: 30 cm
- 50 cm and over: 40 cm

In case of doubt the (chief) judge decides which height is set. Fallen bars are not placed up during a run, although they would be eventually reused in other exercises again.

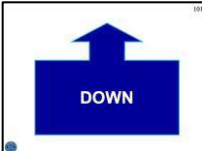
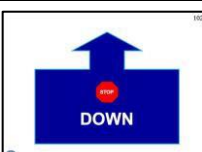

5. DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FCI CLASS EXERCISE SIGNS



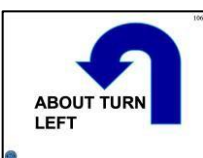
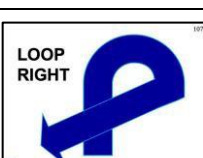


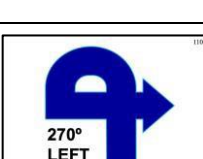
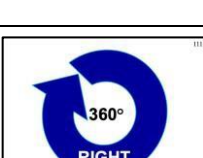

Beforehand note the following instructions:


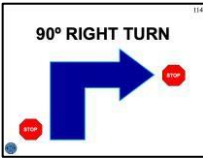
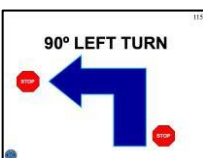

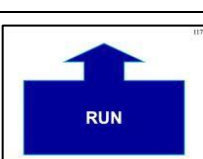

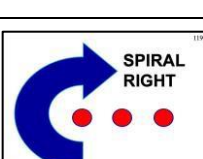
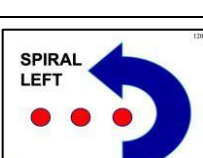
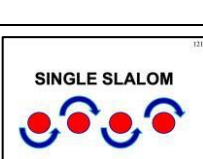
- If it is not otherwise stated in the description of the sign, the general performance Rules in § 4 should be followed.
- The concerning exercise areas of the sign are listed in the description of every sign (A, B, C or D, see also § 4.3. Exercise area).
- Note: All exercises can be performed with the dog on the left side or the right side of the handler (exceptions: 417 = only left side, 418 = only right side).
- Changes to another heeling side are written down in the description of the sign. The course layout informs whether the dog should start on the left or the right side.
- Only fluent exercises from 1-point signs (105-113) can be performed in slow pace or in fast pace. The sign before the fluent 1-point signs decides in which pace the exercise is performed in.

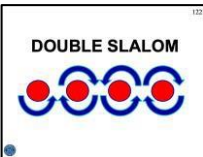
| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>START (A) The dog sits at the handler's left or right side, as instructed in the drawing of the course. When completed, the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>FINISH (A) The course is finished when the team has passed this sign. The team leaves the competition area at a normal pace.</p> |

5.1. 1 point signs


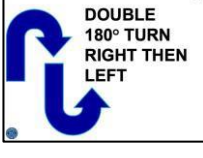
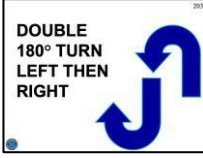


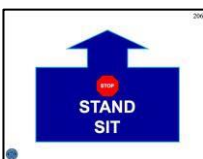
| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
|  | <p>101 DOWN (A) The handler stops and the dog lies down directly beside the handler. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>102 STOP, DOWN (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to a down position. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>103 STOP, WALK AROUND (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. While the dog remains sitting, the handler walks forward around the dog, back to the side of the dog, and makes a stop. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |



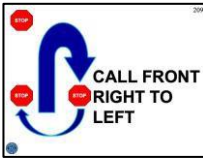
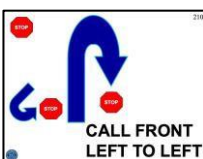


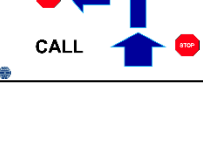
| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>104 STOP, DOWN, WALK AROUND (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to a down position. While the dog remains lying, the handler walks forward around the dog, back to the side of the dog, and makes a stop. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>105 ABOUT TURN RIGHT (B) Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the right and moves in the opposite direction.</p> |
|  | <p>106 ABOUT TURN LEFT (B) Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the left and moves in the opposite direction.</p> |
|  | <p>107 LOOP RIGHT (B) Together the team does a tight turn to the right (Loop) crossing the original path. The angle of the turn must be between 180° and 270°.</p> |
|  | <p>108 LOOP LEFT (B) Together the team does a tight turn to the left (Loop) crossing the original path. The angle of the turn must be between 180° and 270°.</p> |
|  | <p>109 270° RIGHT (B) Together the team does a tight 270° turn to the right. The new direction is 90° left to the original path.</p> |
|  | <p>110 270° LEFT (B) Together the team does a tight 270° turn to the left. The new direction is 90° right to the original path.</p> |
|  | <p>111 360° RIGHT (A) Together the team does a tight 360° turn to the right. The team keeps the original direction.</p> |
|  | <p>112 360° LEFT (A) Together the team does a tight 360° turn to the left. The team keeps the original direction.</p> |




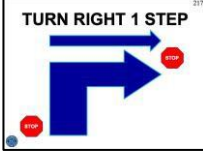
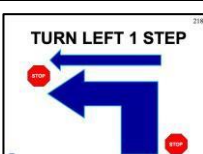

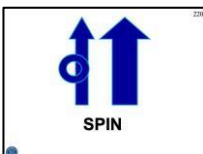
| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>113 TURN AROUND DOG BEHIND (B) The handler does an about turn to the side, where the dog is, while the dog turns to the side, where the handler is. The dog is moving around behind the handler and back to its initial heel position to continue moving with the handler in the opposite direction.</p> |
|  | <p>114 STOP, 90° RIGHT TURN, STOP (B) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler does a 90° turn to the right on the spot and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>115 STOP, 90° LEFT TURN, STOP (B) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler does a 90° turn to the left on the spot and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>116 SLOW PACE (A) The team must slow down noticeably. The slow pace must be kept, until a sign shows a new pace or the team has reached the finish sign.</p> |
|  | <p>117 RUN (A) The team must speed up noticeably. The fast pace must be kept, until a sign shows a new pace or the team has reached the finish sign.</p> |
|  | <p>118 NORMAL PACE (A) The team returns to normal pace.</p> |
|  | <p>119 SPIRAL RIGHT (B) Three cones are placed in a straight line with spaces between them of 1.5 to 2 m. The team first rounds three cones on the left side, then the nearest two, then the first one.</p> |
|  | <p>120 SPIRAL LEFT (B) Three cones are placed in a straight line with spaces between them of 1.5 to 2 m. The team first rounds three cones on the right side, then the nearest two, then the first one.</p> |
|  | <p>121 SINGLE SLALOM (B) Four cones are placed in a straight line with spaces between them of 1.5 to 2 m. The team must enter the exercise with the first cone on its left and weaves through the four cones.</p> |

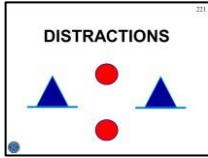
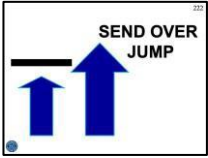
| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>122 DOUBLE SLALOM (B)</p> <p>Four cones are placed in a straight line with spaces between them of 1.5 to 2 m. The team must enter the exercise with the first cone on its left, weaves through the four cones, rounds the end cone and weaves back.</p> |

5.2. 2 point signs

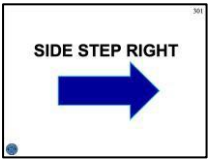
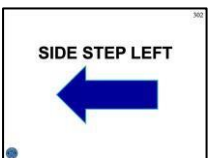
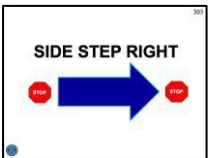
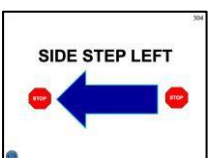
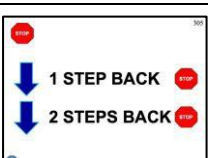
| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>201 2 x TURN AROUND DOG BEHIND (A)</p> <p>The handler does an about turn to the side, where the dog is, while the dog turns to the side, where the handler is. The dog is moving around behind the handler and back to its initial heel position to continue moving with the handler in the opposite direction. After 1 to 2 m the handler does again an about turn to the side, where the dog is, while the dog turns again to the side, where the handler is. The dog is moving again around behind the handler back to its initial heel position to continue moving with the handler in the same direction as before the exercise.</p> |
|  | <p>202 DOUBLE 180° TURN, RIGHT THEN LEFT (A)</p> <p>Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the right and moves in the opposite direction. After 1 to 2 m the team does together a tight 180° turn to the left and moves in the same direction as before the exercise.</p> |
|  | <p>203 DOUBLE 180° TURN, LEFT THEN RIGHT (A)</p> <p>Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the left and moves in the opposite direction. After 1 to 2 m the team does together a tight 180° turn to the right and moves in the same direction as before the exercise.</p> |
|  | <p>204 STOP, DOWN, SIT (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to a down position, followed by a sit position. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>205 STOP, STAND (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to a stand position. The dog remains standing until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>206 STOP, STAND, SIT (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to a stand position, followed by a sit position. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |



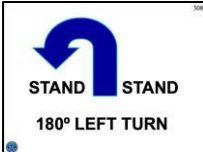

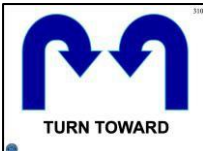
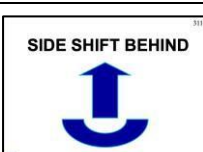
| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>207 STOP, STAND, DOWN (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to a stand position, followed by a down position. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>208 STOP, STAND, WALK AROUND (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to a stand position. While the dog remains standing, the handler walks forward around the dog, back to the side of the dog, and makes a stop. The dog remains standing until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>209 STOP, CALL FRONT STOP, RIGHT TO LEFT, STOP (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. The dog is then directed to move to the handler's right and behind the handler to the left side. The dog sits before the team moves forward. Return to left handling.</p> |
|  | <p>210 STOP, CALL FRONT STOP, LEFT TO LEFT, STOP (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. The dog is then directed to move directly to the handler's left side. The dog sits before the team moves forward. Return to left handling.</p> |
|  | <p>211 STOP, 1 STEP FORWARD, 90° RIGHT TURN 1 STEP, CALL, STOP (B) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog remains sitting while the handler takes one step forward, stops and thereafter does a 90° turn to the right, again takes one step in the new direction and again stops. The step to the right can either be taken directly or the handler can turn on the spot and then take the step. After that the dog is called to sit at the handler's side (no change of the heeling side). The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>212 STOP, 1 STEP FORWARD, 90° LEFT TURN 1 STEP, CALL, STOP (B) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog remains sitting while the handler takes one step forward, stops and thereafter does a 90° turn to the left, again takes one step in the new direction and again stops. The step to the left can either be taken directly or the handler can turn on the spot and then take the step. After that the dog is called to sit at the handler's side (no change of the heeling side). The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>213 STOP, 180° RIGHT TURN, FORWARD (B) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the right on the spot and continues forward, in the opposite direction.</p> |

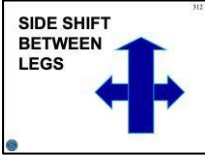
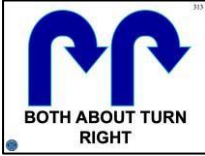
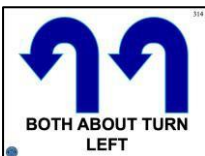
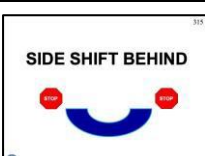
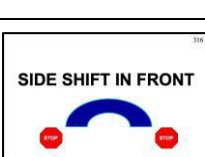



| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>214 STOP, 180° LEFT TURN, FORWARD (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the left on the spot and continues forward, in the opposite direction.</p> |
|  | <p>215 STOP, 180° RIGHT TURN, STOP (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the right on the spot, stops and the dog is directed to a sit position. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>216 STOP, 180° LEFT TURN, STOP (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the left on the spot, stops and the dog is directed to a sit position. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>217 STOP, 90° RIGHT TURN 1 STEP, STOP (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler does a 90° turn to the right, takes one step and stops. The step can either be taken directly or the handler can turn on the spot and then take the step. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>218 STOP, 90° LEFT TURN 1 STEP, STOP (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler does a 90° turn to the left, takes one step and stops. The step can either be taken directly or the handler can turn on the spot and then take the step. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>219 STOP, 1 STEP STAND, 2 STEPS STOP, 3 STEPS DOWN (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the handler takes one step forward and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a stand when the handler stops. The handler then takes two steps forward and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. Thereafter the handler takes three steps forward and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a down when the handler stops. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>220 SPIN (A)</p> <p>While the team is moving, the dog spins a circle forward, alongside and in the direction away from the handler.</p> |

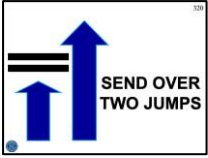



| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
|  | <p>221 DISTRACTIONS (B)</p> <p>Two cones are placed 2.5 to 3 m apart. The distance between the other two markings (distractions) is 1.5 to 2 m. The team must enter the exercise as decided by the judge and performs a complete figure 8 around the cones, crossing the line between the distractions three times. Toys, treats or both may be used as distractions.</p> |
|  | <p>222 SEND OVER JUMP (D)</p> <p>The dog is sent over the jump at the earliest next to the sign that is two meters before the jump. At the same time the handler continues alongside the jump. The handler may increase the pace to catch up with the dog.</p> |

5.3. 3 point signs

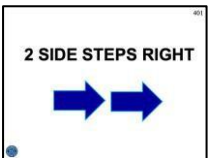
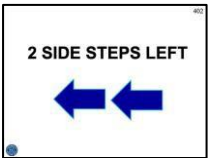
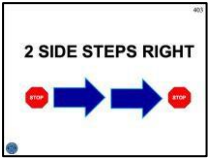
| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
|  | <p>301 SIDE STEP RIGHT (B)</p> <p>While moving, the handler takes one step to the right and the dog follows simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler. The team continues on the right side of the sign.</p> |
|  | <p>302 SIDE STEP LEFT (B)</p> <p>While moving, the handler takes one step to the left and the dog follows simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler.</p> |
|  | <p>303 STOP, SIDE STEP RIGHT, STOP (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes one step to the right and stops. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward. The team continues on the right side of the sign.</p> |
|  | <p>304 STOP, SIDE STEP LEFT, STOP (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes one step to the left and stops. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>305 STOP, 1 STEP BACK STOP, 2 STEPS BACK STOP (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the handler takes one step backwards and stops. The dog moves simultaneously and aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. Then the handler takes two steps backwards and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with and parallel to the handler and resumes again a sit when the handler stops. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |

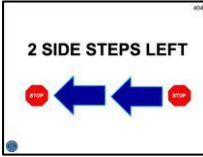
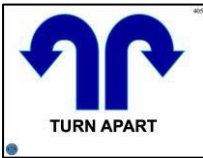
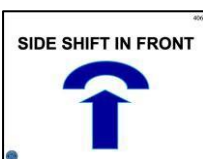


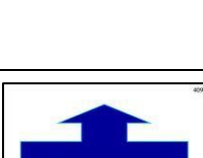

| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>306 CALL FRONT STOP, 1 STEP BACK STAND, 2 STEPS BACK STOP, 3 STEPS BACK DOWN (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. After that the handler takes one step backwards and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a stand in front of the handler when the handler stops. The handler then takes two steps backwards and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a sit in front of the handler when the handler stops. Thereafter the handler takes three steps backwards and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a down in front of the handler when the handler stops. The dog is then directed to the handler's left side and the dog sits beside the handler. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward. Return to left handling.</p> |
|  | <p>307 STAND, 180° RIGHT TURN, STAND (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog stands beside the handler. Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the right on the spot, stops and the dog is directed to a stand position. The dog remains standing until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>308 STAND, 180° LEFT TURN, STAND (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog stands beside the handler. Together the team does a tight 180° turn to the left on the spot, stops and the dog is directed to a stand position. The dog remains standing until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>309 STAND, CIRCLE AROUND HANDLER, STAND (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog stands beside the handler. After that the handler directs the dog to circle forward around the handler. Thereafter the dog resumes again a stand at the handler's side. The dog remains standing until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>310 TURN TOWARD (B)</p> <p>While moving, the team does a tight and simultaneous 180° turn toward each other and continues in the opposite direction. The heeling side is changed.</p> |
|  | <p>311 SIDE SHIFT BEHIND (A)</p> <p>While moving, the dog makes a side shift behind the handler. The dog is not allowed to spin to make the shift. The heeling side is changed.</p> |


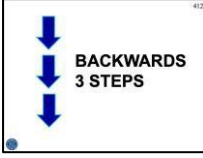
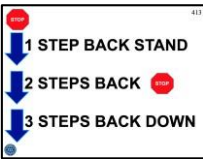
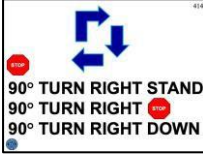
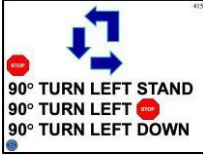
| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>312 SIDE SHIFT BETWEEN LEGS (A) The dog makes a side shift between the handler's legs. The handler may stop when the dog performs the exercise. The handler is allowed to lift a leg to make the side shift fluently. The heeling side is changed.</p> |
|  | <p>313 BOTH ABOUT TURN RIGHT (B) While moving, both, the handler and the dog itself, do a tight and simultaneous 180° turn to the right and continue in the opposite direction. The heeling side is changed.</p> |
|  | <p>314 BOTH ABOUT TURN LEFT (B) While moving, both, the handler and the dog itself, do a tight and simultaneous 180° turn to the left and continue in the opposite direction. The heeling side is changed.</p> |
|  | <p>315 STOP, SIDE SHIFT BEHIND, STOP (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to make a side shift behind the handler and to resume a sit on the other side. The dog is not allowed to spin to make the shift. When completed, the team moves forward. The heeling side is changed.</p> |
|  | <p>316 STOP, SIDE SHIFT IN FRONT, STOP (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to make a side shift in front of the handler and to resume a sit on the other side. The dog must spin to make the shift. When completed, the team moves forward. The heeling side is changed.</p> |
|  | <p>317 MOVING STAND, WALK AROUND (A) While moving, the dog is directed to a stand position and the handler, without pausing, walks forward, then around the dog, back to the side of the dog and makes a stop. The dog remains standing until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>318 MOVING DOWN, WALK AROUND (A) While moving, the dog is directed to a down position and the handler, without pausing, walks forward, then around the dog, back to the side of the dog and makes a stop. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>319 STOP, STAND, WALK FORWARD (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the dog is directed to a stand position. Thereafter the handler, without the dog, walks forward either to the recall cone (C) and recalls the dog (no change of the heeling side) or to the recall sign and follows the instructions on the recall sign. If no additional recall sign is placed, the recall cone and the recall itself are part of this exercise.</p> |






| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|--|--|
|  | <p>320 SEND OVER TWO JUMPS (D)</p> <p>The dog is sent over two jumps at the earliest next to the sign that is two meters before the first jump. The jumps can be in a straight line or in an angle up to 90°, but they must be 4 m apart from each other. At the same time the handler continues alongside the jumps.</p> |
|  | <p>321 TURN AROUND, RECALL (B)</p> <p>This sign can only be used after exercises 319, 408 and 409, instead of a recall cone, and must be placed 3 to 5 m from the previous sign. The handler turns around, stops and recalls the dog. The handler may stop before turning around. The dog is directed to go to the left heel position (without a sit). When reached, the team moves forward. Return to left handling.</p> |
|  | <p>322 TURN AROUND, RECALL FRONT STOP, RIGHT TO LEFT, STOP (B)</p> <p>This sign can only be used after exercises 319, 408 and 409, instead of a recall cone, and must be placed 3 to 5 m from the previous sign. The handler turns around, stops and recalls the dog. The handler may stop before turning around. The dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. The dog is then directed to move to the handler's right and behind the handler to the left side. The dog sits before the team moves forward. Return to left handling.</p> |
|  | <p>323 TURN AROUND, RECALL FRONT STOP, LEFT TO LEFT, STOP (B)</p> <p>This sign can only be used after exercises 319, 408 and 409, instead of a recall cone, and must be placed 3 to 5 m from the previous sign. The handler turns around, stops and recalls the dog. The handler may stop before turning around. The dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. The dog then is directed to move directly to the handler's left side. The dog sits before the team moves forward. Return to left handling.</p> |



5.4. 4 point signs

| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
|  | <p>401 2 SIDE STEPS RIGHT (B)</p> <p>While moving, the handler takes two steps to the right and the dog follows simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler. The team continues on the right side of the sign.</p> |
|  | <p>402 2 SIDE STEPS LEFT (B)</p> <p>While moving, the handler takes two steps to the left and the dog follows simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler.</p> |
|  | <p>403 STOP, 2 SIDE STEPS RIGHT, STOP (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes two steps to the right and stops. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. The team continues on the right side of the sign.</p> |

| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>404 STOP, 2 SIDE STEPS LEFT, STOP (B) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The handler takes two steps to the left and stops. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops.</p> |
|  | <p>405 TURN APART (B) While moving, the team does a tight and simultaneous 180° turn away from each other and continues in the opposite direction. The heeling side is changed.</p> |
|  | <p>406 SIDE SHIFT IN FRONT (A) While moving, the dog makes a side shift in front of the handler. The dog is not allowed to spin to make the shift. The heeling side is changed.</p> |
|  | <p>407 CIRCLE AROUND HANDLER (A) While the team is moving, the dog circles forward around the handler and returns to the initial heel position.</p> |
|  | <p>408 MOVING SIT, WALK FORWARD (A) While moving, the dog is directed to a sit position and the handler, without pausing and without the dog, walks forward either to the recall cone (C) and recalls the dog (no change of the heeling side) or to the recall sign and follows the instructions on the recall sign. If no additional recall sign is placed, the recall cone and the recall itself are part of this exercise.</p> |
|  | <p>409 MOVING DOWN, WALK FORWARD (A) While moving, the dog is directed to a down position and the handler, without pausing and without the dog, walks forward either to the recall cone (C) and recalls the dog (no change of the heeling side) or to the recall sign and follows the instructions on the recall sign. If no additional recall sign is placed, the recall cone and the recall itself are part of this exercise.</p> |
|  | <p>410 STOP, SEND AWAY, STAND, WALK FORWARD, RECALL (A) The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. The team is allowed to turn towards the cone when stopping. The cone is placed 3 to 5 m away in an angle up to 90° to the left or the right. The handler then sends the dog to a stand next to the cone (at least one paw must be within one meter of the cone). The dog remains standing at the cone while the handler walks forward to the recall cone (C) and recalls the dog (no change of the heeling side). The recall cone and the recall itself are part of this exercise. There must be at least 2 m between the cone and the recall cone.</p> |

| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
|  | <p>411 CALL FRONT STAND, BACK AWAY, STAND, WALK FORWARD, RECALL (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog is directed to stand in front of the handler. The dog is then directed to back away at least three dog lengths from the handler to a stand. While the dog remains standing, the handler walks forward next to the dog and then recalls the dog, without pausing, returning to left handling.</p> |
|  | <p>412 3 STEPS BACKWARDS (A)</p> <p>While moving, the handler takes at least three steps backwards. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler. When completed, the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>413 STOP, 1 STEP BACK STAND, 2 STEPS BACK STOP, 3 STEPS BACK DOWN (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the handler takes one step backwards and stops. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes a stand when the handler stops. Then the handler takes two steps backwards and stops. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. Thereafter the handler takes three steps backwards and stops. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes a down when the handler stops. The dog stays down until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>414 STOP, 90° RIGHT TURN STAND, 90° RIGHT TURN STOP, 90° RIGHT TURN DOWN (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the handler does a 90° turn to the right on the spot and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a stand when the handler stops. The handler then does again a 90° turn to the right on the spot and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. Thereafter the handler does again a 90° turn to the right on the spot and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a down when the handler stops. The dog stays down until the team moves forward. The new direction is 90° left to the original one.</p> |
|  | <p>415 STOP, 90° LEFT TURN STAND, 90° LEFT TURN STOP, 90° LEFT TURN DOWN (B)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the handler does a 90° turn to the left on the spot and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a stand when the handler stops. The handler then does again a 90° turn to the left on the spot and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a sit when the handler stops. Thereafter the handler does again a 90° turn to the left on the spot and stops. The dog moves simultaneously with the handler and resumes a down when the handler stops. The dog stays down until the team moves forward. The new direction is 90° right to the original one.</p> |

| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>416 CALL FRONT STOP, SIDE STEP LEFT STOP, SIDE STEP RIGHT STOP (A)</p> <p>The handler stops and the dog is directed to sit in front of the handler. After that the handler takes one side step to the left and stops. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes again a sit in front of the handler when the handler stops. Thereafter the handler takes one side step to the right and stops. The dog moves simultaneously aligned with and parallel to the handler and resumes again a sit in front of the handler when the handler stops. The dog is then directed to the handler's left side and resumes a sit beside the handler. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward. Return to left handling.</p> |
|  | <p>417 90° LEFT TURN AROUND CONE (A)</p> <p>This exercise can only be set up, when the dog is in the beginning of the exercise on the handler's left side (left handling). While moving, before reaching the sign, the handler sends the dog around the cone, which is 1 to 2 m away from the back of the sign. The dog must clearly have started its approach to the cone before the handler reaches the sign. The dog circles the cone clockwise while the handler turns 90° left before reaching the cone. The handler can slow down while the dog is going around the cone. The exercise ends with the dog returning to the handler's right side. The heeling side is changed. Return to right handling.</p> |
|  | <p>418 90° RIGHT TURN AROUND CONE (A)</p> <p>This exercise can only be set up, when the dog is in the beginning of the exercise on the handler's right side (right handling). While moving, before reaching the sign, the handler sends the dog around the cone, which is 1 to 2 m away from the back of the sign. The dog must clearly have started its approach to the cone before the handler reaches the sign. The dog circles the cone counterclockwise while the handler turns 90° right before reaching the cone. The handler can slow down while the dog is going around the cone. The exercise ends with the dog returning to the handler's left side. The heeling side is changed. Return to left handling.</p> |
|  | <p>419 MOVING SIT, WALK AROUND (A)</p> <p>While moving, the dog is directed to a sit position and the handler, without pausing, walks forward, then around the dog, back to the side of the dog and makes a stop. The dog remains sitting until the team moves forward.</p> |
|  | <p>420 STOP, RECALL OVER JUMP (A)</p> <p>The handler stops next to the sign that is two meters before the jump and the dog sits beside the handler. After that the handler walks forward, without the dog, and recalls the dog after having passed the jump. The dog does the jump and returns to the initial heel side (no change of the heeling side). The handler may reduce the pace to catch up with the dog.</p> |

| SIGN | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
|  | <p>421 TURN AROUND, RECALL OVER JUMP WITH DIRECTIONS (B)</p> <p>This sign can only be used after exercises 319, 408 and 409, instead of a recall cone and must be placed 8 m from the previous sign. A jump is placed exactly halfway between this sign and the previous one, so that the nearest side of the jump is 2 m off-centre to either left or right. The handler turns around, stops and recalls the dog over the jump to the left heel position (without a sit). The handler may stop before turning around. The team then moves forward. Return to left handling.</p> |
|  | <p>422 TURN AROUND, BACK AWAY, SIT, DOWN, RECALL (B)</p> <p>This sign can only be used after exercises 319, 408 and 409, instead of a recall cone, and must be placed 3 to 5 m from the previous sign. The handler turns around, stops and directs the dog to back away at least one dog length. The handler may stop before turning around. After that the dog is directed to a sit and then to a down position. Thereafter the dog is recalled to the handler's left side. The dog sits before the team moves forward. Return to left handling.</p> |

6. JUDGING RULES

6.1. General Rules for judging the exercises

The team starts with 100 points. Deductions are made based on the judge's assessment of the team's performance. The team is being judged while within the ring.

During the course and when the team is performing exercises, the judge must take into account the dog's breed, size and specific temperament while judging.

The team cannot get less than 0 points.

The deduction points used are -1, -3, -5 and -10.

At an exercise the maximum total of deductions is 10 points. In addition, the behavioural incidents which are marked with a star (*) in the list of § 6.4. can be deducted with no maximum total.

Between the exercises, at every transport stage, the additional maximum total of deductions is 10 points. In addition, the behavioural incidents which are marked with a star (*) in the list of § 6.4. can be deducted with no maximum total.

All errors made during the performance between entering and exiting the ring are taken into account. If there are errors made between exercises (for example, the dog makes a spin), the deductions are marked as part of the following exercise. Errors made after the Finish sign are marked as a part of the finish sign.

6.2. Overall impression

When judging, the overall impression of the cooperation between the dog and the handler must be considered.

A maximum of 10 points can be deducted based on the behaviour that has not been deducted separately in a specific exercise. For example:

- The dog barks/sounds during the course.
- The dog keeps jumping up and down in parts of the course.
- The dog is disturbing the flow of the handler.
- Lack of cooperation/communication between the handler and the dog.
- Handler has an unfriendly tone to the dog.

6.3. Disqualification

If one or more of the situations below occur, the team will be disqualified and gets a score of 0 points:

- The handler walks into the ring with the dog still on leash.
- The handler has treats, food, toys or other items visible in the ring.
- The handler walks past a sign (does not attempt to perform the specific exercise).
- The handler or the team performs the course in the wrong order.
- The handler practises harsh handling on the dog (in the ring or on the competition ground).
- The handler practises excessive training like repeating exercises more than two times.
- The handler or the dog have wrong equipment (see § 1.5.3. and § 4.1.).
- The dog leaves the ring before the performance is completed.
All paws are outside the ring.
- The dog shows uncontrolled excessive barking or sounding.
- The dog shows uncontrolled sniffing (is not cooperating with the handler).
- If the Regulations or Rules of the FCI Rally Obedience International Class are not followed.
- The handler shows unsportsmanlike behaviour during the competition.
- Double handling: Handler is getting help or directions from outside of the ring.
- The dog is aggressive and bites or tries to bite a person or another dog (in the ring or on the competition ground).
- The dog is unmanageable (very reluctant to perform).
- The dog leaves the handler when not supposed to and was not successfully recalled immediately.
- The dog leaves the handler when not supposed to for a second time.
- The dog urinates or defecates in the ring.
- The team (or one of the team members) leaves the ring before the Finish sign.
- The team gives up or the judge cancels the run for health or animal welfare reasons.

If needed, the (chief) judge can stop the team's performance (see § 2.1.).

6.4. General Deductions

| 1-point deductions | Incident (every time it occurs) |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Lack of teamwork (dog/handler) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dog is askew (45° to 90°) - Dog hesitates or shows a short delay in response - Dog is slow in performance - Dog is sniffing (touches the ground/sign/cone) - Dog touches a sign or a cone (wagging tail excluded) - Dog is stepping on handler's feet - Dog is leaning against the handler while heeling - Dog deliberately touches the handler's hand with its nose |
| Handler's mistake | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handler touches a sign/cone |

| 3-point deductions | Incident (every time it occurs) |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Lack of teamwork (dog/handler) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dog is out of position (more than 50 cm between dog/handler) - Dog steps over, moves or knocks over a sign/cone - Dog is on the wrong side of a sign/cone - Dog shows a delay in response - Dog is very slow in performance - Dog is on handler's path (for example in a spiral) and prevents fluent movement - Dog tries to change heeling side when not supposed to - Dog tries to change position when not supposed to - (*) Dog is jumping against the handler - The handler and the dog run into each other - In figure exercises: Team is out of position (more than 50 cm between team/cone) - In a stationary position the dog is moving 2-3 paws away from the original spot - Dog and handler are not starting simultaneously in turning exercises |
| Handler's mistake | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handler steps over, moves or knocks over a sign/cone/jump - Handler is on the wrong side of a sign/cone - Handler's feet are not standing still in position - Handler is significantly slowing down or speeding up to help the dog to perform - In sidestep exercises: Handler moves more than a half step, but less than a step forward/backwards - In 105-113, 201-203, 310, 313-314, 405 the handler does a circle, which is too big (more than 50 cm, less than 100 cm in diameter) - In 114-115, 211-218, 307-308, 414-415 the handler does a turn, which is too large (more than an A4 sheet, less than an A3 sheet) |

| 5-point deductions | Incident (every time it occurs) |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Lack of teamwork (dog/handler) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dog shows a long delay in response - In 221: Dog is sniffing or touching the distractions - Dog knocks down the bar in a jump - In sidestep exercises: Dog is not taking side steps simultaneously with front and hind legs. |
| Handler's mistake | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (*) Handler is giving a loud command or an intimidating signal - Handler takes an extra step to give room or to guide or to direct the dog (for example side change or sending over a jump) |

| 10-point deductions | Incident (every time it occurs) |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Lack of teamwork (dog/handler) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dog is askew (over 90°) - (*) The dog leaves the handler when not supposed to but can be recalled immediately. - Dog refuses to jump or is going past the jump (this includes refusal to jump when a jump has been knocked down) - In 417-418: Dog does not leave the handler when sent - Dog knocks down a jump - (*) Dog is picking up anything inside the ring (for example a distraction or a cone) - Dog is making additional moves between signs (for example a twist, a sit, scratching) - Dog or handler are not within the exercise area at any point during the exercise - Dog makes a false start, independent on the distance to the handler (for example the dog starts off before a recall) - Dog changes heeling side when not supposed to - Dog makes a clear stop in heeling or in exercises in which stopping is not a part of the exercise - In a stationary position the dog is moving more than 3 paws away from the original spot - Dog is very reluctant/unwilling to perform an exercise |
| Handler's mistake | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (*) Handler touches the dog - Performing exercise in wrong pace - Handler walking with the dog on the wrong side - (*) Visible leash - In sidestep exercises: Handler moves more than a step forward/backwards - (*) Handler puts hand in pocket - Handler makes a clear stop when not supposed to do - (*) Retry of an exercise - In 105-113, 201-203, 310, 313-314, 405 the handler does a circle, which is too big (more than 100 cm in diameter) - In 114-115, 211-218, 307-308, 414-415 the handler does a turn, which is too large (more than an A3 sheet) |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Incorrectly performed exercise | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Exercise or part of the exercise performed incorrectly- Team is on the wrong side of a sign/cone- In side step exercises: Dog is not taking side steps with both front and hind legs. |
|--------------------------------|---|

The English text is the authentic document.

These FCI Regulations and Rules were approved by the FCI General Committee, by e-mail, on October 10, 2023.

The amendments in bold and italic characters were approved by the FCI General Committee on January 8, 2025.