

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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

REGULATIONS FOR FCI INTERNATIONAL GROOMING COMPETITIONS



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Contents

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 1. | PREFACE..... | 3 |
| 2. | OBJECTIVES OF GROOMING | 3 |
| 3. | WELFARE AND HEALTH OF DOGS | 3 |
| 4. | FCI GROOMING GENERAL RULES | 3 |
| 4.1 | Classification of Categories | 3 |
| 4.1.1 | FCI Recognised Breeds, Admitted to compete | 3 |
| 4.2 | Classification of levels | 5 |
| 4.2.1 | Level C – <i>Beginner</i> | 6 |
| 4.2.2 | Level B – Intermediate | 6 |
| 4.2.3 | Level A – Advanced | 6 |
| 4.2.4 | FCI Master Groomer Classification | 6 |
| 4.3 | Progress across categories | 7 |
| 4.4 | Seminars..... | 7 |
| 5. | EXAMINER’S GUIDE | 7 |
| 5.1 | Score Sheet..... | 7 |
| 5.2 | Notes for Participants about Score Sheets | 8 |
| 5.3 | Tied Mark | 8 |
| 5.4 | General Guide for each Level of Category 5 | 9 |
| 6. | LICENSES OF GROOMING JUDGES..... | 9 |
| 7. | ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS | 9 |
| 7.1 | Application for FCI International Grooming Competitions | 9 |
| 7.2 | Entries | 9 |
| 7.3 | “Best in Level” and “Best Groomer in Show” Competitions..... | 10 |
| 8. | GENERAL INFORMATION | 10 |
| 9. | TIMING | 11 |
| 10. | MISCELLANEOUS..... | 11 |
| | ANNEX | 12 |

1. PREFACE

The purpose of these rules is to encourage groomers to further develop and extend their skills by participating in **FCI** grooming competitions *for pedigree dogs, always with the aim of promoting and protecting the welfare of healthy, pedigree dogs.*

This regulation serves as the primary guideline for organizing FCI competitions conducted under the auspices of an FCI NCO. New NCOs embarking on the adoption of these FCI guidelines can tailor their own NCO regulations to align with FCI standards within a two-year timeframe, ensuring alignment with the objectives outlined by the FCI Grooming Commission in the regulations.

2. OBJECTIVES OF GROOMING

The objectives of grooming are:

- to maintain a dog's health and cleanliness;
- to prevent illness by maintaining the healthy condition of skin and coat;
- to enhance the structural and anatomical strength of the dog;
- **to respect the image of each breed according to its standard and maintain the correct techniques to perform each grooming task.**

3. WELFARE AND HEALTH OF DOGS

The welfare and health of dogs must be of utmost importance and priority at all grooming competitions. Consequently, the organizers must provide a physically and mentally beneficial environment for dogs (for example, ensuring water is **always** available, dog not to be standing for too long, etc.)

4. FCI GROOMING GENERAL RULES

4.1 Classification of Categories

Five (5) categories are offered in the competition, **the first four (1 to 4) are mandatory and the fifth (5th) is optional**. There are three (3) levels offered within each category.

| Category 1 Hand-stripping | Category 2 Spaniels and Setters | Category 3 Poodles | Category 4 Other Pedigree Dogs Scissoring | Category 5 Grooming for another pedigree dogs |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| Level A - Advanced | | | | |
| Level B - Intermediate | | | | |
| Level C – Beginner | | | | |

4.1.1 FCI Recognised Breeds, Admitted to compete

Category 1

Small Breeds

- **Affenpinscher (186)**

- **Australian Terrier (8)**
- Cairn Terrier (4)
- Border Terrier (10)
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier (168)
- **Griffon Belge (81)**
- **Griffon Bruxellois (80)**
- Jack Russell Terrier (345)
- Norfolk Terrier (272)
- Norwich Terrier (72)
- **Parson Russell Terrier (339)**
- Scottish Terrier (73)
- Sealyham Terrier (74)
- West Highland White Terrier (85)
- **Wirehaired Dachshund, all sizes (148)**
- Zwergschnauzer (183)

Medium Breeds

- **Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen (33)**
- **Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier (302)**
- Irish Terrier (139)
- Lakeland Terrier (70)
- **Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen (67)**
- Schnauzer (182)
- Welsh Terrier (78)
- Wire Fox Terrier (169)

Large Breeds

- Airedale Terrier (7)
- **Deerhound (164)**
- **Drótzörü Magyar Vizsla (239)**
- **Deutsch Drahthaar (98)**
- **Grand Griffon Vendéen (282)**
- **Griffon a Poil Dur Korthals (107)**
- **Irish Wolfhound (160)**
- Riesenschnauzer (181)
- **Spinone Italiano (165)**
- **Other wirehaired breeds of FCI Group 7**

Category 2

- American Cocker Spaniel (167)
- English Cocker Spaniel (5)
- English Springer Spaniel (125)
- Irish Setter (120)
- English Setter (2)
- Gordon Setter (6)

Category 3

- Poodle (172)

Large Size

- Standard Poodle

Medium Size

- Medium Poodle

Small Size

- Toy Miniature Poodle
- Toy Poodle

Category 4

- **Barbet (105)**
- Bedlington Terrier (9)
- Bichon Frisé (215)
- Black Russian Terrier (327)
- Bouvier des Flandres (191)
- **Cão de Água Português (37)**
- **Cesky Terrier (246)**
- Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier (40)
- **Irish Water Spaniel (124)**
- Kerry Blue Terrier (3)
- **Lagotto Romagnolo (298)**

Category 5

Non-Mandatory category. For all FCI-recognised breeds that are to be groomed. In this category, the **competitor** may enter with breeds that usually require stripping or scissoring. Salon-clip styling is very much dependent on the creativity of the contestant. There are no restrictive styles. Colouring is not allowed. Artistic clips amplifying the beauty of the dog forms the basis of judging. If accessories are being used, they must not harm the dog's health and they cannot be permanent.

4.2 Classification of levels

The competitors must compete in a certificate level for a period of 12 months and are encouraged to compete for at least 2 championship levels in their home country or internationally before moving to a follow level.

Countries that have just started with organizing grooming competitions are allowed to admit groomers with more than two years of proven experience in dog grooming, to compete directly in the Intermediate Level in any of the categories. Experience in dog shows may also be considered.

4.2.1 Level C – Beginner

Beginner refers to **competitors** who have less than **one year** experience. Dog show experience can also be taken into consideration. The **competitor** will be allowed to compete in this **level** for the whole year both in his home country and internationally.

Competitors who qualify for Level B (Intermediate) by achieving a high **placing (1st Place)** are exempt from the required time frame to compete at the next level **and may make the decision to move to the Intermediate Level before the end of the year.**

Clippers (**apart from the usual clipped areas as determined by the breed trim**) are allowed to be used for Category 5 only.

4.2.2 Level B – Intermediate

Intermediate **Level** is for those **competitors** who have achieved a qualification at Level C. The clips attempted must be show clips or clips that are required as stipulated in the FCI breed standards.

Competitors who qualify for Level A (Advanced) by achieving a high placing in level B (1st Place) are exempt from the required time frame to compete at the next level and may make the decision to move to the Intermediate Level before the end of the year.

Clippers **may** only be used **in the usual clipped areas as determined by the breed trim.**

4.2.3 Level A – Advanced

Advanced Class refers to **competitors** who have achieved a qualification in Intermediate Level B.

Participants for Level A must have achieved a **classification** in Level B 12 months prior.

After two years competing in Advanced Level without winning a 1st place if the competitor wishes to return to the intermediate Level he may do so.

Participants are also encouraged to have attended at least 3 seminars organized by their own NCO or any other FCI Member/Contract Partner.

Clippers **may** only be used **in the usual clipped areas as determined by the breed trim.**

4.2.4 FCI Master Groomer Classification

For **FCI** Master Groomer **titles**, the **competitors** must have achieved a **classification of 1st place** in Level A in 3 categories. The participant will then get the title of "**FCI** Silver Master Groomer".

The **competitors** who achieved a **classification of 1st place** in Level A in 4 categories will get the title of "**FCI** Gold Master Groomer".

The **competitors** who have achieved a **classification of 1st place** in Level A in all 5 categories will get the ultimate title of "**FCI** Platinum Master Groomer".

An application will be made to the FCI grooming commission for the issuance of the Master's Certificate.

4.3 Progress across categories

Within two months of the end of the competitions the organizers will give the competitors who have been certified as passed, a certificate with all the data that clearly identifies the name of the competitor, the competition, the judges and all the classifications obtained.

The competitors must deliver a copy of the certificate to their NCO, which will confirm the details with the NCO that held the competition, in order to issue the FCI Certificate.

For confirmation of a competition entry into a level, competitors must provide a copy of an FCI Certificate from an FCI recognised grooming NCO and be in good standing with their domestic NCO.

To receive the title of FCI Master Groomer that corresponds to them, the competitors must deliver to their NCO a copy of the classification certificates in the mandatory categories so that the FCI can be requested to issue the respective title of "Master Groomer".

4.4 Seminars

FCI NCOs are encouraged to conduct seminars ***or webinars*** in ***all*** categories. The purpose of the seminars is to allow continual education of the participants ***in the most popular breeds, offering preparation and grooming guidelines as a simulation of a competition.*** Before advancing to the Advanced Level of another category, the participant must have attended at least 3 different ***seminars or webinars.***

5. EXAMINER'S GUIDE

5.1 Score Sheet

A minimum of one and up to four judges will make up the judges panel depending on each NCO.

In each category, there ***will be*** a minimum of three awards, 1st, 2nd and 3rd. ***The judges will use a score sheet for the competitors that is annexed on page 12, in which they must include the classification of each level and category, encouraging them to judge under a scoring system. The judge will then rank the first six competitors according to the following table:***

| <i>Ranking</i> | <i>Points</i> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>1st</i> | <i>9</i> |
| <i>2nd</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>3rd</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>4th</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>5th</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>6th</i> | <i>1</i> |

Pictures of the dogs will be taken before and after the competition.

The winners of each category ***compete for a BIS by Level*** and will be taken into consideration to decide for the overall BIS winner.

Aspects that the judges must consider as they judge:

| |
|--|
| Respect for the current breed standard |
| The quality of scissoring, clipping and/or hand stripping, and the groomers attention to detail |
| Balance, symmetry and smoothness of the groom |
| The ability to camouflage defects and bring out the beauty of the dog |
| The suitability of the chosen style for the dog |
| The degree of difficulty the groom |
| Up to date with today's modern grooming styles |
| Presentation of the dog to the judge |

5.2 Notes for Participants about Score Sheets

| |
|---|
| Respect for the current breed standard Breed standards changes and FCI has made several changes taking into account the health and the welfare of the dog as utmost importance. Groomers need to know the breed characteristics of the breed that they are grooming and are expected to amplify them |
| The Quality of scissoring, clipping and/or hand stripping, and the groomers attention to detail Judge the skills and technique in handling scissors, clippers or blades and the results of such skills and the use of these tools . The more detailed the work manship observed, the bigger impact it will have on the judging . |
| Balance, symmetry and smoothness of the groom For example, length of legs should be balanced with the depth of the body, length of body should be balanced with the height in according with the breed standard. |
| The ability to camouflage defects and bring out the beauty of the dog For example, if an unwanted sloping topline is observed on the dog but the groomer can camouflage the defect this will be assessed positively . |
| The suitability of the chosen style for the dog Dependent on the balance of the dog, the chosen style should cover up the flaws and emphasize the positive features of the dog . |
| The degree of difficulty the groom If a groomer can make a big change between before and after, or to handle a coat of poor quality by improving it in relation to the breed standard this will be rated positively . |
| Up to date with today's modern grooming styles For example, the style for grooming Miniature Schnauzers differs from those of 10 years ago as dogs improve in conformation. This allows for more volume of hair on the leg, two eyebrows and the beard become triangular instead of round . |
| Presentation of the dog to the judge The health of the dog, muscle condition, condition of the coat, whiteness, etc., and at the end of the competition during the judge's examination, the correct posing of the dog will be looked favourably for the judging . |

5.3 Tied Mark

In the situation of a tied score the judges will confer and decide who the winner **should be**. In case the judges are unable to come to an agreement, then **the chairman of the jury will determine the winner**. **The chairman of the jury must be a judge for grooming**.

5.4 General Guide for each Level of Category 5

For Level C, *the beginner class, the qualification criteria should consider the lack of the groomers experience. Normally there is a lack of time to finish the work and may be inexperienced execution of the techniques. It is therefore to be valued that they finish the work in the time given and that the grooms comply with the breed standard.*

For Level B, *the intermediate class, knowledge of the breed standard and good execution of the techniques should be expected from the groomer. Lack of time, experience in correcting morphological faults and being up to date with the latest cutting techniques should not be a priority when judging.*

For Level A, *the Advanced Class, excellence in all points of judging should be expected.*

5.5 The organising NCO may also choose to offer prizes for the top participants across each level and then across each category as follows:

| | Category 1 | Category 2 | Category 3 | Category 4 | Category 5 |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Level A | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place |
| | 2nd Place | 2nd Place | 2nd Place | 2nd Place | 2nd Place |
| | 3rd Place | 3rd Place | 3rd Place | 3rd Place | 3rd Place |
| Level B | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place |
| | 2nd Place | 2nd Place | 2nd Place | 2nd Place | 2nd Place |
| | 3rd Place | 3rd Place | 3rd Place | 3rd Place | 3rd Place |
| Level C | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place |
| | 2nd Place | 2nd Place | 2nd Place | 2nd Place | 2nd Place |
| | 3rd Place | 3rd Place | 3rd Place | 3rd Place | 3rd Place |

The judge's decision shall be deemed final

5.6 *The three winners at each level will receive a Certificate/Award with the placement obtained.*

6. LICENSES OF GROOMING JUDGES

Awarding of Grooming Licenses to Judges shall be solely the responsibility of FCI recognised NCO's. They should be responsible to train and examine their judges before awarding them licenses to be called Grooming Judges.

7. ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

7.1 Application for FCI International Grooming Competitions

All applications for FCI Grooming competitions must be submitted to the FCI Head Office no later than 3 months **prior to** the date of the event. All event dates will be posted on the FCI website. There is no limit to the number of FCI International Grooming competitions that can be organised by an FCI NCO.

7.2 Entries

All participants must fill out the relevant entry forms and pay the entry fee **directly to the NCO**. The entry fee is to be decided by the FCI NCO organising the competition.

A marked catalogue shall be submitted to the FCI within 3 months after the conclusion of the competition.

7.3 “Best in Level” and “Best Groomer in Show” Competitions

The organising NCO may also choose to offer prizes **to** the top participants across each Level and then across each category as follows:

| | Category 1 | Category 2 | Category 3 | Category 4 | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Level A | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | Best in Show |
| Level B | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | Best in Show |
| Level C | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | 1st Place | Best in Show |

7.4 The 1st Place winners of each mandatory category will compete for the Best Groomer in Show award, receiving a Certificate with the final placing achieved.

7.5 During the competitions, only the appointed judges will be able to judge and any decision they make either at the levels or in the finals cannot be changed.

7.6 After the finals, the competitors will have a short period of time in which they can ask to the judges for a brief critique of the work they presented, so that they know which aspects they can correct in the future.

7.7 Each judge should evaluate a maximum of 60 dogs. Only one judge will be appointed to judge Best in Show (BIS) prior to the event and the Judge must be made known to all participants.

8. GENERAL INFORMATION

Any competitor under the age of 18 years old must have parental consent.

In principle, the use of hairspray is not allowed. However, in the country where the use of hairspray is customarily allowed, its minimal use **will not be penalised**.

The use of powder/chalk and volumizer is breed-specific and **is allowed as long as it does not come off on the judge' hands**. Use of those items should be done before the start of the competition.

Any products that change the colour, nature and texture of the coat will not be allowed.

Dog models must not be groomed for **60** days or more prior to the date of the competition except for the **flatwork areas of stripping breeds which may be groomed up to 30 days prior the competition**.

There will be a compulsory 10-minute break for dogs and contestants to rest in the middle of the competition.

The **competitors** must provide their own **dog models** and their own grooming tools. The **competitors** must ensure that their dogs are duly vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination if required by the organiser.

A grooming arm is allowed in countries where the law permits it. However, the safety and welfare of dogs is of utmost importance. If a dog is found to be short of breath on the table due to the use of a grooming arm **or any aggressive attitude on the part of the groomer towards the dog, the groomer will be automatically disqualified**.

The groomer ***must take care of his working*** equipment ***or could be penalized***.

Contestants need to be in the ring 30 minutes before the start of the competition for prejudging.

Model dogs are permitted in Level C only if the organizing NCO allows it.

9. TIMING

| Category 1 | Small Breeds | Medium Breeds | Large Breeds |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Hand-stripping | 2 hrs | 2 hrs 30 min | 3 hrs |

| Category 2 | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| All Setters and Spaniels | 2 hrs 30 min |

| Category 3 | Small Size | Medium Size | Large Size |
|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | 2 hrs | 2 hrs 30 min | 3 hrs |

| Category 4 | |
|---|--------------|
| Bichon Frisé, Bedlington <i>and Cesky Terrier</i> | 2 hrs |
| Kerry Blue Terrier, Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Black Russian Terrier, Bouvier des Flandres, <i>Barbet, Cão de Água Português, Irish Water Spaniel, Lagotto Romagnolo</i> | 2 hrs 30 min |

| | | |
|------------|---|--------------|
| Category 5 | <u>All Breeds <i>and sizes</i></u> | <u>2 hrs</u> |
|------------|---|--------------|

Candidates unsure which size category their dogs fall under must clarify this before the start of the competition and be certified by the ***chairman of the jury*** or show official.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

From time to time, some changes to these rules may be necessary. Amendments of these Rules and Regulations shall be decided solely by the FCI Grooming Commission and General Committee as and when deemed necessary.

These regulations were approved in essence by the FCI Grooming Commission in Madrid, February 2024 and finalised by the FCI Grooming Commission after some grammatical alterations in March 2024.

The changes in bold and italic characters were approved by the FCI General Committee on September 3, 2024, in Amsterdam.

ANNEX

Score Sheet

| FCI GROOMING CERTIFICATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|----------------|-------|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Date: _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Venue: _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FCI No. | Name | Level/Category | Breed | Primary (Major) Scores 20 Points each | | | Secondary (Minor) Scores 10 points each | | | | Judges Points (+/-5 Points) | Total: 100 | Placing | OVERALL LEVEL (A) (B) (C) WINNER |
| | | | | Preparation | Profile | Technical | Degree of Difficulty | Tools and Handling | Coat Finishing | Final Presentation | | | | |
| | | A/ __ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | A/ __ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | A/ __ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | B/ __ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | B/ __ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | B/ __ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | C/ __ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | C/ __ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | C/ __ | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Overall
Category 1
Winner :
 Judge's Signature: _____ (Judge's name: _____) Date: _____

Judges' Critiques For 1,2,3 Placements