

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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Online Meeting of the FCI Dog Dancing Commission 01-02/06/2024

Participants 1.6. Emmy Simonsen, Kathy Clayton, Carmen Schmid, Johanna Saariluoma, Pernilla Pöykiöniemi, Corinne Medauer, Asako Otsuka, Maddalena Manciani, Christine Berczes, Luc Daems, Verena Verones

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- 1) Opening the meeting
Ms Simonsen opened the meeting 11.05 on 1.6.2024
- 2) Accepting the agenda
The agenda was accepted
- 3) Updating the regulations for 2025
 - a) Animal welfare: the category will be renamed into Partnership and well-being
 - b) Structure of the routine: this criteria will be moved to musical interpretation and explained the judges' guidelines:
Structure of the routine is the way how the different elements of the choreography come together to emphasize the concept, highlights, theme, placement in the ring, beginning and end of the routine.
 - c) Entries:
The national team may consist of only one or two dog- and handler teams. In this case the missing results counting towards the team result of the national team will be considered 0.
 - d) Length of music: Disqualification at 4:01. If the handler disputes the disqualification, the length of the music can be checked (in order to rule out a couple of seconds silence in the beginning/end of the routine).
 - e) Prop use:
If the dog initiates play with the prop, it should be a disqualification. If the handler rewards the dog with play with any object in the ring, this leads to a disqualification.

No item in itself is forbidden as a prop as long as it is essential for the routine and not dangerous for the dog. Different kinds of moves (retrieving, pulling, pushing, leaving it be etc.) can be used as a positive creative input in the routine if the dog doesn't become overly fixated with the prop or play with it.

The routine should portray the dog working equally well with and without the prop. Ideally the dog's enthusiasm to work remains constant before, during and after the moves portrayed with it. A prop should never be used to treat the dog – not even after the performance.

- f) Question from Hungary:
Regarding the HTM positions. The rules state: "the dog is not allowed to go further than 2 m away from the handler". For us in Hungary this means that the dog will be disqualified if it moves further away than 2 meters, but after having spoken to head Judge it is apparent that they have a different view. Please note for us all is ok. It would just be easier if it was clear for judges and handlers, if it is only a deduction or a disqualification.

No additions made to the regulations, but the rule should be discussed in the judges' seminar. Moving further away than 2 meters (between dog and handler) should not lead to disqualification, but only a deduction.

- g) Question from Hungary:
Touching the dog: Will it always lead to disqualification if the handler touches the dog?

The commission agreed that the handler should be able to cuddle the dog if the dog is in distress so this should lead to deductions not disqualifications. Touching the dog in the beginning/end to pet it is okay.

The Regulations should be changed to: Touching the dog in order to control it will lead to disqualification. ~~The handler is not allowed to initiate the touch. This should be done by the dog.~~

Guidelines: The handler should be able to cuddle the dog if the dog is in distress so this should lead to deductions not disqualifications. Touching the dog before the beginning or after the end of the music to pet it is okay.

- h) Question from Hungary:
Food/water/others
In regulation says it is disqualification if food is brought into the ring. But what about water? As it can be rewarding for the dog too, or if there is a bottle in the choreography and liquid makes a mess on the floor what is then?

Addition to the rule about props: "You are not allowed to bring into the ring anything that can't be completely removed after the performance or that will leave stains or residue."

- i) Question from Hungary:
The sport should be family friendly. How do we deal with inappropriate

words and for example smoking in a routine? In our it is totally forbidden to show people smoking cigarettes on tv or internet.

Addition to guidelines for the organisers: "The organiser should make the competitors aware of national laws/regulations in the host country that competitors need to acknowledge."

- j) Question from Hungary:
Bitches in season:
What if a handler brings in a bitch in season before the judges have allowed it?

Bitches in season are not allowed in the premises before everyone else has competed. It can lead to disqualification if the handler does not follow the judges/organizers instructions regarding this.

Included in the list of questions for the judges' seminar, no changes in the regulations.

- k) Question from Hungary: Can we make it less stressful to set up props and time it for handlers and organizers ?

Change in the guidelines: "A maximum of two people can set up props, one doesn't have to be the handler."

Change to the rules:

3.1.2 Preparation and removal of props

Preparing and removing props/accessories may only take 3 minutes in total (2 x 1,5 minutes). **If 1,5 minutes is exceeded, this will lead to a warning and if 2 minutes is exceeded will lead to a disqualification.** The time is controlled by a ring steward, who informs the judges in case of delays. The 1,5 minutes to take props out begins as the handler exits the ring.

Judges' Guidelines:

Now: If the handler does not bring in/remove all the props by himself, all of the remaining props must be brought in and removed by a single helper that the handler himself has provided (so all in all a maximum of two people setting up the props: the handler and one additional person).

New version:

If the handler does not bring in/remove all the props by himself while entering/exiting the ring, the rest of the props must be brought in and removed by up to two people who can be helpers or the handler and one helper.

Question from Hungary: “What if a handler brings in a prop, but does not really use it?”

It is essential to consider what is the minimum use for a prop? Could the story have been told without the prop or not? Preferably used by the dog in a versatile manner. A prop should not be only used as a background.

l) Deductions:

Deductions were never planned to be a separate point in the scoring. So the score sheet must be updated. Carmen will update the score sheet. Smileys can be used to make it easier for the handler to understand the score, but are not mandatory

p) Does it make more sense to invite a head judge from an FCI member country? As FCI judges are more familiar with the FCI rules.

We will recommend using FCI judges as head judge in the organisers' guidelines.

4) Updating the guidelines for 2025 (Included on the point about regulations)

The organisers' guidelines: Emmy and Carmen will prepare a draft of revisions. These will include appointing a head judge and alternating between FS and HTM competing on Friday vs Saturday in international events. In addition, like mentioned on point 3 i) the organiser should make the competitors aware of national laws/regulations that competitors need to acknowledge.

5) Judges Online Conference 8.2.2025

Emmy and Johanna will start preparing the seminar. The seminar could include a Q&A/discussion section besides presentations if possible.

6) Should we have a Organisers' Seminar/guidelines

No seminar for now, instead Carmen and Emmy will prepare a revised version of the guidelines that will be discussed in a further online meeting.

7) The World Championships:

- a) 2024: Hungary – everything ran smoothly
- b) 2025: Finland – Vantaa 31.7.-3.8. which is the weekend before the World Dog Show.
- c) 2026: Italy – Bologna 4.-7.6. in connection with the World Dog Show
- d) 2027: Germany? Carmen makes inquiries from the NCO

8) The European Open Competition:

- a) 2024: Germany

- b) 2025: Hungary
- c) 2026: Sweden 4.-7.6 – Sweden will negotiate the possibility of another date
- d) 2027?

9) Other issues

10) Next meeting
Online 14.-15.6.2025.