

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)

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GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN OBEDIENCE **WORLD/SECTION WINNER CHAMPIONSHIP** COMPETITIONS



Effective from 1.1.2011

Arranging and judging FCI Section and World Winner championships

At World Winner Championships the rules & guidelines for obedience trials for class 3 are followed.

In case of a possible complaint against the judging during Section and World Winner championships any decision made by the judges who judged the dogs in question is final and undisputable.

1. Annual Winner Championship

Only one annual FCI Winner championship is arranged per section, either a World Winner (WW) or Section Winner (e.g. European Winner, EW) championship. The competition is preferably arranged in connection with the FCI Section or World Dog Show. If the World Dog Show is in a particular section, there will be no Section Winner championship for this particular section.

The FCI Obedience Commission will deal with matters that are exceptions to the principles mentioned above and with other questions that have not been dealt with in these regulations for SW and WW competitions. Such matters can be for example when and where to arrange a Winner Competition if the FCI Section or World Winner Dog Shows are not able to provide the premises or the work contribution.

2. General layout

The relevant rules and directions of the international obedience class must be followed.

The SW and WW championship in obedience for national teams and individuals is a three-day event running from Friday till Sunday. The first two days (Friday and Saturday) are for the team competition. The team competition is a qualifying competition for the individual SW or WW as well. The third day (Sunday) is for the individual final. An additional day (Thursday) is reserved for training, judges' meetings, information, etc.

The team competition is held in two rings and the exercises are divided between the two rings. There will be two judges in both rings all representing different countries. The result will be the average of the two judges' grades.

The final for the individual SW/WW championship title is on Sunday and all four judges will operate. The highest and lowest points are excluded and the average of the two middle ones will remain.

The 20 best competitors from the team competition (qualification) will continue to the final. The starting order in the final will be decided by drawing. The individual winner will be the competitor with the highest total score in the final.

Bitches in season should perform last both in the qualification and in the final.

It is possible to extend the competition by one day (Thursday), if the number of entries rises in the future. The Obedience Commission will decide on this when necessary.

3. Judges

Judges at FCI Section (SW) and World Winner (WW) championships must have a broad experience in judging obedience. Preferably they should have the status of international judge. They must understand and speak one of the FCI languages (English, French, German, Spanish) fluently and have a sufficient mastering of English. All commands and instructions at Section and World Winner championships must be given (by the steward) in English.

All judges in an SW or WW championship are to be invited in consultation with the FCI Obedience Commission.

The judging team at EW and WW (in Europe) championships consists of four judges: two from central or southern Europe and two from the Nordic countries. One of the four judges is appointed chairman (chief judge) for the judges' team.

A fifth judge can be invited as chief judge i.e. chairman of the judges' team. The chief judge should preferably be from the host country. The fifth judge will not participate in judging the exercises but should have the same competence as the other judges.

The chief judge is the chairman of the judging team and acts as chairman for the judges' meeting and for any meetings arranged with the team leaders or competitors. The chief judge is the contact person between the judges and the organising committee of the competition. The chief judge, together with the chief steward, is responsible for the arrangements of the competition.

The chief judge, after consulting the other judges, approves the practical arrangements for the competition and decides whether it is necessary to repeat or terminate an exercise e.g., due to technical problems, excessive disturbance, or if a dog is not functioning.

The chief judge gives the press permission to take pictures or films and decides where the press can stand without causing disturbance to the dogs. The press is not allowed in the ring.

Ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias

Judges are not permitted to judge family members as handlers, or dogs owned by themselves, family members or relatives such as children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters or in-laws. Neither are they allowed to judge household members or residents of their household.

If a judge has bred a dog or had a dog for training, or if a dog has been living in the judge's household within one year of the competition he or she can not act as judge in this competition.

It is recommended that the competitor has the priority and another judge should be invited if ineligibility to judge has arisen. It is usually a unique opportunity to compete for a World Championship / Section championship and this should thus be promoted.

Matters of ineligibility should be dealt with within two weeks of the latest entry date.

4. Stewards and personnel

For FCI Section and World Winner competitions in Obedience, there should be a sufficient number of qualified personnel. It is recommended that there is one chief steward and preferably at least two stewards per ring: one to help inside the ring and one to call for the competitors and deal with other matters outside the ring. If two stewards are conducting exercises in the same ring, the same steward should conduct the same exercises for the competitors.

A sufficient number of other personnel should be available: secretaries to write down the results, clerks to calculate results and display them, etc.

Judges, stewards and ring personnel should dress appropriately to the prestige of the competition.

5. Number of competitors, eligibility to compete and represent a country

The minimum age of handlers in SW & WW championships is 15 years.

Only the official representatives of a country may enter. All entries must be sent by the kennel club of the representative and the kennel club must be affiliated with the FCI.

Only dogs registered with the studbooks (or the “waiting list” or “appendix”) of the FCI members and contract partners or registered with a non member organisation whose studbook is, however, recognised by the FCI, will be allowed to compete in the FCI Section and World Winner championships.

The number of entries per day is not to exceed 50, i.e. altogether 100 competitors can compete during two days.

Each country may enter a national team including six competitors. Three reserve dogs can be appointed. All competitors must be appointed beforehand. It must be clearly indicated which are the reserves and their ranking order. Reserves are allowed to compete if there are less than 100 entries. Each country will be allowed to enter additional competitors on the basis of the results of the SW /WW team results of the previous year.

The extra competitors should be notified as soon as possible if they are allowed to compete or not; no later than two weeks from the last day for announcing entries.

A reserve can replace a team member if the dog or handler is taken ill before the competition begins. Once the competition is under way a replacement can be made only if a vet or doctor verifies the illness of handler or dog. Once a dog has started its exercises, the reserve can under no circumstances take its place.

The team results are calculated on the basis of the qualification competition and will include the results of the three best competitors.

The kennel clubs should submit their ranking lists so that the preference of the extra dogs is available to the organising committee.

Eligibility requirements for members of a national team at FCI events:

The effective FCI requirements for handlers/owners and dogs to compete for a national team have to be followed.

Owner

Must have the nationality of the country for which his/her dog will compete or must have his/her legal residence for a minimum of 12 months in the country for which his/her dog will compete.

If the owner has a double nationality, he/she can choose either country without any restriction. If difficulties arise, they must be referred to the FCI General Committee for final settlement.

Dog

Must have been registered with the studbook of the country for which it will compete for a minimum of 12 months.

Handler

No matter his/her nationality, the handler will not be allowed to compete for more than one country and will be authorized to handle a maximum of 4 dogs.

Any difficulties that arise should be referred to the FCI General Committee for settlement.

6. Information on special regulations of the host country

The host country must clearly indicate on the entry form any special regulations or restrictions of the country regarding participation in competitions or entering the country. The detailed information should be unambiguous and generously available.

These rules are effective from January 1st 2011. They were approved by the FCI General Committee in Madrid, on February 24th, 2010.