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GENERAL REGULATIONS for FCI WORLD/SECTION WINNER CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS in FCI RALLY OBEDIENCE



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These general regulations have been compiled to promote the sport of FCI Rally Obedience and to support competitive FCI Rally Obedience across national borders. They are applied at FCI Rally Obedience World/Section Winner Competitions and must be followed from 1.1.2024.

The FCI Rally Obedience Commission will deal with matters that are exceptions to the regulations mentioned below and with other questions that have not been dealt with in these general regulations for FCI World/Section Winner Competitions in Rally Obedience.

1. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Only one FCI World Winner Championship (WW) in Rally Obedience is arranged per year. In addition to this it is possible that a FCI section arranges its own annual FCI Section Winner Championship in Rally Obedience (f. ex. Europe Section Winner, EW).

It is recommended that the annual FCI World Winner Championship (WW) in Rally Obedience is always held around the first full weekend of October to give participating countries a better chance to plan their qualification competitions.

Further it is recommended that FCI World Winner Championships (WW) in Rally Obedience are arranged ***so that there is enough room for*** at least two separate rings. ***Indoor competitions must be*** entirely covered with a non-slip surface. ***In outdoor competitions the weather conditions must be considered regarding the venue and the surface.***

National Kennel Clubs (= NCOs), that want to arrange a FCI World/Section Winner Championship (WW/SW) in a certain year, should inform the FCI Rally Obedience Commission at least 3 years before the competition. When granting a FCI World/Section Winner Championship (WW/SW) the FCI Rally Obedience Commission will take into account the ability of an NCO to arrange the competition. Active participation in the work of the Commission will be considered an asset when applying. The FCI World/Section Winner Championship (WW/SW) can only be granted to an NCO that applies the Regulations & Rules for International FCI Rally Obedience Trials. The commission is fully in charge of appointing the organising NCO and this must be reflected in the minutes of the commission meeting.

Once the WW/SW has been granted by the FCI Rally Obedience Commission to an FCI NCO the latter will send an official application to the FCI Office with the following details:

- The name of the national canine organisation (NCO) that is applying to arrange the FCI World Winner (WW) or Section Winner (SW) Championship including contact information, website of the event and the name of the official responsible for organising the event.
- The intended date and location of the competition.
- Plans for the event and a description of the facilities for the event as well as the available resources.

- Confirmation that everything will be carried out according to the specifications of the FCI WW/WS Winner Championship Competition and that there is competent staff available that is able to carry out the arrangements.
- Any special legislative issues that should be considered when entering the country.

Each NCO sending judges to officiate will pay their travelling costs. The host country (NCO) of the FCI WW/SW Championship Competition will bear the rest of the costs (accommodation, meals, daily allowance) for the judges.

2. JUDGES

2.1. Conditions for Judges at FCI World Winner Championships (WW) in Rally Obedience

Judges at the FCI World Winner Championship (WW) in Rally Obedience must have a broad experience in judging FCI Rally Obedience Competitions. They must understand and speak one of the FCI languages (English, French, German, Spanish) fluently and have a sufficient mastering of English. All information, commands and instructions at the FCI World Winner Championship (WW) must be given in English.

All judges for the FCI World Winner Championship (WW) have to be invited in consultation with the FCI Rally Obedience Commission.

Only judges from NCOs (countries) that apply the Regulations & Rules for International FCI Rally Obedience Trials can be appointed as judges. In appointing the judges, the FCI Rally Obedience Commission should take into account the experience and language skills of the judges as well as the activity of the Rally Obedience Sport in the countries from which the judges are appointed.

When inviting a judge, the host NCO (country) must take care of the necessary formalities with the NCOs concerned e.g., checking of the competence.

Judges should dress appropriately to the prestige of the competition.

In case of a possible complaint against the judging during FCI World Winner Championships (WW) in Rally Obedience any decision made by the judges who judged the dogs in question is final and undisputable.

2.2. Ineligibility due to the likelihood of bias

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

If a judge has coached a team or had a dog for training **on a regular basis**, has bred a dog, or if a dog has been living in the judge's household within **three** months of the competition he or she cannot act as judge in this competition. **Regular basis in this context means the training takes place regularly at certain times, such as every second week and is not random or one-time training.**

It is recommended that the competitor has the priority and another judge should be invited if ineligibility to judge has arisen.

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

2.3. Chief Judge, Ring Judges

The judging team at the annual FCI World Winner Championship (WW) in Rally Obedience consists of five judges, one chief judge and four ring judges:

The Chief Judge

The chief judge is the chairman of the judges' team. The chief judge should preferably come from the host NCO (country). The chief judge will not participate in judging the exercises but must have the same competence as the other judges.

The chief judge is the Chair of the judging team and therefore also acts as Chair 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 organisers and the trial secretary are responsible for the arrangements of the competition. The chief judge acts in cooperation with the organisers and the trial secretary.

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.

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.

The ring judges

There are four ring judges from four different countries: one from the host country, at least one from a neighbouring country and not more than one from another section where the WW takes place. The ring judges will participate in judging the exercises in the rings.

If one of the ring judges is not able to continue his work during the FCI World Winner Championship (due to illness or because of injury, etc.), the judge will be replaced and the chief judge of the competition will participate in judging the exercises in the ring.

3. SECRETARIES AND HELPERS

Secretaries at FCI World Winner Championships (WW) must have a broad experience in Rally Obedience Competitions. They must understand and have a sufficient mastering of English. All information, commands and instructions at the FCI World Winner Championship (WW) must be given in English.

A sufficient number of other helpers should be available, *for example*:

- Ring helpers, who help to build up the courses,
- Secretaries, who collect and calculate the results and display them,
- Timekeepers, to measure time and back up electronic timekeeping
- Vets *on call*
- Helpers, who collect the teams for the course orientation
- Helpers, who are preparing the teams for the start (identification control, etc.) and being aware, which team starts next, etc.
- Speakers, etc.

Secretaries and helpers should dress appropriately to the prestige of the competition and their function.

4. GENERAL LAYOUT OF FCI WORLD WINNER CHAMPIONSHIPS (WW)

At FCI World Winner Championship Competitions in Rally Obedience the Regulations & Rules for International FCI Rally Obedience Trials must be followed.

The annual FCI World Winner Championship (WW) in Rally Obedience is a three-day event running from Friday till Sunday *for approximately 100 competitors*. The first two days (Friday and Saturday) are for the team competition. The team competition is a qualifying competition for the individual WW as well. The third day (Sunday) is for the individual final. An additional day (Thursday) is reserved for training, judges' meetings, information, etc.

Team competition (qualification)

On the first day two different rings with two of the ring judges are built up: Ring 1 and Ring 2. The course layout of every single ring is different and is chosen out of the course layouts of the ring judges that are working in the concerned ring by drawing. The ring judges keep judging their course layout in the same ring for all competitors.

The competitors are divided beforehand in two groups of equal size – Group 1 and Group 2.

Every team competes two-times: one time in Ring 1 and one time in Ring 2.

For example, Group 1 competes in the morning in Ring 1, while Group 2 competes in the morning in Ring 2. In the afternoon, the groups are changing to the other ring: Group 1 competes in Ring 2, while Group 2 competes in Ring 1.

The result in a ring will be the average of the two judges' grades.

The winning dog (with two testicles, if a male) of the team competition (qualification) is awarded with the title "FCI-CACIROB", if it earns a final grade of "excellent". The second-best dog of the team competition (qualification) (with similar restrictions as above) is awarded with the title "Reserve FCI-CACIROB", if it earns a final grade of "excellent". For these two awards to be confirmed by the FCI, the dogs have to 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 and eligible for the title of FCI World Winner but are not eligible for the “FCI CACIROB”/ “FCI Reserve CACIROB”.

Individual competition (final)

The final for the individual FCI World Winner Championship is on the second day and all four judges will judge together in one ring. The result of the final round will be the average of the four judges’ grades.

The 25 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 FCI World Winner will be the competitor with the highest total score of all the three rounds. There is no title of Reserve FCI Individual World Winner. No “FCI CACIROB” and “FCI Reserve CACIROB” are awarded at the individual competition on the second day.

5. NUMBER OF COMPETITORS, ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE AND TO REPRESENT A COUNTRY

Only the official representatives of an NCO (country) may enter the competition. All entries must be sent by the NCO of the representatives and the NCO must be affiliated with the FCI or have a cooperation partnership with the FCI (AKC, KC, CKC).

Only breeds that have already been accepted by the FCI, on a provisional or definitive basis, can take part.

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 the FCI, will be allowed to compete in the FCI Section Winner Championships and the FCI World Winner Championship.

Each NCO (country) may enter a national team including five teams. Additionally, one reserve team can be appointed. All competitors must be appointed beforehand. It must be clearly indicated who is the reserve. Reserves are allowed to compete if there are less than 100 entries. ***The organizer can decide to exceed this number if it decides to allow all the reserves to compete.***

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-has taken ill before the competition begins. Once the competition has started replacement can be made only if a vet or doctor verifies the illness of the handler or dog. Once the dog has started the first course, 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 NCOs 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 following 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 the dog will compete or must have the legal residence for a minimum of 12 months in the country the dog is competing for.

Dog

Must have been registered with the studbook of the country for which it will compete for a minimum of 12 months. Bitches in season perform last in each group and must wear hygiene pants.

Handler

No matter of the nationality, the handler is not allowed to compete for more than one country and is allowed (authorized) to compete with a maximum of 2 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 NCO (country) must publish on its website or the website of the event 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 and contract partners can be promoted.

The English text is the authentic document.

These FCI Regulations 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.