

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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Regulations for the Dog Dancing European Open Championship



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The Dog Dancing European Open Championship is an International Dog Dancing Championship which is officially supported by the FCI. The Championship is always hosted by a European FCI-NCO (national canine organisation), but participants from outside Europe are welcome to enter. It is organized applying the Regulations for FCI International Dog Dancing Championships and the related regulations and guidelines with the exception that the competition is OPEN to all dogs, with or without pedigree. All FCI-NCO or FCI cooperation partners (AKC, KC and CKC) are invited to participate in this event. If an NCO does not send a team, it is possible that an independent national team or individual participants may register and attend the event with the approval of their NCO.

All competitors must be citizens of the country which they represent, or they must have their main residence there. For all participating dogs, a record book or a license must be presented, issued by the relevant FCI-NCO or FCI cooperation partner.

The individual EO-winners (of the previous championships) (HTM, Freestyle and Biathlon) are automatically qualified without affecting their own NCO's number allocation. If their NCO accepts them participating as an extra participant outside the allocated spots on their national team, their result will not count towards the team result in the competition.

The Structure of the EOC

The aim of the European Open Championships is to bring together the sportsmen of different countries to celebrate the versatility of Dog Dancing. The competitions arranged as a part of an EOC event are:

- one heelwork to music competition
- one freestyle competition
- a teamwork to music competition
- a biathlon competition based on the combined results of the HTM competition and freestyle competition of a single dog and handler team participating in both sports
- a competition of the national teams
- A junior handler competition for handlers from 14 to 17 years of age and neither the dog nor the handler is participating in the other categories of the EOC.

The EOC Teams of Individual Countries

In the EOC an NCO's full national team consists of 5-7 individual dog and handler teams plus one teamwork to music team (which includes a minimum of two dogs and one handler but can include several dogs and several handlers).

The 5-7 individual dog and handler teams consist of teams participating in three different categories. The maximum number of routines presented by an NCO must be 8.

- 1-3 dog and handler teams doing biathlon, i.e. competing in both freestyle and heelwork to music
- 1-3 dog and handler teams doing individual HTM
- 1-3 dog and handler teams doing individual FS

For example, if an NCO has 3 dog and handler teams doing biathlon, it can enter in addition 1 HTM and 1 FS team. If they have 2 dog and handler teams doing biathlon, they can add 2 HTM and 2 FS. And if they have only one dog and handler team doing biathlon, they can have 3 HTM and 3 FS individual teams. If the NCO country doesn't enter a team in biathlon they are still allowed to enter only 3 HTM and 3 FS individual teams (which is the maximum).

For the teamwork to music category each NCO will only be allowed to enter one performance.

For the junior category each NCO is allowed to enter 2 routines and must announce while entering whether each team will be performing HTM or FS. One dog and handler team can take up both places if they are performing a routine in each discipline.

An NCO may also participate in the competition of the national teams with an incomplete team.

Each NCO may name one HTM, one FS, one biathlon, one junior and one teamwork to music reserve. In HTM, FS and biathlon the reserves are fixed once entries have been set in and no other reserves may be entered. In teamwork to music teams are somewhat more flexible: the NCO can decide whether to compete with an incomplete team if one of the dogs and handlers is unavailable on the competition day as long as there still are at least two dogs performing. They can also substitute the missing dog/handler, withdraw or use an entire reserve team if they have one. In the junior category you don't have to name your reserves in advance but can change your representative if necessary (if a reserve had been named but can't travel on short notice, for example, yet another representative may be entered in the junior category).

The Finals and the Results of the EOC

The finals of the EOC will be on the last day. The 10 highest scoring HTM dog and handler teams will compete in the HTM finals, the 10 highest scoring FS dog and handler teams will compete in the FS finals. In addition to these 50% or the top 10 (whichever is the lower number) of the highest scoring biathlon teams will participate in the finals in either FS or HTM depending on the handler's choice. The choice is made and announced before the final day. If the dog and handler team has qualified for an individual final in HTM or FS and biathlon the same performance can be counted towards both results (just like during the qualifications). If the dog and handler team is competing in both FS and HTM individual finals and biathlon, they must choose in advance which of the results will be counting towards the biathlon score.

There will be winners announced for HTM and FS based on the scores of the qualifying competition and the finals added together. In addition to these, there will be winners announced for biathlon based on the scores the dog and handler team has received in the HTM and FS qualifying rounds and the finals of their choice all added together. There are no finals in teamwork to music or junior class, so the winners will be announced based on the single competition.

The national team result of each respective NCO participating in the EOC will be decided based on the NCO's three highest HTM scores of the qualifying round, the three highest scores of the FS qualifying round and one of the three other results (HTM, FS or teamwork to music).

The Regulations and a Special Note Regarding Teamwork To Music

The EOC will be judged according to the regulations for FCI dog dancing Championships. The only exception to this is that in teamwork to music the routine can consist of only HTM elements, only FS elements or a combination of both in any proportion (there is no limit of 25% of moves allowed from one of the categories in teamwork to music).

In the teamwork to music the performance is made by at least two dogs and one handler or several dogs and handlers. The judges will take into consideration the balanced participation of all the dogs during the routine. Otherwise, teamwork to music is judged according to the same criteria as HTM and FS in the four respective categories.

Teamwork to music should be scheduled on a day where it doesn't risk any dog having to compete more than twice on a single day.

The Regulations and a Special Note Regarding the Junior competition

There will also be a junior competition for junior handlers ranging from 14 to 17 years of age. The junior's results will not be included in an NCO's result but the juniors' prize-giving must be included in the prize-giving ceremony of the event. The junior competition is judged according to the dog dancing Championship rules. It is recommended that the junior competition would take place between the HTM and FS finals. The team leader is responsible for taking special care of the minors and making sure that they are not included in parts of the event that might not be appropriate for their age.

These regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee on September 27, 2023 (online). They enter into force on January 1, 2024.