

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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Guidelines for World and Section Junior Handling Competitions

At the FCI World and Section Shows, the following rules apply:

Junior Handling

General

The aim of junior handling competitions is to increase the youth's interest in canine activities and promote and develop the co-operation and contacts between dogs and the young people.

Junior handling is based on individual evaluation of the skill of each entered junior handler according to the following regulations.

Only the single group 10-17 years will be allowed to take part in the junior handling competition.

Each competition consists of a preliminary decision contest which takes place in a separate ring, and in a final competition in the afternoon which takes place in the main ring.

The junior handling competitions arranged at the FCI World and Section Shows should be only World Championships and Section Championships; no national competitions should be arranged in these shows.

The organiser of the show must always appoint a person who is specifically in charge of the junior handling competitions within the World or Section Show organisation. This person must be familiar with the procedure of the competition and he/she should be able to communicate fluently and work in at least one of the official FCI languages.

The judge

The person judging the junior handling competitions should be an experienced dog show judge or some other person with experience in dog shows and junior handling. In both cases he/she must be fully familiar with the practice of handling dogs of many different breeds.

If the organiser chooses to invite different judges for each day, the judge who is invited to judge the final competition may not judge any of the previous competitions. All the competitions – on each day and the finals - can be judged by one judge only.

Participation

The junior handler may participate each day in the competitions unless he/she has already been placed among the best three (3) on one of the competition days. The breeds handled in the competition do not necessarily have to be the same as those which are judged in the World or Section Show on the same day.

Every country (national organisation) is entitled to designate one participant who may compete only in the final competition.

Information to the participants

As the participants are young people, it is extremely important to provide exact information about the competition and participation in advance.

The organiser must confirm the participation of each junior handler early enough. The participants should also get clear instructions about the competition: a map of the show ground indicating clearly where the junior handling competitions will take place, exact time of the daily competitions and preferably also the name(s) of the judge(s).

Competition procedure

Every day, the judge selects the best three (3) of each competition without placing them. Those three junior handlers from each competition continue to the semi-finals.

The semi-final competition is arranged on the last day, just before the final competition. The best five (5) qualify for the final competition. No placing of the best five should be done in the semi-finals.

The final competition should be arranged in the Main Ring just before the group competitions. The best five junior handlers from the semi-finals compete in the finals together with the participants sent by the national organisations. The judge selects the best three (3) and places them 1-3.

Juniors are not bound to comply with the order of the start numbers as the dog may be entered in the World or Section show. The judge must take care that not too many juniors are in the ring at the same time and that dogs match in size (very important for judging in the group).

All exercises must be carried out with the same dog. Upon request of the judge, dogs and handlers in the ring can be exchanged.

In the preliminary contest, the following points are to be judged:

- 1. Harmony and cooperation between the handler and the dog.**
- 2. The specific handling of the dog within its own breed**
 - a) In motion (triangle, straight action with turn - every kind of turn being admitted)
 - b) Standing (where it is usual for the breed, presentation on a table is required)
- 3. Showing the dog's bite.**

Demonstration of the bite consists in showing the mouth of the dog by lifting the lip (it is allowed to stand in front, behind or alongside of the dog). Opening of the mouth can be requested by the judge for those breeds where such a procedure is usual (Rottweilers, German Shepherds, etc.)

4. Presentation of the handler's dog

The object of judging is to observe the presentation of the handler's dog when being gaited in a circle together with other handler's dogs in the same manner.

5. Appropriate clothing of the junior handler

The object of judging is to observe primarily if the handler is using appropriate shoes well adapted to soil conditions and size of the dog.

A narrow skirt handicaps both the junior and the dog when running. Junior and dog should present a harmonious appearance also as regards to clothing. Colours of clothes should allow distinguishing the dog's silhouette even from a distance.

FINAL COMPETITION

A maximum of 10 participants are entitled to be selected from the preliminary contest to participate in the final competition.

The Junior Handler Winner of any FCI member country may participate automatically both to Section Winner and World final competitions.

The titles are:

- * (name of the section, e.g.: European) Winner in Junior Handling
- * World Winner in Junior Handling

The guidelines were approved by the FCI General Committee in Helsinki, June 1998 (with retroactive effect from Jan 1, 1994)

Amendments approved by the FCI General Committee in Katowice, March 2003