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FCI Guidelines for World and Section Junior Handling Competitions

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General information

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

The aim of Junior Handling competitions is to increase the youth's interest in canine activities and to develop the co-operation and contact between dogs and young people.

Junior handling should be a constant sport inside the dog show hobby. It should not include anything what normal dog show handling does not comprise.

The junior handling competitions arranged at the FCI World and Section Shows can only be 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 an individual 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.

The Judge should always consider the safety of every participant, being aware of addressing youths in a fair manner.

Judging recommendations

The judging of Junior Handling competitions should resemble the judging of a breed judging ring, with simple figures that are transversal to ring requirements, and where the handler is expected to present the dog as the breed is supposed to be presented. The Judge may briefly touch the dog while evaluating each individual, as a simulation of the judging procedure held during a breed ring.

The main focus of evaluation process should be based on co-operation and good sportsmanship among the participant and the dog.

Every handler needs to be judged both individually and as part of a group.

Figures: Up and down, circle, triangle, and moving together - avoiding elaborate figures such as 8s and more intricate shapes that are not usually used in judging rings.

The judge may ask handlers to switch dogs if he/she wants to, with basis on the purpose that all dogs are safely handled and show no signs of aggression or obvious reluctance.

Judging procedure*

During a Junior Handling presentation, the following points are to be judged:

1. Harmony and cooperation between the handler and the dog

Throughout the evaluation process, a natural and continuous collaboration between the handler and the dog is considered as optimal. The pair are sought to embrace an overall corresponding appearance, which embraces a sense of teamwork and true-going presence between the handler and the dog

2. The specific handling of the dog within its own breed

- a. In motion (triangle, straight action and with turn)
- b. Standing (as it is usual for the breed, with presentation on a table if required)

3. Knowledge and ability to show the breed

Overall knowledge of the dog handled, such as the breeds name and the dog's age

4. 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.)

5. Presentation of the handler and dog together in a group

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. The handler should not stand out from the group, and is expected to move in harmony with the dog's gait, and with regard the rest of the participants.

Evidence of sportsmanship should be perpetual among all Junior Handling participants.

6. Appropriate clothing and presentation of the junior handler

The Junior Handler and the dog should present a harmonious appearance as regards to clothing. The handler is recommended to use appropriate and functional clothing and accessories, such as shoes that are well adapted to the soil conditions and to the size of the dog. The colours of the handler's clothes should allow for the distinguishing of the dog's silhouette even from a distance, and any striking or inappropriate clothing is completely discouraged.

7. Overall appearance of handler and dog

Because the overall focus of attention in dog-handling should be kept on the dog, it is recommended that handlers avoid standing between the judge and the dog, without the practice of any exaggeration, but rather relating to this method as part of the handlers main purpose, in being present yet discreet.

Any mishandling of the dog-lead or the loss of accessory objects such as coat brushes is bound to cause distraction of the dog or compromise the overall appearance of the handler and dog.

*The Judging procedure should be supported with the use of the [“FCI Junior Handling Judging Standards”](#) for the evaluation of each participant, provided [in attachment](#) to these Guidelines.

Participation in FCI World and Section Shows

National representation

The representative of each country has to be a national citizen of the country that he/she is granted to represent. If the country does not have junior handling activity, it is not allowed to send a candidate to FCI World and Section Junior Handling finals.

Age groups

Only the single group aged 10-17 years will be allowed to take part in the Open Junior Handling competitions taking place on each day of the FCI World and Section Shows.

Every participant must be under 18 years of age on the day of the final competition held at the FCI World and Section shows.

World and Section Junior Handling competitions

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 before the competitions.

The participants should also get clear written and publicized instructions about ALL Junior Handling Competitions taking place during World and Section shows: a map of the show ground indicating clearly where all of the Junior Handling Competitions will take place; the exact times and preferably also the name(s) of the judge(s).

Competition procedure

Daily Open Competitions: Every day, the judge selects the best three (3) of each Open Competition without placing them. The three junior handlers qualified from each day are qualified to participate in the FCI World and Section Junior Handling Open Competition Semi-final.

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

The qualified junior handlers compete in the Final Junior Handling Competition together with the participants sent by the national organisations.

Final Junior Handling Competition: The Final Junior Handling Competition must be arranged on the last day of the FCI World and Section show in the Main Ring just before the group competitions and best in show program begins.

The best five junior handlers from the Open Competition Semi-Final compete in the Final Junior Handling Competition together with the participants sent by all of the participating national organisations.

The judge selects the best three (3) participants and places them accordingly.

The **FCI World and Section Junior Handling Final Titles** are:

- * 20XX (name of the section, e.g.: European Section) Winner in Junior Handling
- * 20XX World Winner in Junior Handling

Regulations

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

- Each daily Open Competition consists of a preliminary decision competition which takes place in a separate ring, and in a final competition in the afternoon which takes place in the main ring.
- The junior handler may participate each day in the daily Open Competitions unless he/she has already been placed among the best three (3) on one of the Open Competition days.
- The breeds handled in the Junior Handling competition do not necessarily have to be the same as those which are judged in the World or Section Show on the same day.
- The Junior Handler Winner of any FCI member country may participate automatically both to Section Winner and World final competitions.
- Every country (national organisation) is entitled to designate one participant who may compete only in the final competition of the FCI World and Section Show.
- The qualified National representative may not compete in the daily qualifying Open Competitions held at the same FCI World and Section Show.
- In daily qualifying Open Competitions, Junior Handlers are not bound to comply with the order of the starting numbers as the dog may be entered in the World or Section show. The assisting ring stewards must take care that not too many juniors are in the ring at the same time and that dogs match in size.

The new Guidelines were approved by the FCI General Committee in November 2015 and by the FCI Executive Committee in February 2016.



FCI Junior Handling Judging Standards

Show	
Judge	

Entry number :

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Sufficient	Judge's comments
Individual movement					
Movement in group					
Setting up the dog					
Bite					



	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Sufficient	Judge's comments
Contact & cooperation with the dog					
Knowledge and ability to show the breed					

Overall appearance				
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Placement

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Judge's comments	
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