

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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FCI REGULATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL HERDING JUDGES



1. General information	2
2. Minimum requirements for applicants	2
3. Definition of status of FCI international herding judges	3
4. General conditions for transfer from one FCI NCO to another	3
5. Ethics code of a herding judge	3
6. Travel and insurance arrangements.....	4
7. Accepting assignments when judging abroad.....	4
8. Penalties	5

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1. General information

- 1.1. Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders and numbers.
- 1.2. The regulations set forth in the paragraphs 1 through 8 are binding for all FCI members and contract partners and must be considered as minimum requirements of the FCI for any individual to be accepted as a herding Judge by the national canine organization of the country where he has his legal residence and which is a member of the FCI (hereafter named "FCI National Canine Organization", shortly "FCI NCO").
- 1.3. It is up to each FCI NCO to increase and specify the general requirements set by the FCI. However, under no circumstances, may the rules of each country be in conflict with these FCI Rules. Each country has the right to make the procedure for licensing judges more complex, in accordance with national rules. However, the requirements for judges should not be less than those established in this document.
- 1.4. These rules apply to newly-approved judges. Existing judge's status remains unless FCI NCO decides otherwise.
- 1.5. It is the responsibility of each FCI NCO to provide adequate courses and a satisfactory basic judge training programme for its candidates to get the necessary education, to prepare the necessary examinations and to take care of their official approval as international herding judges. Continued training courses must be offered on a regular basis for the candidates and the herding judges in the event of a long absence. This programme must be followed by the candidates before they take the final exam (NHAT, HWT and IHT1-3), where their judging will be evaluated by two different judges.

It is the responsibility of each FCI NCO as member of the FCI to include in their official FCI judge list of FCI herding judges to the FCI Herding Dogs Commission only those individuals who have fulfilled the requirements stated above, to keep their list as well as all the information about every judge updated and to forward it to the FCI Herding Dogs Commission.

2. Minimum requirements for applicants

- 2.1. The applicant for approval as an international judge must send to FCI NCO the written and signed application. The application of the candidate wishing to become a herding judge must be accepted under the official FCI NCO regulations and guidelines of the country where the applicant has his legal residence.
- 2.2. In order to be recognized as an international herding judge by the FCI, the candidate must comply with the following requirements:
 - a) he has professional, physical, verbal and moral qualities;
 - b) he must be a national herding judge;
 - c) must be of legal age in the country where he has his legal residence;
 - d) at the time of application, the candidate must have competed with a minimum of one dog in the highest level (FCI IHT-3);
 - e) the candidate makes a written preliminary examination showing sufficient knowledge on the behaviour, principles and technique of judging and FCI Regulations for herding rules;
 - f) he must have the experience of independent judging of herding events for at least 2 years; at least 6 trials should be FCI IHT, in which all the complexity classes were presented;
 - g) he must obtain a recommendation from two different international judges.

3. Definition of status of FCI international herding judges

- 3.1. An FCI international herding judge is a person, who has been approved by his FCI NCO to judge FCI international herding events (CACITR).
- 3.2. Each international herding judge can be specialized in:
 - a) FCI TS,
 - b) FCI CS,
 - c) both FCI TS and CS.
- 3.3. The FCI NCO must forward to the FCI Herding Dogs Commission, complete information concerning every judge who is permitted to judge outside the country where he has his legal residence.
- 3.4. In order to become an international herding judge, the judge must be fluent in one of the four FCI official languages (English, French, German and Spanish).
- 3.5. It is the responsibility of the FCI NCO to authorize judges as FCI international herding judges; however, the requirements to become an FCI international herding judge must absolutely be met.
- 3.6. Information about the nomination as FCI international herding judge must be provided to the President of the FCI Herding Dogs Commission.
- 3.7. Only FCI international herding judges can officiate at the FCI HERDING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP.
- 3.8. International Herding judges who have been approved by their FCI NCO, but have not been judging for a period of 5 years or longer, must update their judging skills before being allowed to judge international FCI events again. The FCI NCO, before granting a new authorization to judge, must verify the capacity of the judge.

4. General conditions for transfer from one FCI NCO to another

- 4.1. Herding judges emigrating from one country with an FCI NCO to another country with an FCI NCO remain admitted and can be approved by the FCI NCO of the new country after the confirmation from their previous FCI NCO, provided that no disciplinary action has been taken against them.
- 4.2. An application must be sent by these judges to the FCI NCO of the new country immediately after changing legal residence. This new FCI NCO will then be responsible for these judges, and is obliged to take further education to meet the requirements of the country in which he now resides.

5. Ethics code of a herding judge

- 5.1. A Judge needs to observe the general duties, which are to be found in the "GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF FCI HERDING EVENTS".
- 5.2. A judge always has to make sure that the competition is carried out according to the rules. He is responsible for the decisions that he makes.
- 5.3. A judge makes decisions independently in accordance with the FCI rules.
- 5.4. A judge should always base his evaluation on his own observation, so that all dogs are evaluated indiscriminately.

- 5.5. A judge has to prepare for each event by studying the regulations and important requirements. Herding judges must always and at all times be thorough and careful in their work.
- 5.6. For events in an FCI non-member country, the judge must follow the national herding rules and laws of the country where the event takes place.
- 5.7. A judge must follow the rules and guidelines that apply not only to herding and animal health but also to the place where herding is organized.
- 5.8. A judge may not judge any dog that he has either owned, co-owned, conditioned, kept or sold in the six months preceding the event where he is officiating. The same applies to dogs owned by a partner, a member of his immediate family or any person living with him in his household.
- 5.9. A judge has to immediately notify the organizer about his absence.
- 5.10. Under no circumstances can a judge ask for appointments to judge.
- 5.11. Every herding judge of any FCI NCO accomplishes an important duty in the international dog society. His behaviour should therefore be reliable and beyond reproach when officiating and in his private life. Herding judges have to respect their colleagues and the participants and follow the general rules of ethics, such as, for example, refrain from criticising, in public the work of another judge.

6. Travel and insurance arrangements

- 6.1. All travel expenses, like transport, meals, and accommodation etc., incurred by a judge have to be reimbursed.
- 6.2. For judging at an international or European FCI event, a judge is to receive from the organiser, in addition to the above mentioned costs, an allowance of 50 € for each judging day and 35 € for each travel day.
- 6.3. It is advisable that financial arrangements should be laid out in advance in the form of a contract or written agreement between the judge and the organizer. This has to be honoured by both parties.
- 6.4. The Herding judge should sign up an insurance contract (flight cancellation, accidents, etc.) whenever he is invited to judge abroad.

7. Accepting assignments when judging abroad

- 7.1. Herding judges need a written authorization from their FCI NCO in order to judge at FCI events. Only herding judges who are authorized by their FCI NCO are allowed to officiate as herding judge.
- 7.2. A herding judge of the FCI may only judge at events that are organized by a FCI NCO or in a FCI partner (non-member) country with the approval of the NCO from which he depends and the FCI NCO of the partner country.
- 7.3. The process of appointing an international judge to a herding competition in another country is as follows:
 - a) The organizers of the herding event will send an invitation to the judges whom they want to appoint with the conditions (financial, material security, synergy).
 - b) The organizers will ask their FCI NCO to send a request to the FCI NCO of the country where the judge has his legal address.

- c) The judge's FCI NCO confirms the authorisation for this judge for the planned event.
 - d) The organisers' FCI NCO sends this confirmation to the organisers.
 - e) The organizers shall inform the judge.
- 7.4. Upon receiving an invitation to judge in a country outside the country where he has his legal residence a herding judge has to make all necessary inquiries to ascertain that the herding organization comes under the jurisdiction of the FCI or is organized by an organization recognized by FCI. While on assignment, they are obliged to judge strictly and exclusively in accordance with the valid FCI Regulations.
- 7.5. All herding judges, including those from countries that are not members of the FCI, must under all circumstances adhere to the FCI Regulations when they are officiating at FCI sanctioned events.

8. Penalties

- 8.1. Any judge violating, in any way, the FCI herding regulations and/or the national regulations as well as FCI rules for herding judges falls under the jurisdiction of his FCI NCO, which has to penalize the judge in question if the violation has been proven. The FCI NCOs are obliged to pass a rule which enforces them to penalize any misconduct or any violation from their judges.
- 8.2. It must be guaranteed that the herding judge in question shall be heard, either verbally or in writing. The judge must be given the right to appeal against the decision. No person having been involved in imposing the penalty may be a member of the authority where the appeal is made.
- 8.3. After becoming legally effective, the FCI has to be informed about the decision by its FCI NCO.
- 8.4. The English version is the authentic one.
- 8.5. These Regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee at the meeting in Thuin, November 2018. They become effective from February 1, 2019.**