

**FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)**

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# **INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOG MEASURING AT FCI EVENTS**



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides the official guidelines and procedures for measuring dogs participating in Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) agility events. The main purpose of these instructions is to establish a standardized procedure for measuring dogs at FCI international agility events. These guidelines are intended to serve as the official reference for FCI Measuring Judges and to support the consistent application of measurement practices across all FCI-sanctioned competitions.

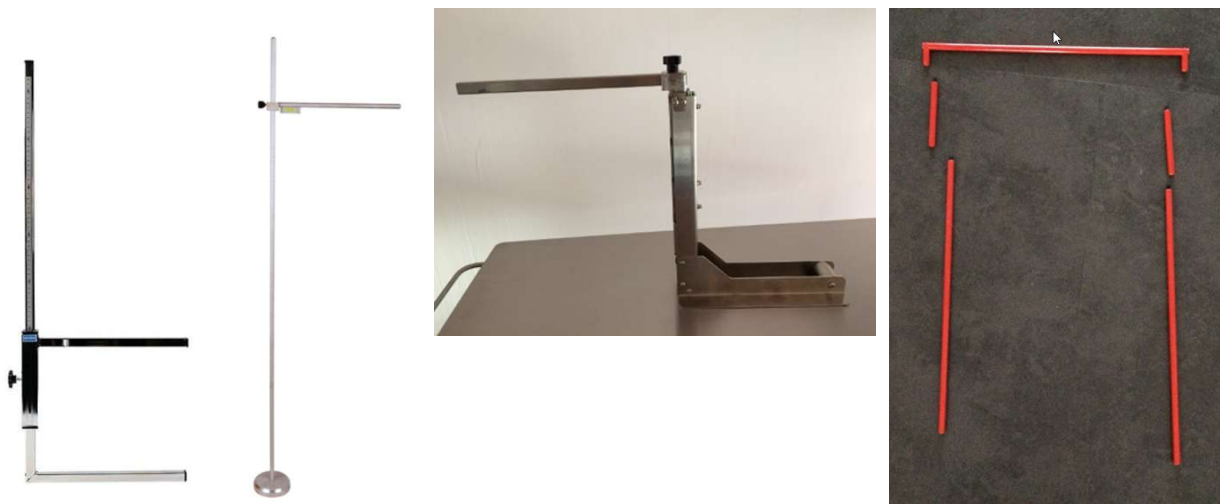
Just as the FCI Agility Regulations set a standard for international competitions and serve as a basis for judging guidelines and equipment standards, these measuring instructions should be used by FCI National Canine Organizations (NCOs) as a foundation for developing their own national procedures—differing only where necessary to accommodate local needs.

## 2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Dogs registered for an FCI event are measured once in their lifetime.
- A second measurement may be permitted once the dog reaches 6 years of age, upon request of the NCO and in accordance with the procedure approved by the FCI Agility Commission (FCI Core Event Rules, Section 4.2: Category Control)
- The dog's identity must be verified via microchip scan before measurement.

## 3. MEASURING ENVIRONMENT AND EQUIPMENT

- The measurement area must be set up in a quiet and calm location to minimize stress for the dog. While it does not require full enclosure (e.g., tent or walls), the space should be free from distractions and allow for smooth operation of the measuring process.
- The measuring platform must meet the following criteria:
  - i. Stable and level
  - ii. Hard and non-slip surfaceSpacious enough to accommodate dogs of all sizes
- An approved measuring stick with a millimetre scale or a calibrated measuring U-frame (for the categories Small, Medium and Intermediate) must be used as the measuring device. The measuring device can also be the judge's own measure.



## 4. MEASURING POINT

The height of the dog is measured at the highest point of the shoulder blades (Figure 1 below). However, there are dogs in which the spinous process is atypical, in rare cases the 1<sup>st</sup> bone of the withers is higher than the shoulder bone. For example where the vertebrae of the dog's thoracic vertebrae are higher than the highest points of the shoulder blades, the height of the dog is measured from the vertebrae between these shoulder blades (see figure 2 below).

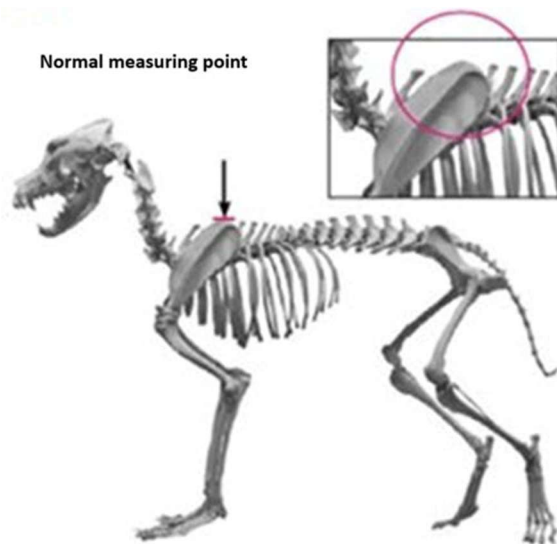


Figure 1

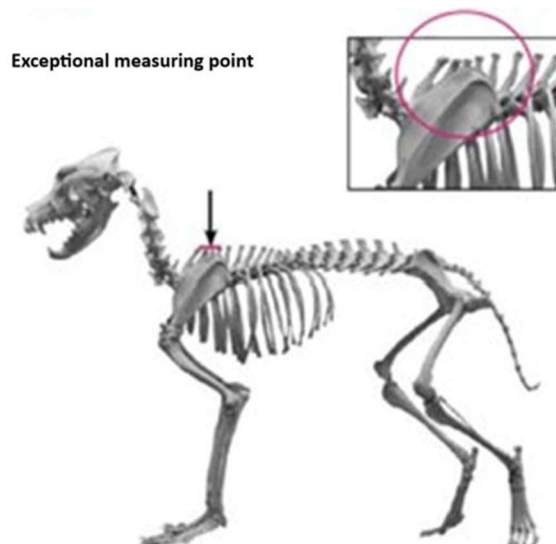


Figure 2

## 5. DOG POSITIONING FOR MEASUREMENT

- The forearms (elbow and radius) of the dog are exactly vertical when viewed from the side (Figure 3 - 1).
- The lower jaw should align with the top line of the back. (Figure 3 - 2).
- The lowest vertical part of one hind leg (or the lowest straight part of both hind legs) must be exactly vertical when viewed from the side (Figure 3 - 3).
- The dog's cervical spine should form a 45-degree angle to the horizontal plane when viewed from the side (Figure 3-4).
- The silhouette of the neck should be at an angle of 30 to 35 degrees (Figure 3-5).
- The forelegs must be perfectly vertical when viewed from the front and positioned at a natural width in line with the thorax (Figure 4-1).
- The spine and neck should form a straight line, with the dog's head and eyes facing forward (Figure 4-2).
- In chondrodystrophic (curvilinear) breeds, vertical alignment may not be achievable due to structural characteristics. In such cases, the limbs should be positioned as symmetrically as possible (Figure 5).
- The dog's weight must be evenly distributed across all four limbs.
- The dog must stand independently and must not lean against the handler's body or arms.

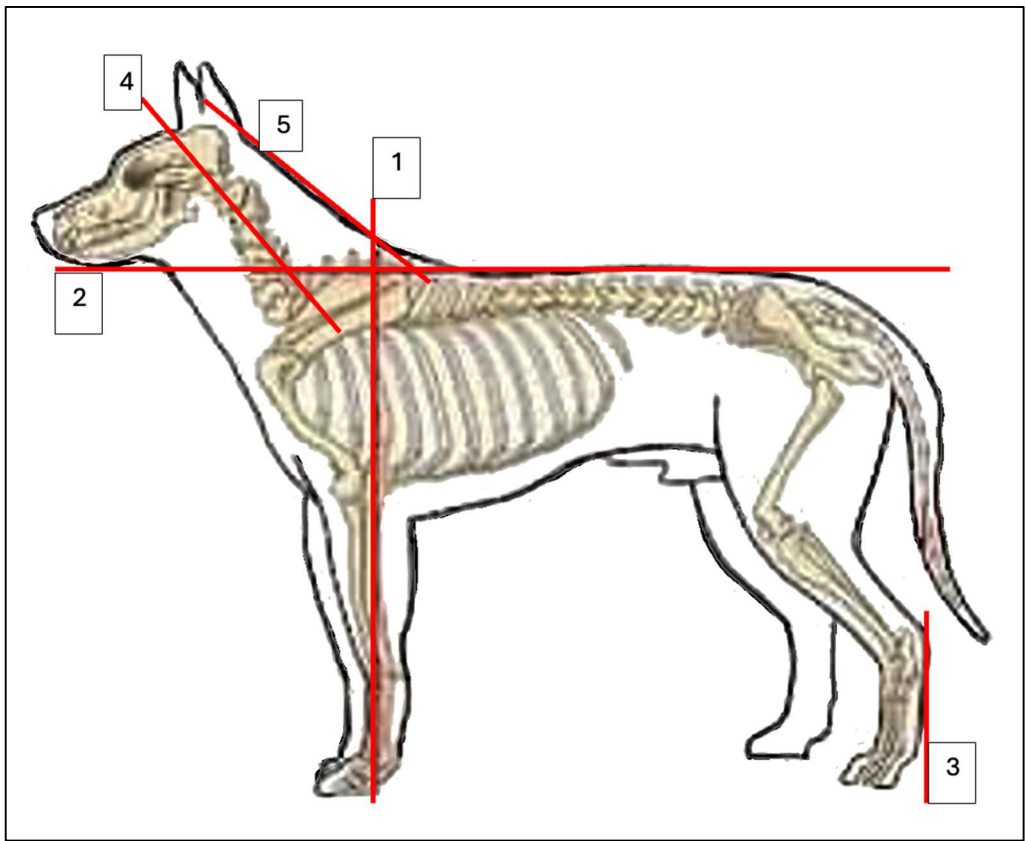


Figure 3

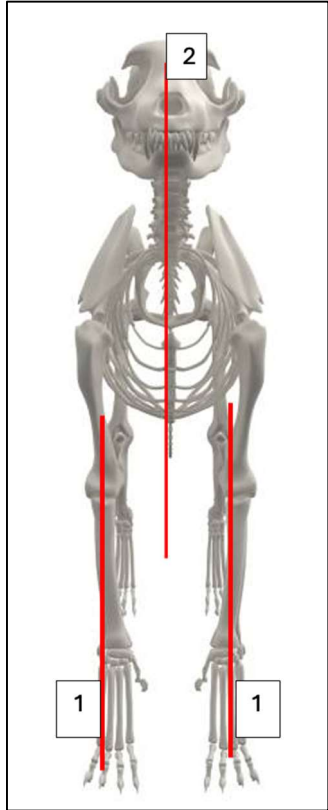


Figure 4



Figure 5

## 6. MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE

### 6.1. General principles

- The judge must ensure that the dog is standing in the required measuring position.
- Dogs must be free of collars or harnesses during measurement.
- Treats and assistants are allowed but must not interfere with the measurement.
- A dog may wear a muzzle during measurement, but it must not interfere with the measurement.
- The judge(s) may take multiple measurements to ensure accuracy.
- If needed, the dog may be walked between measurements.
- If the dog is measured with the respective U-Frame for the registered category both legs of the U-frame must touch the ground at the same time.
- The measuring judge must check that the measuring device is perpendicular to the ground, that the measuring frame is horizontal and that the base of the measuring device is horizontal and fully on the ground. The measuring frame must be positioned exactly and evenly on both dog's shoulder blades. The requirement for the U-shaped measuring frame applies accordingly.

### 6.2. Judging roles and responsibilities

To ensure a robust and fair measurement process, the following judge roles are defined:

- **Judge 1 (Standard Judge):** This judge is responsible for physically conducting the measurement according to established guidelines. Their primary focus is on ensuring the dog is in the correct position for accurate measurement.
- **Judge 2 (Eye Judge):** The Eye Judge oversees the entire measurement process, with a specific focus on verifying the dog's correct positioning. This role ensures the objectivity and accuracy of the measurement.
- **Judge 3 (Arbitration Judge):** This judge is called upon when the initial two measurements yield conflicting or uncertain results. The 3rd Judge performs the measurement, while Judge 1 and Judge 2 collectively assume the role of Eye Judges, observing the process to ensure accuracy and objectivity.

### 6.3. Re-measurement and dispute resolution

**Initial Doubt/Slow Progress:** If the initial measurement is doubtful, it proceeds slower than expected, or the judges are uncertain about the result, Judge 1 and Judge 2 will switch roles and repeat the measurement.

Evaluation of the measuring result:

- i. If the results of the first and second measurements match and the judges are confident in the outcome, the measurement is considered final.
- ii. If the results of the first and second measurements do not match, or if the judges cannot definitively declare the measurement successful, a third judge will be introduced.
- iii. When a third judge is involved, the 3rd Judge will measure the dog, while Judge 1 and Judge 2 will together assume the role of Eye Judges. The result of this measurement is considered final.

#### 6.4. Role of the companion (handler / owner)

- The dog's handler or owner may touch and hold the dog, provided it does not negatively impact the dog's proper positioning for measurement.
- If the handler's actions hinder the dog's correct positioning, the measuring judges may instruct them to release the dog or to adjust the dog's position.
- Should the handler or owner refuse this request or verbally interfere with the measurement after releasing the dog, the judges have the authority to instruct the individual to leave the area. In such cases, a member of the team management will remain with the dog.

#### 6.5. Judge assistance

Judges are permitted to touch the dog as needed to ensure proper positioning for accurate measurement.

#### 6.6. Unmeasurable dogs

If a dog cannot be correctly measured within a reasonable time frame, it is not allowed to participate in the event. Such a dog will not be recorded in the list maintained by the FCI Agility Committee. Consequently, if the dog is entered in any future FCI event, it will be regarded as never having been measured. The final decision in such cases lies with the measuring judges.

This rule is also defined in the FCI Core Event Rules, Section 4.2: Category Control.

#### 6.7. Failsafe and procedure deviation

In extraordinary circumstances where unforeseen issues arise that prevent the effective application of this standardized measurement procedure, a deviation from these established guidelines may be authorized. The decision to deviate from the procedure rests solely with the responsible delegate of the event and/or the President of the FCI Agility Committee.

**These regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee in February 2026 (Roma).**

**The English version is the authentic one.**