

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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FCI (OPEN) AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

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CORE REGULATIONS



1. INTRODUCTION

This document serves as the core set of specifications for organizing and participating in Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) (Open) Agility championships. These specifications establish the fundamental standards that apply universally across all FCI international championships supported or held under the auspices and patronage of the FCI Agility Commission. Specific championship variations and additional details will be provided in championship-specific documents as described in section 6, allowing for customisation while maintaining a consistent and coherent structure.

General Specifications

The General Specifications apply to all FCI international agility championships. They are described in this document.

Championship Specific

The Championship-Specific parameters allow for customisation depending on the specific FCI championship and will be found in the Championship-Specific document.

If a specific section does not differentiate between General Specifications and Championship-Specific, all content should be treated as a General Specifications and will therefore apply to all FCI Championships.

Organisers who want to change any of the provisions in these specifications can only do so after permission of the FCI Agility Commission.

2. APPROVAL PROCESSES FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS' ORGANISATION AND JUDGES

2.1. NCO APPLICATION PROCESS

Clubs wishing to organise an FCI international agility championship must apply through their National Canine Organisation (NCO). The application must include details about the championship, including venue, dates, and compliance with FCI regulations.

2.2. JUDGES APPLICATION PROCESS

Judges must be approved by both the Judge's NCO and the FCI Agility Commission. The application for approval should at least include:

- the Judge's qualifications and experience.
- the championship and year for which the Judge is applying
- a list of the major championships judged over the last five years (including the year of the championship)

For the complete procedure, please refer to the document named "Application requirements to judge an FCI Agility (Open) Championship" on the [Agility section of the FCI website](#).

3. ORGANISATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1. VENUE

The criteria to be taken into consideration in selecting a venue for an international FCI championship are as follows:

3.1.1 General Specifications

The venue must meet the minimum ring size requirement and ensure a safe surface for both dogs and handlers.

1. Minimum size per ring: 20 x 40 meters.
2. There must be a separate area for the show secretariat.
3. It should be easily accessible and well signposted.
4. It should have sufficient parking space for the officials, competitors and visitors.
5. It should include sufficient toilet facilities.
6. Refreshments (food and drinks) should be on offer for the competitors and the visitors.
7. It should have a separate area for VIP's and members of the press.
8. There should be enough facilities for dog walking nearby.
9. Camping facilities are an essential part of the whole championship; a decent camping area should be offered.
10. A list of hotels should be made available – website or brochure
11. Sufficient security in and around the venue should be provided.

3.1.2 Championship Specific

There may be more detailed specifications in the Championship-Specific document. For example: Specific Ring Size, Allowed Surfaces, Number of Rings, Training Areas, and Warm-up Areas.

3.2. TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

1. A website should be set up. This will provide all the necessary information and should be updated regularly in order to provide everyone with the latest information.
2. A PA-system (Public Address System) with at least one microphone for the show secretary and one for the commentator. The PA-system should ensure that all announcements are clear and understandable for everyone. Announcements should be made at least in English. Ensure that the national anthems of all the participating countries are available as well as music for the opening and closing ceremonies.
3. An IT system to run the championship efficiently and relay the necessary information to competitors and spectators must be in place. For safety reasons backup procedures should be installed. Two or more photocopiers should also be available - to ensure enough printing capacity to produce all necessary lists without delay.

3.3. RING & OTHER EQUIPMENT

3.3.1 General Specifications

1. A complete Agility set includes:
 - 1.1. 14 hurdles with poles (diameter of the poles must be 4 to 5 cm)
 - 1.2. 1 tyre
 - 1.3. 1 wall
 - 1.4. 1 dog-walk
 - 1.5. 1 A-frame
 - 1.6. 1 see-saw
 - 1.7. 1 weave poles
 - 1.8. 1 long jump
 - 1.9. 4 tube tunnels (one of them must be 3 – 4 m long)
2. Electronic contact zones can be used.
3. In case multiple agility sets are available these must be identical. These sets of obstacles have to comply with the regulations. The FCI Representative for the championship should verify that the obstacles hold the correct standard.
4. Obstacles used for the championship should be on the market for at least one year.
5. Electronic timing system including a back-up system (***to be used whenever the primary system fails, at which point the competition must be stopped as soon as possible until the issue is resolved***) and two measuring wheels.
6. Bibs with numbers for the competitors to wear. They should include the following text: [FCI CHAMPIONSHIP] 20XX (possibly the name of the country or town where the championship is organised).
7. Competitors must always wear this bib during course walking and all their runs.
8. The secretariat should:
 - 8.1. display all results, running orders, time schedules in several areas around the venue.
 - 8.2. have sufficient judging slips for the scribe
 - 8.3. have all the necessary information - such as running orders, course plans, results etc. for the teams - available for the team captains at the appropriate times
 - 8.4. make sure that the necessary information, mentioned above, is delivered to the VIP area as well as the Press room
9. Scanners to check the chip numbers after each run, at least one table (non-slippery surface).
10. Ensure that the flag of each country is available plus the flag of the FCI (***to be applied for at the FCI***).
11. For the opening ceremonies – flags to be carried by the team leaders – there must also be name boards for each nation.
12. A podium must be provided for the prize giving (1st, 2nd, 3rd). It must be large enough to hold at least a full team specific for the championship that is organised.
13. The additional carpet used for bitches in heat has to be non-slip.
- 14. *In all of the pre-rings a feeding area must be created.***

3.3.2 Championship Specific

There may be more detailed specifications in the Championship-Specific document. For example: The number of Agility sets available e.g. for AWC Two complete agility sets.

3.4. RING OFFICIALS & STAFF

Adequate staffing must be provided to manage timing, scoring, course maintenance, and competitor flow. It should include at least:

1. A show organiser, responsible for the whole organisation.
2. Secretariat: Two IT teams to take care of all the results and administration
3. In the ring:
 - 3.1. Chief ring steward
 - 3.2. 2 scribes
 - 3.3. 2 timekeepers
 - 3.4. 3 equipment stewards (rebuild obstacles and straighten the tunnel)
 - 3.5. 1 steward to show competitors in and out of the ring
 - 3.6. 1 steward for the leads
 - 3.7. Building team, enough stewards to build the courses. They must be trained to use the FCI approved baseline method
 - 3.8. 2 people who are tasked to check the dog's microchip number after the run
 - 3.9. 1 VAR Camera Operator when applicable: Manages the VAR Cameras system.
4. Commentators (several languages).
5. Interpreters.
6. Parking and gate stewards (entrance to the show).

If a competitor entered at an event or their company provides a key service for the event organisers, any and all of the work carried out must done by a designated individual or an employee other than the competitor. No competitor entered at the event may carry out the work. In circumstances where there is no suitable alternative this has to be approved by a representative of the FCI Agility Commission.

3.5. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FCI AGILITY COMMISSION

The FCI Agility Commission appoints a member of the Commission to assist the organiser in conducting the FCI Championship and to ensure that the championship is executed correctly in accordance with the FCI Regulations.

The representative plays a crucial role in ensuring that championships and meetings follow the Regulations and Guidelines, adhering to the principles of the FCI.

3.6. ENTRY FORMS

A country that has been appointed to organise one of the FCI Championships is obliged to send, at least 6 months in advance, entry forms to the various National Canine Organisations (NCO) as well as to the FCI- cooperation partners such as AKC, CKC and The Kennel Club UK and the FCI Agility Commission.

The entry forms should be in English, French, German and Spanish.

Entry forms can also be made available online. In order to fill out the registration form correctly (especially important for multi-page online forms), the organiser must specify which data is required and in what form it is to be submitted.

If applicable, In the entry form Pedigree Name (registered name of the dog) may not be split. It is one single item.

Text for input fields has to be entered in lowercase letters. Capital/uppercase letters are for beginning of sentence or for the first letter in proper nouns.

The entry form must capture at least the following information:

- Country
- Category (L,I,M or S)
- Reserve dog (yes or no)
- Dog's nickname
- Dog's pedigree name (if applicable)
- Breed incl. FCI-Standard number
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Studbook country, number and date of registration
- Microchip
- Owner's name, address, phone and email address
- Handler's name

The following information must also be provided:

- A reminder of the FCI regulations regarding a compulsory record book or license, prescribed vaccinations, compulsory Civil Liability insurance and entry requirements.
- Any restrictions – health or otherwise – that would prevent a dog from competing.
- Closing date.
- Entry fee.

A map with directions to the venue must be enclosed.

3.7. ENTRY FEES

Amount determined by the FCI Agility Commission; If the organizing NCO wants to modify the amount, they have to submit a proposal to the FCI Agility Commission for approval. No entry fee should be charged for reserve dogs.

Entry fees should be payable online.

3.8. REGISTRATION

1. All entries must be sent in by the respective National Organisation or an appointed Team Leader. Any and all communication between the organisers and the countries will be done through the Team Leaders. The direct sending of entries to the organiser by single competitors is not possible.
2. If applicable, the team leader has to send a copy of every participant dog's pedigree together with the completed entry form to the organiser before the inscription deadline in order to be registered as a participant. This pedigree, the age of the dog and the date of

registration in the studbook/appendix of the country the dog belongs to will then be verified by the organisation and the responsible FCI representative.

3. When the NCO, or the Team Leader completes the entry form(s) for their participants they implicitly confirm that the handlers and dogs entered are eligible for and have the authority to compete at the FCI Championship.
4. On entering any FCI Championship, both the owner and the handler agree to conform and abide by the FCI rules and regulations.
5. The identity of all dogs that have entered the championship has to be checked. If there is any doubt as to the identity of a dog, then the dog in question will be removed from the championship.
6. In the case of a dog's injury, a reserve may be substituted. The team leader must notify the organisers immediately. On a case-by-case basis, the FCI representative or the organisers may request the official vet to confirm whether the dog should be withdrawn. Once withdrawal is confirmed, the team leader must provide the name of the reserve dog and handler. This must be done before course walking for the first round in that category starts.
7. All teams entered at the championship including reserve teams can be used to substitute an injured team within the same height category before the first course walk of the championship (team or individual).
8. A complete entry list (including all the details of the dog) should be sent to the responsible FCI representative minimum four weeks before the championships. An Excel file would be ideal. This would enable the representative to prepare the list of the dogs that need to be measured.
9. ***The organiser must contact the President of the FCI Agility Committee to obtain the official list of national delegates, through whom the respective Team Leaders can be identified and registered for communication and entry purposes.***

3.9. CATALOGS

The organizing NCO will provide a downloadable digital catalogue containing all relevant information about the dogs and their handlers - listed per country. Also provide a schedule of the Championships and a list of the prizes and who donated them.

Each participating country will receive a copy that they are requested to check. Should this copy not be returned within ten days, the information appearing on it will be considered correct and the catalogue will be published.

3.10. ACCOMMODATION

A list of hotels and camping areas must be made available to the competitors. The list is to be sent with the entry forms and/or posted on the website of the world championships.

3.11. EXPENSES

The organizing NCO is responsible for covering the expenses of the Judges and Measuring Judges, which include the following:

- Daily Allowance:
 - A minimum of 75 euros per judging day.
 - A minimum of 50 euros per travel day.
- Travel Expenses:

- A reimbursement of at least 0.50 euros per kilometre for travel by car.
- Alternatively, the actual cost of bus, train, and flight tickets.
- Tolls and parking fees must also be reimbursed in full.
- Accommodation and Meals:
 - Accommodation and meals must be provided for the Judges and Measuring Judges for the entire duration of their stay.
- Gift or Memento:
 - A token of appreciation, such as a gift or memento of the championships, should be presented to the Judges as a gesture of gratitude.

3.12. INVITATIONS

The organizing NCO will invite the President of the FCI Agility Commission as well as its representative. Their expenses will be covered on the same basis as those of the Judges. All delegates of the FCI Agility Commission will get free entry to the venue including access to the VIP area.

4. TRIALS

4.1. VETERINARY CONTROL

Each dog is submitted to veterinary control before the championship or official training starts. The certificate of rabies vaccination will be checked. Dogs coming from or going to a rabies-infected region must also have a valid health certificate from their veterinarian.

Pregnant bitches or sick or injured dogs are not allowed to compete. Bitches in heat may compete; they shall start in the order specified.

Medical and veterinary first aid shall be available throughout the championship. During the championship, the FCI representative, either upon request from the judges or based on their own assessment, may also require the official vet to determine if any dog is fit to continue.

4.2. CATEGORY CONTROL

Each dog entered in categories I, M, and S must undergo category control before the start of the competition or official training.

A database will be maintained by the FCI Agility Committee, recording all dogs measured in any category. If a dog is entered but not listed in this database, it will be measured to verify category eligibility (I, M, or S), and the measurement result will be recorded in the database regardless of whether the dog participates or is found to be in the correct category.

If a dog cannot be definitively measured on the first attempt (for example, due to nervousness or borderline measurements), a second attempt should be made later. If a dog cannot be correctly measured within a reasonable time frame or displays aggressive behaviour, it will not be allowed to participate and will not be recorded in the database. Such a dog, if entered in a future FCI event, will be regarded as never having been measured.

If a dog is found to be entered in the wrong category, it may not compete in the entered category. The handler may choose one of the following options:

- ***Withdraw the dog and not compete.***
- ***Compete in the entered category out of competition (results not ranked or awarded).***
- ***Compete within the competition in the correct category as determined by the measurements.***

All measurement results, regardless of which option the handler chooses, will be recorded in the database maintained by the FCI Agility Committee.

If a dog is remeasured into a different category, it may not participate in the originally entered team for the team event. The following options are available:

- ***The team may substitute with a reserve dog officially registered for the competition, provided the reserve passes veterinary and category control. The reserve dog will replace the remeasured dog in the team.***
- ***If the reserve dog does not pass required controls, no further substitution is permitted.***

If there is space available in the national team or a mixed country team in the new category, the team leader may assign the remeasured dog to one of those teams or swap it with another eligible dog.

A dog registered in the official database may be remeasured only once in its lifetime, and only at the request of the handler. This remeasurement must be requested by the National Canine Organization (NCO) via email to the event organizer at least one month prior to the event.

Measuring will be carried out by the FCI Agility Measuring Team. The FCI Agility Commission will appoint these members (their expenses will be covered on the same basis as those of the Judges). Everything necessary to carry out their duties should be provided for such as:

- Professional measuring equipment.
- Tables to measure dogs (with a non-slippery surface and big enough for all sizes of dogs).
- Scanners to check the chip numbers.
- Power for a laptop.

A separate room or at least a quiet area should be available to measure the dogs.

Well before the event and after the closing date of the FCI event, the FCI Agility Measuring Team must review the list of participants. From this, this FCI Agility Measuring Team will:

- ***Create a “To Be Measured” list.***
- ***Generate a master list highlighting the dogs that require measurement.***

These prepared lists must be shared with the event organiser, who will:

- ***Produce copies for use at the vet-check entry control.***
- ***Provide a copy to each measuring judge.***

- ***Inform Team leaders in advance about which dogs in their team are scheduled for measurement.***

The category control will take place before the vet check.

At the vet-check & category control entry point each dog's microchip must be verified against the participant list. If the chip number does not match, the dog must still be measured.

4.3. JUDGING TEAM

The FCI Agility Committee appoints the Main Judges for the championship (at least half of which must be from a different country than the organizing country), all of them must be recognized by the FCI. Assistant Judges must be approved by the FCI in order to participate.

4.3.1 General Specifications

An FCI-approved Main Judge must officiate and is responsible for judging the course, it will have the overall responsibility on their course and make the final decision.

Each Main Judge will be assigned one or more Assistant Judges to help carry out their designated responsibilities. The Assistant Judge may be authorized to judge specific obstacles or sequences within the course. The Assistant Judge shall keep an eye on the dog and if something obvious is seen to have been missed by the Main Judge, the Assistant Judge must advise the Main Judge in the ring immediately after the run, thus enabling the correct decision to be reached. Should the Main Judge wish to seek the opinion of the Assistant Judge and/or FCI representative on that course, on any matter, then he/she is free to offer advice if requested to do so. The Main Judge and his/her Assistant Judge should work together as a team to ensure that any obvious errors in judging can be avoided. However, the Main Judge retains final responsibility for all decisions. The Main Judge's decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

The organiser, if needed, must provide the foreign Judge with an interpreter in one of the four FCI languages (French, English, German or Spanish).

4.3.2 Championship Specific

There may be more detailed specifications in the Championship-Specific document. For example (Number of Main Judges, Number of Assistant Judges per Main Judge).

4.4. JUDGES RESPONSIBILITIES

Judges have to provide their course drawings to the representative of the FCI Commission at least 6 weeks prior to the FCI Championship. A template for each Ring will be provided to them.

The drawings must include:

- at least a 5m grid
- dog's path incl. distance
- direct line distance between the obstacles
- Judge's path

Course drawings must fully comply with the FCI Agility Regulations and Guidelines.

Corrections to course drawings required by the FCI Representative must be completed within 1 week.

Once the course has been set by the Building Team, adapted by the Main Judge and approved by both the Main Judge and the FCI Representative, it may be open for walking.

If, during the championship, the FCI representative identifies any issues relating to FCI Regulations, Guidelines, sportsmanship or the spirit of FCI championships, he will take the appropriate action and then include this in his report to the Agility Commission

In the championship that the Judge is unable or unwilling to meet these obligations the following actions may be applied:

- The Judge will be asked to comply with the Regulations and guidelines within a certain time period.
- The Judge will be asked to change course plans that comply with the suggested alterations.
- As a last resort the FCI representative (in conjunction with the President of the FCI Commission as necessary) may substitute the Judge with another approved Judge.

The President of the FCI Agility Commission will then decide the procedure for replacing the Judge and which course plans will be used.

Once the Judges submit their course plans and they have been approved, the FCI Commission reserves the right to use these course plans for the championship, even in the case where the Judge has been replaced or is unable to Judge on the day.

Judges may not publish their course drawing before the course walk for that particular course starts.

Judges are required to cooperate with the responsible FCI representative and the organiser to ensure a fluent championship.

A Judge has to inform the FCI representative if at any time they are unable to meet their obligations, for example due to ill health, an unexpected personal championship or force majeure; Depending on the timing and circumstances a decision may be taken to replace the Judge.

4.5. JUDGES MEETING

A meeting will be held before the team leader meeting the day before the championship, attended by the Judges, the President of the FCI Agility Commission, the representative of the Commission and the organiser of the championship.

4.6. TEAM LEADER MEETING

A meeting will be held before the championship starts, attended by the team leaders, the Judges, the President of the FCI Agility Commission, the representative of the Commission and the organiser of the championship.

4.7. VAR

The VAR system consists of a network of cameras connected to a device that allows footage to be reviewed and/or rewound immediately after a dog's run or performance on a specific part of the run. This system is operated by a video operator, whose sole responsibility is to manage the camera system, without making any judging decisions. The VAR Assistant Judge, who must be an international Agility FCI Judge, is responsible for reviewing the footage and might be authorized by the Main Judge to make judging decisions based on the video evidence.

4.7.1 General Specifications

The Main Judge, VAR Assistant Judge, and Video Operator must all be physically present at the championship location. The system should function reliably under any weather conditions expected at the championship, and it must be equipped with a backup unit and a reserve power supply to ensure continuous operation. The transmission of footage must remain stable, with precautions taken to avoid potential Wi-Fi conflicts (or other non-cabled-technology related issues), the use of cabled connections is preferred. For optimal coverage, at least two cameras should be used per contact zone, with three cameras being the ideal number.

4.7.1.1 Coverage Scope

The camera system will be strategically positioned to ensure comprehensive coverage of the contact areas. Where technically feasible, and with the approval of the FCI representative and the Main Judge, the system may also provide broader coverage of the field. For the purpose of such a broader coverage this should include a minimum of four cameras positioned to monitor specific key areas as well as the entire course. This setup is designed to assist in assessing *discrepancies*¹ or uncertainties related to faults in various parts of the field, including but not limited to the contact zones. However, the system will strictly exclude any review of refusals.

4.7.1.2 Communication Protocol

All communication between the Main Judge, the Ring Assistant Judge, the VAR Assistant Judge and Scribes occurs discreetly via earpiece, eliminating the need for visible signals that might disrupt the flow of the championship.

4.7.1.3 Signals for VAR Use

Midway Arm Raise (Doubt in Real-Time): If the Main Judge has doubts during the act of judging, he raises an arm midway, fully extended to the side. This signals to competitors and spectators that the VAR is being used for real-time verification.

¹ **Discrepancies:** Situations where the recorded footage provides an additional perspective that may clarify aspects of the judging process and ensure alignment with the rules. These instances are not indicative of errors but rather opportunities to enhance accuracy and fairness in final decisions, especially in complex and fast-paced scenarios.

Rectangle Gesture (Post-Judgment Doubt): When the Main Judge doubts a decision after the judgment is made, he draws a rectangle in the air with his index fingers, signaling the use of VAR to competitors and spectators. This gesture helps maintain the elegance and integrity of the judging process while acknowledging potential discrepancies.

Adjustment of Competitor's Faults counts

Adding of a Fault: If a Fault is identified and added to a competitor's result that was not previously noted, the Main Judge raises an arm and points to the relevant part of the obstacle, making the correction clear to both competitors and the public.

Removing of a Fault: To indicate the removal of a fault, the Main Judge raises one arm while making a downward motion with the other toward the raised arm, signalling a reduction in the Faults count. In the case of multiple fault counts, this may be preceded by a gesture toward the specific part of the obstacle where the fault was initially attributed.

4.7.1.4 GDPR

The organiser shall ensure compliance with the GDPR, basing data processing on its legitimate interest as the organiser. All participants will be informed about the purpose and use of their data through the organiser's website. The organiser or its designated processor will ensure that data is retained for a maximum of 24 hours following the conclusion of the championship, with the option to extend this period to up to one week if necessary.

4.7.1.5 Application

The VAR Assistant Judge identifies a discrepancy and informs the Main Judge, who then decides whether to review the footage personally or rely on the VAR Assistant Judge's assessment. The Main Judge may also delegate specific contact zones to the VAR Assistant Judge for detailed review, granting the VAR Assistant Judge the authority to judge faults in those areas. In cases of a *Midway Arm Raise (Doubt in Real-Time)*, the VAR Assistant Judge is responsible for reviewing the video feed to ensure accurate judgment and assign faults if necessary. The Main Judge retains ultimate authority throughout the entire judging process and may review any video feed as he deems necessary to deliver a final judgment. The Main Judge will be in charge of indicating any fault changes resulting from the VAR review, using the designated '*Signals For VAR Use*' as outlined above.

4.7.2 Championship Specific

The Championship-Specific document will clarify whether the implementation of the VAR is mandatory, recommended, or left to the discretion of the organisers for that particular FCI championship.

4.8. BUILDING TEAM

A dedicated team is required to build the course according to the Judge's course plans and instructions.

The Main Judge who officiates the course cannot replace the building team in building the course. The Main Judge may only review the course after the Building Team has completed it. To maintain the utmost elegance during the championship, the Main Judge should discreetly communicate with the FCI representative if any issues arise during the course setup that he can spot.

At FCI Championships, the Baseline Method must be used for course building by the Building Team. This method relies on a fixed "baseline" (the centreline on the long side) to measure and position obstacles with high accuracy, ensuring the course closely matches the Judge's design. The baseline helps simplify the process for course builders, while the Main Judge makes final adjustments to align with the intended challenges. The method uses coordinate-based maps, where each obstacle's position is defined by horizontal and vertical measurements from the baseline, facilitating precise and consistent course setups.

4.9. WHITE DOGS RUN

Before the first course walk for a given course, a pre-run by at least one "white dog" (a non-competing dog) will take place to test the course before the championship begins. This practice helps identify any potential issues with the course setup and this occurs in each category. At least one white dog should be available for each class. White dogs must be at least 24 months old and should be experienced championship dogs. The white dog's performance should provide valuable insights for the Judge.

4.10. RESULTS

The organisers will supply a sufficient number of lists containing the results and classifications for distribution among the delegates of the FCI Commission.

Two similar lists must be sent to the FCI General Secretary. The lists contain the complete results. During the Championships, as the test proceeds the results will be posted on a scoreboard clearly visible to the competitors and spectators.

4.11. DISPUTES

The President and the representative of the FCI Agility Commission will settle any dispute.

4.12. INSURANCE

In addition to their 'Civil Liability', the show organisers are responsible for ensuring that the Judges and everybody involved in running the show are well covered by insurance.

4.13. LICENSE – ADMINISTRATION

The organizing NCO will apply for a license in the proper way and will make sure that administration proceedings are carried out correctly.

4.14. PROTOCOL

The organizing country will try its utmost to give the opening and closing ceremonies the splendor that that particular FCI Championship deserves.

The FCI Agility Committee requests that team leaders ensure their teams stand during the national anthems of the winners, as a gesture of respect.

5. COMPETITORS' APPLICATIONS

In order to participate to an FCI Championship, NCOs affiliated to the FCI (or those with a close relationship like the AKC, CKC and The Kennel Club of the United Kingdom) are allowed to select teams according to the following rules below, if difficulties arise, they must be referred to the General Board of the FCI.

5.1. ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER

5.1.1 General Specifications

1. Owners and handlers must have the nationality of the country or must have their permanent residence in the country for which his/her dog will compete. It is up to the NCO to determine the residential status of the owner and handler. In case of dual nationality, he/she can choose either country without restriction: however, he/she can only compete for one country in a given FCI Championship for that year. (Handlers with dual nationality can register only for one country.)
2. Eligibility Age for Dogs: The dog must be 24 months or older on the day of the championship to be eligible to participate.
3. Each handler is allowed to compete with a maximum of four dogs.
4. Identification Requirement: All dogs must be chipped.
5. Membership Requirement: Owners/handlers must be members of a club affiliated with an FCI-NCO.
6. Record Book or License: Competitors must have a valid record book or license issued by their FCI-NCO.
7. Prohibited Entries:
 - 7.1. Pregnant bitches.
 - 7.2. Dogs that are ill, hurt, or physically unfit.
 - 7.3. Doped dogs.

5.1.2 Championship Specific

1. Studbook/appendix registration
2. Ineligible to Enter: Additional restrictions may be applied by the organizing club or the FCI-NCO, such as restrictions on docked ears or tails or restrictions on visiting competitors who have lost their right to compete in their home country.

5.2. AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

5.2.1 General Specifications

The individual winners for each category automatically qualify for the following year's championship. This qualification does not count toward their country's total entry allocation and applies only if the same handler competes with the same dog.

All winners who wish to participate must pay the standard entry fees — automatic qualification does not grant free entry.

5.2.2 Championship Specific

The Championship-Specific document may provide clarifications on specific situations, such as participation in individual qualifiers or the individual final.

6. THE CHAMPIONSHIP

This section would outline the unique characteristics of each FCI championship.

For detailed information, please refer to the specific document dedicated to each championship.

JUDGES FAQs

1. When are courses published?

Courses are released by the FCI 20 minutes before course building.

The Judge may publish their course once the first course walk for that course begins.

When publishing courses, Judges should use the provided template and not display the following:

- Grids or grid labels
- Straight lines between obstacles
- Course length
- Judge's path or helper positions
- Political statements
- The dog's path may be shown, but no trajectory length should be included.

2. What are the heights for jumps and the lengths for the long jump?

All obstacles must be set to their maximum height or length. However, in extraordinary circumstances (e.g., severe weather), the FCI representative may authorize adjustments to these measurements.

3. When should the whistle be blown to start?

The starting signal may be given when the following conditions are met:

- The dog has all paws on the ground.
- The leash has been removed from the dog.
- The dog is positioned on the correct side of the starting obstacle.

4. How should judges handle situations where a handler pushes the dog back at the start line?

If a handler pushes the dog back at the start line, such as throwing the dog backward or letting it fall to gain a head start, it must be judged as an elimination. Judges should also be aware that holding back the dog by grabbing it by the scruff of the neck or using any other form of harsh handling is not permitted and must be judged as an elimination.

5. Who is responsible for building the course?

The course is built by the building team using the approved Baseline Method.

6. Can the Judge assist the building team?

No, the Judge cannot step into the ring nor interact with the building team unless explicitly requested by the FCI representative.

If the Judge notices any issues during course building, they may discreetly inform the FCI representative, who will address the situation.

Maintaining the highest standards of elegance and professionalism is of utmost importance for the championship.

7. Is the course checked after it is built?

Yes, there are two steps to course verification:

- The Judge for that course makes any necessary adaptations or corrections in accordance to the regulations and guidelines to ensure that
 - The course reflects his idea.
 - The safety for both handlers and dogs.
- The course is then reviewed by the FCI representative to ensure:
 - Safety for both handlers and dogs.
 - Compliance with regulations and guidelines.

8. What happens if a handler falls over a tunnel bag or the tunnel itself?

If a handler falls over a tunnel bag without moving the tunnel or altering the course, no fault is assigned — However, if the handler falls over the tunnel itself, it results in elimination.

9. When is a fault assigned for a breakable bar?

A fault for the breakable bar is assigned only if the bar falls to the ground.

10. Is a fault assigned if a jump's support cup is displaced but the bar doesn't fall?

It is a fault when the dog displaces a pole so that it is no longer at the original height (a pole does not have to fall to the ground to be faulted).

11. When is a fault assigned for the tyre obstacle?

A fault on the tyre is assigned only if it becomes open while the dog is passing through. The tyre is considered open when the breakable sections are visibly disconnected while the dog is passing through even if they were to reconnect after.

12. What happens to faults and refusals during a rerun?

For a **rerun**, faults and refusals are carried over up to the point in the course where the incident occurred that justified the re-run.

13. VAR — Who operates the VAR system at the championship?

The VAR system is operated by three key individuals:

- **Video Operator:** Manages the camera system and ensures footage is available for review.
- **VAR Assistant Judge:** Reviews footage and may make judgment decisions as authorized by the Main Judge.
- **Main Judge:** Oversees the entire judging process, including the use of VAR, and makes the final decisions based on the video evidence.

14. VAR — Should competitors, team leaders, or organisers have access to the VAR footage?

No, the screens and footage must be hidden and thus not be visible to the public, competitors, team leaders, photographers or organisers. Additionally, no recordings or pictures of the footage may be taken by anyone.

15. VAR — What happens if there is a doubt during the judging process?

If the Main Judge has doubts during the act of judging, they will raise their arm midway, fully extended to the side, signalling that VAR is being used for real-time verification. This gesture indicates to competitors and spectators that the VAR Assistant Judge is reviewing footage to ensure an accurate decision.

16. VAR — What happens if the Main Judge doubts a decision after it has been made?

If the Main Judge doubts a decision after it has been made, they will draw a rectangle in the air with their index fingers. This indicates that VAR is being used for post-judgment verification. The VAR Assistant Judge or the Main Judge will then review the footage to determine if the judgment needs to be adjusted.

17. VAR — What is the process if the VAR Assistant Judge identifies a discrepancy?

If the VAR Assistant Judge identifies a discrepancy in the footage, they will inform the Main Judge. The Main Judge will then decide whether to personally review the footage or rely on the VAR Assistant Judge's assessment. As part of their role in assisting the Main Judge, the VAR Assistant Judge reviews every contact obstacle performance. This function is similar to that of the Ring Assistant Judge, who observes the entire course and informs the Main Judge of any discrepancies.

Ultimately, the Main Judge retains full authority on how to handle this information and make the final judgment.

18. VAR — How are faults adjusted after a VAR review?

This is done once the handler and dog has ended its run and before the next dog starts.

- **Adding a Fault:** If a fault is identified that was not previously noted, the Main Judge will raise an arm and point to the relevant obstacle, signalling the correction of the competitor's result.
- **Removing a Fault:** To indicate the removal of a fault, the Main Judge raises one arm and makes a downward motion with the other arm, signalling a reduction in the fault count. In the case of multiple fault counts, this may be preceded by a gesture toward the specific part of the obstacle where the fault was initially attributed.

19. VAR — Can VAR be used to review refusals?

No, the VAR system will not be used to review refusals. The system is strictly for reviewing footage related to faults in contact zones and other key parts of the course.

20. VAR — Who holds the final authority over VAR decisions during the championship?

The Main Judge retains ultimate authority throughout the entire judging process. While the VAR Assistant Judge may review footage and make recommendations — The Main Judge may also delegate specific contact zones to the VAR Assistant Judge for detailed review, granting the VAR Assistant Judge the authority to judge faults in those areas. The Main Judge has the final say in all decisions and may review any video feed as necessary.

21. VAR — How is communication handled during the VAR process?

Communication between the Main Judge, Ring Assistant Judge, VAR Assistant Judge, and Scribes is conducted discreetly via earpiece. This ensures that the flow of the championship is not disrupted, and all decisions are made without visible signals to the public.

TEAM LEADER FAQs

1. Are there consequences for harsh handling?

Harsh handling will result in elimination or, in severe cases, complete removal from the championship.

2. Are toys allowed in the pre-ring?

Yes, toys are allowed in the pre-ring but must be attached to the leash — These may only be used if held in the hand. Throwing these items is not permitted.

3. Is food allowed in the pre-ring?

Food is permitted in the pre-ring, for this a designated area will be made available in every pre-ring.

The handler must ensure:

- The food used consists of dry items such as kibbles or dry treats.
- Food must be given by hand or placed on the ground, throwing of food is not permitted.
- The pre-ring is free of food once they leave it.
- Any food in their pockets cannot fall out during the run — this will result in a disqualification.

4. Is food allowed in the ring?

No, food is not allowed in the ring.

However, during specific possible training moments, a designated area may be provided either inside or outside the ring where food can be used. This will be clearly specified in advance during the team leaders meeting.

For clarity, outside of the training and the possible designated areas, no food is permitted in the ring at any time. Additionally, any food used must be of the dry kind, such as kibbles or dry treats.

5. What happens if a dog is lured in toward the finish area?

Luring a dog toward the finish area will result in an elimination unless it is done by the dog's handler without the use of food or toys or anything else for that matter.

6. Should handlers reward their dogs after a run?

Absolutely! Rewarding the dog after completing the run should be the handler's first priority. However, this must take place in the designated area just outside the ring. No food at all is allowed inside the ring.

While food is prohibited within the ring, handlers may use it as a treat after the run, but only in the designated area. Any reward involving food or toys must be given outside the ring, and handlers are responsible for keeping the area clean and free of toys, leashes, or food once they leave the area. Only dry food, such as kibbles or dry treats, is permitted. Toys and training aids may only be used if held in the hand. Throwing these items is not permitted. Food must be given by hand or placed on the ground, throwing of food is not permitted.

7. Can a team be replaced with a reserve team?

Yes, team replacements can occur up until the first course walk of the first run for the specific championship (team or individual).

- What happens if a handler or their dog is injured and the replacement deadline has passed?

If a handler or their dog is injured after the replacement deadline, they cannot be

replaced. The team leader is required to inform the organisation as soon as this is known.

In the case of a dog's injury, the dog is automatically withdrawn from **all** successive runs unless the official vet confirms, in writing, that they are fit to continue competing.

8. When will the Judge give the starting signal?

The Judge will only signal the start if the following conditions are met:

- The dog has all paws on the ground.
- The leash has been removed.
- The dog is on the correct side of the starting obstacle.

9. What happens if the handler pushes the dog back during the start line?

Pushing the dog back at the start line, such as throwing the dog backward or letting it fall to gain a head start, will result in an elimination. The Handler must be aware that it may not be possible to hold back the dog by grabbing it by the scruff of the neck or any other harsh handling.

10. What happens after the run?

The dog's microchip will be checked following the run.

11. Can a handler return to their dog after crossing the start line?

Yes, the handler may return to their dog after crossing the start line.

12. How are bitches in heat managed?

Bitches in heat will compete in their normal running order.
A carpet is not required but may be used if necessary.

13. Should I be mindful of live streaming?

Yes, please remain aware that the championship may be live-streamed. You may be seen and your conversations may be heard.

14. What are the rules for leashing the dog?

Dogs must be on a leash at all times, except while running.

15. Do individual winners automatically qualify for the following year championship?

Yes, the individual winners from the previous year automatically qualify for the same championship the following year without affecting their country's total entry allocation. This applies only if the same handler competes with the same dog. They must pay the standard entry fees; automatic qualification does not grant free entry.

- **What about teams? Can an individual winner participate in a team?**
Yes, they may compete in the team championship as a regular competitor.
- **Do the rules in point 5.1 "Eligibility to Entry" still apply?**
Yes, while they are automatically qualified, they must still comply with all rules outlined in both the Core document and the Championship-Specific document.

16. VAR — Can the VAR be used to file a complaint or in order to challenge a Judge's decision?

No, the judging team's decision remains final.

17. VAR — Should team leaders have access to the VAR footage?

No, the screens and footage must be hidden and should not be visible to team leaders, photographers, competitors, or the public. Additionally, recording or taking pictures of the footage is strictly prohibited.

18. VAR — How long will VAR footage be retained?

In accordance with GDPR, the footage will be retained for a maximum of 24 hours after the championship concludes. If necessary, the footage may be kept for up to one week.

These core regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee in May 2025 (Budapest).

The English version is the authentic one.

The amendments in bold and italic characters were approved by the FCI General Committee in February 2026 (Roma).