

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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## FCI Agility Open Championship - Specific Rules

### SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN OPEN

# EO



supported by the FCI

The EUROPEAN OPEN (EO) is an Agility competition which is officially supported by the FCI and is based on the FCI-Agility Regulations. The competition is OPEN to all dogs, with or without pedigree. All National Canine Organisations (NCO) of the FCI or National Organisations with a close relationship to the FCI are invited to participate in this event.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document serves as the specifications for organising and participating in the European Open (EO), supported by the FCI. These rules expand the **FCI Championships-Core Regulations** that apply universally across all FCI championships. This document contains the specific event variations and additional details, allowing for customisation while maintaining a consistent and coherent structure.

### General Specifications

The **General Specifications** are constants which apply to all FCI international agility championships; these are found in the **FCI Championships-Core Regulations**.

### Event Specific

The **Event-Specific** Specifications allow for customisation depending on the specific FCI championship and will be found in the **Event-Specific** document.

Any specific section in this document should be considered an **Event-Specific** Specification, intended to apply specifically to this championship. Other FCI championships may have similar details or entirely different ones.

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

## 3. ORGANISATION REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1. VENUE

Number of rings: at least 4 (four)

### 3.3. RING & OTHER EQUIPMENT

The number of Agility sets available: Equivalent to the number of rings, plus an additional one as spare.

## 4. TRIALS

### 4.3. JUDGING TEAM

Number of Main Judges: 6 (Six)

Number of Assistant Judges per Main Judge: IF VAR, THEN 2 (two), ELSE 1 (one)

If VAR: among the two assistant judges, one is positioned in the ring (he will be referred to as the Ring Assistant Judge) while the other at the VAR station (he will be referred to as the VAR Assistant Judge).

#### 4.7. VAR

The use of VAR is recommended for Agility qualifiers runs and mandatory for the final runs.

### 5. COMPETITORS' APPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER

Studbook/appendix registration: The competition is OPEN to all dogs, with or without pedigree.

#### 5.2. AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The individual EO winners from the previous year automatically qualify for the EO individual finals.

EO winners may also participate in the individual qualification rounds. However, if their ranking in these rounds would qualify them for the finals, their qualification spot will be passed to the next highest-ranked competitor.

If an EO winner qualifies through the individual qualification rounds in either the Agility or Jumping round, or in both, an additional qualification spot will be made available. As a result, 19 teams will qualify for the finals instead of 18.

### 6. THE COMPETITION

- All participating countries will receive an allocation of 32 dogs (max. 8 in any one category). The organising country can send 1 team (4 dogs) extra per category. All these allocations are valid for both the Team and the Individual Event. The EO-winners of previous year in Individual are automatically qualified without imposing on their country's number allocation.
- Each National Organization has the right to nominate competitors within the allocated quota and must submit entries to the organizer no later than May 31st or six weeks before the competition begins, whichever comes first.
- A list of reserve dogs and handlers can be attached to the entries (A country can send 1 reserve dog per 4 dogs, in each category).
- The reserve may also be allocated an entry in case of an available spot after the closing of entries. If countries choose to have a selection process, this must be open to all dogs (with or without pedigree).
- Countries in which the national qualifying results will only be available after the closing date, must let the organizers know how many entries they intend to send.

The deadline for doing so is 6 weeks before the competition, but never later than May 31st. In these cases, no late additional entries can be added. A complete list of all competitors needs to be handed in 3 weeks before the competition, but never later than by the end of June. The organiser will communicate the exact deadlines.

#### 6.1. QUALIFICATION FOR THE TEAM EVENT

The qualification for the Team Event takes place on Friday and is held in the categories Small, Medium, Intermediate and Large.

Teams in all height categories consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 4 handler and dog teams. Mixed Country Teams may also compete (one Team composed of members from different countries).

In the Team Event one Agility round and one Jumping round will be run as qualification for the EO Team Final.

For each round, competitors will be ranked according to faults and time. The first placed handler and dog will receive points according to the number of competitors in that round (=number of Teams x 4), the second placed handler and dog team will receive one point less, the third placed team 2 points less and so on. A disqualification receives 0 points.

The points of the 3 best runs of each Team will count towards the Team result for both rounds (=sum of points received). The 12 Teams in each category with the highest point score after both rounds in each category will be qualified for the EO Team Final. In the case of a tie, the points of the 4th Team member will be taken into consideration. In case of a further tie the highest individual score of a team member will count.

## 6.2. QUALIFICATION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EVENT

The qualification for the Individual Event takes place on Saturday and is held in the categories Small, Medium, Intermediate and Large.

A Handler with more than one dog should have a minimum of 20 dogs between each dog (if possible, by the number of competitors).

In the Individual qualification an Agility round and a Jumping round is run in all 4 height categories. Both rounds are scored separately for faults and time for all competitors.

In all categories the first 18 placed competitors in both the Agility as well as the Jumping round will have qualified for the Final. Where a team qualifies for the Final in both the Agility as well as the Jumping round, the worst of the 2 scores will be discarded and the next ranking team in that class will move up until all 36 places in each category have been filled for the Finals. In case of a double qualification with the same score in both rounds the Jumping result is discarded.

In addition, the competitors of every country will be ranked separately according to the total of faults and time of both runs in each height category. This ranking determines the internal, country-specific selection order for the EO final.

If no team (handler + dog) of a country finished the qualification without elimination in one of the 2 runs, the lower number of faults in the other run is decided. In the case of a tie (elimination in one run + same number of faults in the other run, no matter in which run the elimination happened) the better score in the overall result list of the run without elimination counts. In the case of a further tie the better Agility-run will break the tie, finally a draw will decide. A team with 2 eliminations will not qualify for the Final.

The top team from a country qualifies in each height category for the EO Final, if no dog from this country has already qualified directly for the EO Final as "Top 18" in the height category. The qualification for the Final is not transferable to another team.

### 6.3. EUROPEAN OPEN – FINALS

All Finals of the Agility European Open are held on Sunday, first the EO Team Finals and then the EO Individual Finals.

Course Plans for the team finals should be provided on paper.

The EO Team Final is a relay race where 4 separate courses are built in one (extended) Agility ring, partly using shared obstacles.

Each dog has to negotiate between 12 to 15 obstacles and at least one contact zone. The starts and ends have to be in the 4 corners of the course in a way that dogs do not disturb one another.

The time is started when the dog of the 1st Team member passes his starting line and stopped when the dog of the 4th Team member passes his finish line.

A refusal on the starting jump of the dog 2, 3 or 4 is counted as a refusal for the team.

If a dog starts while the dog before is still negotiating the course it counts as an elimination. Eliminations of Team members are counted with 100 faults and the handler has to correct the situation that led to the elimination in order to have a time for the whole team. If a handler does not correct the situation that led to the elimination the whole Team is eliminated.

The 12 qualified Teams in each category start in reverse order of the qualification score, so the best Team in the qualification will run last in the Final.

All Teams must start in the Final with all the team members who were running the qualification before. If a Team, which was running with only 3 members in the qualification, reaches the Final, one member of this Team must run twice.

The winners of the Team Final will be the “Agility European Open – Team Champion 20XX” in the categories Small, Medium, Intermediate and Large.

The EO Individual Final is an Agility round at A3 level.

The running order in the Individual Final is determined as follows:

- First the qualified teams from the country qualifiers. They will start in reverse order of their time in the Individual Agility round. That is the fastest qualified team will run last, irrespective of the number of faults they had. Qualifiers to the Final without a valid time from the Individual Agility round will run first.
- The 36 qualified teams in each category from both Jumping and Agility in reverse order and alternating (i.e. second to last will be the winner of the Jumping round, and last the winner of the Agility round).
- A Handler with more than one dog should have a minimum of 20 dogs between each dog (if possible, by the number of competitors). In reverse running order, the best ranked dog will keep its position and the other dog(s) will run 20 dogs earlier.
- The EO winner of the previous year will run last at the Final.

The winners of the Final will be the “Agility European Open – Individual Champion 20XX” in their respective height category.

### 6.4. PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

The prize giving for the EO-Qualification runs will be held on Saturday, after the completion of all individual qualification runs.

First the 3 top placed teams of the qualification for the Team Final in all categories (S, M, I and L) will be announced as “1st/2nd/3rd of the EO-qualification for the Team Event 20XX” (without national anthems). Then the 3 first places of both the Agility and the Jumping rounds in all categories will be announced as “1st/2nd/3rd of the EO-qualification for the Individual Event 20XX” (without national anthems).

The prize giving for the EO-Finals will be held on Sunday, after the completion of all final runs. First the top 3 placed Teams of the EO-Team Finals in all categories (S, M, I and L) will be announced, the anthem of the winning country will be played. Should the winner be a „Mixed Country Team “, then the European Anthem will be played. Thereafter the prize giving for the EO-Individual Finals will take place. The top 3 places of the Final round in all categories will be announced, and the national anthem of each winning country will be played.

Finally, the EO-flag will be handed over to the organising country for the following year.

## JUDGES FAQs

### 1. How is judging managed in the Team Final?

Judging does not have to be done by a single Judge overseeing an entire dog's run. The ring can be divided into sections, with different Judges responsible for different areas of the course.

### 2. During the team final, what happens if a dog refuses the starting jump?

The first dog in the team is judged as normal. If the judge whistles, a refusal at the starting jump for the second, third, or fourth dog must be counted as a refusal. For clarity, the first obstacle of the second, third, and fourth dog's section should be treated as obstacle number one, as it would be in a standard course.

#### ▪ What happens if a dog starts before the previous dog finishes?

If a dog starts — as in crosses the starting jump line while the previous dog is still on the course, it results in an elimination. For clarity, any dog in the team that crosses the starting jump without the judge's whistle is eliminated.

### 3. What are the consequences of an elimination in the Team Final?

A team member's elimination results in 100 faults.

The handler must correct the situation that led to the elimination; otherwise, the entire team is eliminated.

#### ▪ What is the difference between a team member elimination and a whole team elimination?

**Team Member Elimination:** When a team member is eliminated, it results in a maximum of 100 faults for that team member, regardless of any faults or refusals they may have received before or after the elimination. The eliminated team member is required to correct the mistake that led to the elimination, as well as any subsequent eliminatory situations that may occur. This ensures that the whole team can still receive a valid time.

**Whole Team Elimination:** If a team member fails to correct the situation that led to their elimination, as well as any subsequent eliminatory situations, the entire team is eliminated. In this case, no time will be recorded for the team, and they will not appear in the final ranking.

#### ▪ Can an early start elimination be corrected to avoid elimination for the whole team?

Yes, an early start elimination can be corrected. The handler must return the dog to its position before the start line and restart only after the Judge's whistle.

### 4. How is the Team Final structured?

The Team Final is a relay race within an extended Agility ring, featuring four separate courses with some shared obstacles. Each dog must complete 12 to 15 obstacles, including at least one contact zone.

### 5. How should the start and finish be arranged during the team final?

The starts and ends have to be in the 4 corners of the course in a way that dogs do not disturb one another.

## TEAM LEADER FAQs

**1. Are previous years' winners automatically qualified for both the finals and the individual qualification rounds?**

The individual winners from previous years are automatically qualified for the individual finals. They may also run the individual qualification rounds, in case their ranking would qualify them for the Final, their spot will be passed to the next highest-ranked competitor, as they are already qualified.

**2. How is the running order determined for the Team Final?**

The 12 qualified teams start in reverse order of their qualification score, meaning the best team in qualification runs last.

**3. How is the team members running order decided for the Team Qualifiers?**

The team can decide the running order internally, this order can be changed between the two qualifier runs. A deadline will be provided and communicated during the Team Leaders meeting.

**4. How is the team members running order decided for the Team Final?**

The team can decide the running order internally. The Team Leader must inform the organization of any injuries (handlers or dog) and that a dog will run more than once, a deadline will be provided and communicated during the Team Leaders meeting.

▪ **Can a team replace a member for the Team Final?**

No, all team members who have taken part in the qualification must also run in the final.

**5. What happens if a team member or their dog is injured before the Team Final?**

If a team member or their dog is injured, they cannot be replaced. However, one of the remaining team members must run the injured team member's part. The team leader is required to inform the organization as soon as this is known. In the case of a dog's injury, the dog is automatically withdrawn from all successive runs unless a vet check confirms, in writing, that they are fit to continue competing.

**6. What happens if a team qualifies for the Team Final with only three members?**

If a team competed with only three members in the qualification round and qualifies for the final, one of the three handlers must run twice in the Team Final.

▪ **Can the team add a fourth member for the final?**

No, the team must compete in the final with the same members who participated in qualification. A fourth member cannot be added.

**7. How is it decided which handler runs twice during the Team Final?**

The team can internally decide which of the three handlers will run twice and on which courses, with no restrictions on which dog must run again. Team members must be aware that the time will start when the first dog takes its first jump and will stop when the last dog clears the final jump.

**8. What happens if a dog refuses the starting jump in the Team Final?**

If the Judge whistles, a refusal at the starting jump for any team member must be counted as a refusal.

**9. What happens if a dog starts before the previous dog finishes in the Team Final?**

If a dog starts while the previous dog is still on the course, it counts as an elimination.

**10. What happens in case of an elimination of a team member in the Team Final?**

A team member's elimination results in 100 faults.

The handler must correct the situation that led to the elimination in order to have a time for the whole team; otherwise, the entire team is eliminated.

**11. What are the consequences of an elimination in the Team Final?**

- **Team Member Elimination:** If a team member is eliminated, it results in 100 faults, regardless of any faults or refusals they may have received before or after the elimination. The eliminated handler must correct the mistake that led to the elimination, as well as any subsequent eliminatory situations that may occur. If properly corrected, the team can still receive a valid time.
- **Whole Team Elimination:** If a team member does not correct the situation that led to their elimination, as well as any subsequent eliminatory situations, the entire team is eliminated. No time will be recorded for the team, and they will not appear in the final ranking.

**12. During the Team Final can an early start elimination be corrected to avoid elimination for the whole team?**

Yes, an early start elimination can be corrected. The handler must return the dog to its position before the start line and restart only after the Judge's whistle.

**13. When should the course plans for the Team Final be made available?**

Course plans for the Team Final should be provided on paper, twenty minutes before the course building starts.

**14. How long will the course walk be for the Team Final?**

10 minutes — per group if applicable.

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

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

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