FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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FCI Agility Open Championship - Specific Rules

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE

JUNIOR AGILITY OPEN

JAO

supported by the FCI

The ***JUNIOR AGILITY OPEN (JAO)*** 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 in FCI grade 2 and 3, with or without pedigree. All National Canine Organisations (NCO) 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 JUNIOR AGILITY OPEN (JAO), 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 event. 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: ***4 (four)***
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).

5. COMPETITORS' APPLICATIONS

Studbook/appendix registration: The competition is OPEN to all dogs in FCI grade 2 and 3, with or without a pedigree.

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 dog must be in FCI grade 2 or 3.
- Each NCO has the right to nominate competitors and to send the entries to the organiser by May 31st at the latest.
- 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 take the place of an original entry, should the original competitor have to be replaced. 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 organisers know before May 31st, how many entries they intend to send. In these cases, no late additional entries can be added. A complete list of all competitors needs to be handed in by the end of June.
- 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).
- A country may exceed its quota and additional dogs beyond the maximum will go on the waiting list. After the closing date for entries the organisers may select dogs from the waiting list. Only dogs already on the waiting list will be entered by the organiser.
- The maximum number of entries is 700.
- The names of the 3 or 4 participants making up each team must be sent in before June 15th at the latest.
- After this date the organiser will combine the remaining participants who are not a member of any team into new teams.
- ***All minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.***

6.1. JAO AGE CLASSIFICATION

- U12 under 12 years old.
- U15 12 to 14 years old.
- U19 15 to 18 years old.

It is the year in which the handler has a birthday that is considered, not the actual date of birth.

This section addresses age classifications, which differ from categories. Age classifications refer to the age of the handler, while categories refer to the jumping height of the dogs. The limit of 8 dogs per category applies to the overall competition, not to each age class. The NCO is responsible for distributing the limit of 8 dogs per category across all age classes.

6.2. JAO - INDIVIDUALS

The Individual competition is held in the categories Small, Medium, Intermediate and Large divided into U12, U15 and U19.

There are two rounds: the first one is the Jumping round, the second is the Agility round. The second round is run in the reversed order according to the results from the first round. The winner is the one with the best total result from both rounds and will gain the title "JAO 20XX Winner" U12, U15 or U19 respectively in each height category.

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

6.3. JAO – TEAMS

The Team competition (mixed U12, U15 and U19) is held in the categories Small, Medium, Intermediate and Large.

The teams in all four categories consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 4 dogs.
There are two rounds in this competition. The first one is the Jumping round, the second is the Agility round. In both runs, the 3 best results of each team will count. The team with the best overall result will gain the title "JAO 20XX Winner in Team" in each height category.

6.4. PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

The prize giving for the JAO finals will be held on Sunday, after the completion of all final runs. First the top 3 placed Teams of the JAO 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 JAO 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 JAO flag will be handed over to the organising country for the following year.

TEAM LEADER FAQs

1. **Can previous winners defend their title in the next JAO?**
   Yes, the winners from the previous JAO (same dog and handler) in the individual categories (Small – Medium – Intermediate – Large) are eligible to register and defend their title. These dogs will simply be added to the number of dogs allowed for their country.

2. **Can a handler change age classes and still defend his/her title?**
   If the handler changes age class, they will be allowed to compete in the higher age classification and will be outside of the country quota.
   However, if the handler grows older and outside the U19 age classification range, he/she will not be eligible to defend his/her title.

These 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).