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INTERNAL RULES OF THE FCI

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Chapter 1 – Purpose and scope of the Internal Rules

Article 1 – Purpose and Scope

1.1. The purpose of the present Internal Rules is to implement and further detail the Statutes of the FCI with a view to ensure that the FCI is equipped with the necessary tools to pursue and fulfil its aim, activities and mission.

1.2. The present Internal Rules establish amongst others, (i) the affirmation of values and the Code of Breeding Ethics of the FCI (ii) the governance and operating structure of the FCI, (iii) the rules on the Breed Standards, studbooks and kennel names, (iv) the rules governing the FCI events at international and national level, (v) the rules on the FCI judges, (vi) the dispute resolution and the conflict of interests procedures.

Chapter 2 – Definitions

Article 2 – Definitions

2.1. For the purpose of the present Internal Rules the following definitions shall apply:

- **"Absolute Majority"** is reached when a proposal obtains fifty (50) % + one (1) of the votes expressed validly.
- **"Association"** means "Fédération Cynologique Internationale AISBL" as defined in article 1 of the Statutes.
- **"Associate Member**" has the meaning as defined in article 9 of the Statutes.
- **"Bodies"** means the General Assembly, the General Committee, the Executive Committee, the President and the Executive Director.
- **"Breed Standard"** means the detailed description of an ideal specimen of a specific breed.
- « **CAC** » means Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat.
- « **CACIB** » means Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat International de Beauté.
- « **CACIT** » means Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat International de Travail.
- « **CACIAG** » means Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat International d'Agility.
- « **CACIL** » means Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat International de Lévriers.
- « **CACIOB** » means Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat International d'Obedience.
- **« CACITR »** means Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat International de Travail sur Troupeaux.
- **« CACID » :** means Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat International de Dog Dancing.
- "**Confidential Information**" means all information, analyses, compilations, studies, documents or material (whether orally, in written form, in electronic form or through any other media) relating to the FCI, its business, operations or finances which are internally discussed or disclosed within the FCI and which the General Assembly or the General Committee has decided to be confidential as well as all Sensitive Matters, provided that Confidential Information shall not include information or material which is part of the public domain or final documents and decisions of the Bodies of the FCI
- **"Commissions"** has the meaning as defined in article 40.1. of the Statutes.
- **"Contract Partner"** has the meaning as defined in article 10 of the Statutes.
- **"Cooperating Partner"** has the meaning as defined in article 11 of the Statutes.
- "**Country of FCI Patronage**" means the country responsible for the breed standard of a breed which originates from a country which National Canine Organization is not a Member of the Association.
- **"Delegates"** has the meaning as defined in article 20.1 of the Statutes.

- "**Disciplinary Matter**" means any dispute, complaint or incident that may arise between Disputing Parties.
- "**Disputing Parties**" has the meaning as defined in article 47.1. of the Statutes.
- "**Dispute Resolution Bodies**" means the Executive Committee, the General Committee, the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission and the General Assembly.
- **"FCI"** means "Fédération Cynologique Internationale AISBL" as defined in article 1 of the Statutes.
- "**FCI Dispute Resolution Procedure**" has the meaning as defined in article 45.3. and 47 of the Statutes.
- **"FCI Governing Rules"** means the FCI Statutes, FCI Internal Rules, the FCI regulations, the circulars and the decisions of the FCI General Committee and General Assembly.
- "**FCI Judge"** means any person appointed as a judge by the National Canine Organization of his country of Legal Residence after complying with the minimum FCI judging requirements and who is authorized to judge internationally. A FCI Judge can be a show judge or a working judge.
- **"FCI official working languages"** means English, French, German and Spanish.
- "**FCI Judges Directory**" means the FCI-owned website where all Members are required to enter the information about their judges.
- "**FCI Working Judges**" means judges authorized to officiate at sporting, hunting and working trials and events;
- **"FCI Financial Commission"** has the meaning as defined in articles 55.1. of the Statutes.
- **"Full Member"** has the meaning as defined in article 8 of the Statutes.
- **"Interested Person"** means any General Committee member or Executive Committee member who has a personal Patrimonial or Moral Interest.
- **"Head Office"** means the registered office of the Association and the staff in charge of the administrative tasks and day-to-day operation of the FCI and supporting and implementing General Assembly, General Committee and Executive Committee decisions under the authority of the Executive Director.
- **"Legal residence"** means the place where a natural person lives permanently or has his principal establishment as defined by the applicable national laws of the relevant Member or Partner country.
- **"Members"** has the meaning as defined in article 7.1. of the Statutes. The Members are the official representatives of the FCI in their own country.
- **"Minutes of Meeting"** means the written record of meetings, particularly of the General Assembly, General Committee and the Executive Committee including an extensive record of all decisions taken at the respective meetings.
- **"Moral Interest"** means an interest based (a) on a person's values, political, philosophical, and religious convictions or any other personal convictions, (b) on persons' affective relationships or friendships.
- **"National Canine Organization"** means an all-breed national canine organization recognized by the FCI.
- **"Partners"** has the meaning as defined in article 7.1. of the Statutes**.**
- **"Patrimonial Interest"** means an interest of monetary value of a person who has directly or indirectly through business, investment or family: (a) an ownership or investment interest in any legal entity with which the FCI has or plans to have a transaction or arrangement, (b) a compensation arrangement with the FCI or with any entity or individual with which the FCI has or plans to have a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favours that are not insubstantial, such as any (1) consultancy, directorship, position in or work which attracts regular or occasional payments in cash or kind or (2) fee-paid work – any work commissioned for which the member is paid in cash or in kind.

- **"Physical meeting"** means a meeting of the General Assembly, General Committee, Executive Committee, the Commissions, temporary Commissions or Working Groups, as applicable, held at a physical location in which the relevant participants to the meeting can only participate by attending physically, without prejudice, however to their right to be represented by virtue of a written proxy, where applicable and as provided for in the FCI Governing Rules.

- "**Preliminary Investigation"** has the meaning as defined in article 47.5. of the Statutes.
- **"Relative Majority**" is reached when a proposal is adopted with the highest number of votes expressed validly**.**

Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
▪ In favour: 14 ▪ Against: 12 ▪ Abstentions: 9 The proposal is adopted with a Relative Majority.	▪ In favour: 9 ▪ Against: 8 ▪ Abstentions: 12 The proposal is adopted with a Relative Majority.	▪ In favour: 9 ▪ Against: 12 ▪ Abstentions: 14 The proposal is rejected.

- **"Section"** means a geographical sub-division of the FCI set up according to its own organization and/or governing rules subject to and in compliance with the FCI Governing Rules.
- **"Semi-Virtual Meeting"** means a meeting of the General Assembly, General Committee, Executive Committee, the Commissions, temporary Commissions or Working Groups, as applicable, held at a physical location in which the relevant participants to the meeting can participate (i) by attending physically and/ or (ii) by conference call, video conference, web conference, or by any electronic means of communications made available by the Association, without prejudice, however, to their right to be represented by virtue of a written proxy, where applicable and as provided for in the FCI Governing Rules.
- **"Sensitive Matters"** means any matter that relates to personal issues or that has been treated as such in a General Assembly, General Committee or Executive Committee meeting.
- **"Statutes"** are the current Statutes of the Association approved by the General Assembly and entered into force according to the BCCA.
- **"Virtual Meeting"** means a meeting of the General Committee, Executive Committee, the Commissions, temporary Commissions or Working Groups, as applicable, held without physical location in which the relevant participants can only participate by conference call, video conference, web conference or by any other electronic means of communications made available by the Association, without prejudice, however, to their right to be represented by virtue of a written proxy, where applicable and as provided for in the FCI Governing Rules.

Chapter 3 – Values – Code of Breeding Ethics - Confidentiality

Article 3 – <u>Values</u>

3.1. The FCI is the highest authority of the canine culture and supports, via its Members and Contract Partners, the well-being of pedigree dogs worldwide as well as their selective breeding and genealogical registrations.
The FCI is responsible for safeguarding pedigree dogs' health and international pedigree dog activities to enhance the relations between dogs and humans.

3.2. The FCI recognises that the following principles and professional responsibilities are fundamental for the well-being of all pedigree dogs worldwide:

a) The FCI considers pedigree dogs' health, temperament and behaviour of utmost importance in Breed Standards.
b) The FCI promotes pedigree dogs' activities and sports worldwide, which it considers beneficial to the pedigree dogs.
c) The FCI entrusts its commissions to make recommendations about other important matters.
d) The FCI divides geographically the world of pedigree dogs through its three (3) Sections.
e) The FCI trusts its Members and Contract Partners to protect the integrity of their National Registries.
f) The FCI recognizes and respects agreements with non-member national organizations.
g) The FCI sets the highest standards for its Head Office.
h) The FCI ensures the regular celebration of World and Section Championship events.

Article 4 – Code of Breeding Ethics

4.1. Breeding and development of pedigree dog breeds must be based on long-term objectives and sound principles so that the breeding does not result in diseases, bad temperament or lack of working skills.
4.2. Breeding must serve the objective of preserving and preferably extending the genetic diversity (polygenicity) of the breed.
4.3. Only functionally healthy pedigree dogs, typical to their breed, should be used for breeding. It is incumbent on all breeders selecting pedigree dogs for breeding to determine whether such breeding animals are mentally and physically suitable for reproduction.
4.4. The breeder must ensure that the animals he intends to use for breeding have a stable temperament and are in good physical condition.
4.5. As long as a puppy is in the breeder's custody, he must ensure a physically and mentally beneficial environment for the puppy to guarantee proper socialisation.

Article 5 – Confidentiality

5.1. The Delegates, contact persons of the Cooperating Partners, the members of the General Committee or of the Executive Committee, the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission, the Executive Director, the Financial Commission, the temporary Commissions and Working Groups established by the General Committee or any other staff of the Head Office or external stakeholder involved in the activities of the Bodies of the Association, of the Dispute Resolution Bodies or any other Commission for advisory purposes or Working Groups, shall be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of Confidential Information sent to them in the frame of their duties related to FCI and for returning, erasing or destroying all Confidential Information or files upon completing the duties, unless otherwise instructed.
5.2. All individuals involved in the FCI activities and all experts assisting the FCI must commit to confidentiality of Confidential Information.

Chapter 4 – Membership and Contract Partnership

Article 6 – Membership and Contract Partnership application forms

6.1. As per article 12.5. of the Statutes, the application for Membership or Contract Partnership needs to be filed to the Head Office by using the application forms attached in **Enclosures 1, 2 and 3** of the present Internal Rules.

Article 7 – Interference prohibition

7.1. Members and Contract Partners and their members are under a mutual obligation not to interfere in each other's respective cynological matters.

Chapter 5 – Governance and Operating Structure

Section 5.1. – General Assembly

Article 8 – Hosting of the General Assembly meeting and/or World Dog Show

8.1. The hosting Member of the World Dog Shows and the General Assembly meetings held in the frame of said World Dog Shows will be elected by the General Assembly for the subsequent five (5) years.
Based on serious ground, each hosting Member may withdraw from the hosting of the General Assembly meeting and/or World Dog Show for which it has been designated by giving a written notice of withdrawal to the President ***at least one year*** before the opening date of the respective General Assembly meeting/World Dog Show. In this case, the General Committee must determine the new hosting Member of the vacant General Assembly Meeting/World Dog Show.
At the request of 10% of the Full Members, the General Committee, or the Executive Committee, the General Assembly may vote to withdraw the right given to the hosting member for serious reasons (such as war, pandemics, natural disaster). This decision should also be made at least one year before the opening date of the respective General Assembly meeting/World Dog Show. If the event is to be held within the calendar year following the date of the decision by the General Assembly, the General Committee determines the new hosting Member of the vacant General Assembly Meeting/World Dog Show.
If the event is to be held within a longer timeframe, the General Committee has to call for a General Assembly which will determine the new hosting Member of the vacant General Assembly Meeting/World Dog Show.

Every Full Member wishing to candidate for hosting a General Assembly meeting in the frame of a World Dog Show will have to apply to the General Assembly and fill in the appropriate application form attached in **Enclosure 4.**

Section 5.2. – General Committee

Article 9 – Minutes of Meeting

9.1. All the General Committee meetings shall be attended by the Executive Director, who shall take the minutes. If the Executive Director is unable to attend a meeting, he must be replaced by another qualified person to take the minutes.

9.2. The main decisions taken at the General Committee meeting shall be made available by circular, in English, to the Members and Contract Partners and to the members of the General Committee not later than thirty (30) calendar days after the meeting. The translations of the decisions into the other FCI official working languages shall be made available within sixty (60) calendar days.

9.3. The minutes shall be written in English and sent by e-mail to the members of the General Committee no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the meeting for their formal and final approval by electronic post.
The Executive Director shall ask for comments being communicated by the General Committee members within seven (7) calendar days from the date of sending the minutes by the Executive Director.

A General Committee member giving not response or comment before the expiration of the aforementioned deadline of seven (7) calendar days is deemed approving the minutes to the extent legally admitted and provided that this clause is clearly indicated in the procedure.
If comments are made, the President and the Executive Director prepare the final version of the minutes. The final version must be approved by the President before it is sent not later than forty (40) calendar days after the meeting to the General Committee members for formal and final approval by electronic post. If no formal and final approval can be reached by electronic post, the minutes will be approved at the next General Committee meeting.

9.4. The Executive Director shall keep records in which he must note the date and the resolutions approved by the General Committee. These records will be available for inspection by General Committee members, Members and Contract Partners on request.

9.5. The original minutes must be signed by the President and the Executive Director.

Section 5.3. – Executive Committee

Article 10 – Minutes of Meeting

10.1. All the Executive Committee meetings shall be attended by the Executive Director, who shall take the minutes. If the Executive Director is unable to attend a meeting, he must be replaced by another qualified person to take the minutes.

10.2. The minutes shall be written in English and sent by e-mail to the members of the Executive Committee no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the meeting for their formal and final approval by electronic post. The Executive Director shall ask for comments being communicated by the Executive Committee members within seven (7) calendar days from the date of sending the minutes by the Executive Director.
An Executive Committee member giving not response or comment before the expiration of the aforementioned deadline of seven (7) calendar days is deemed approving the minutes to the extent legally admitted and provided that this clause is clearly indicated in the procedure. If comments are made, the President and the Executive Director prepare the final version of the minutes. The final version must be approved by the President before it is sent no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the meeting to the Executive Committee members for formal and final approval by electronic post within seven (7) calendar days after being sent.
If no formal and final approval can be reached by electronic post, the minutes will be approved at the next Executive Committee meeting.

10.3. The Executive Director shall keep records in which he must note the date and the resolutions approved by the Executive Committee. These records will be available for inspection by General Committee members on request.

10.4. The original minutes must be signed by the President and the Executive Director. A copy of the original minutes must be distributed to the remaining General Committee members not later than seven (7) calendar days after the formal and final approval by the Executive Committee.

Section 5.4. – Commissions – Working Groups

Article 11 – General provisions

11.1. Several meeting and voting rules of the Commissions are respectively defined in Section 4.7. of the Statutes. The provisions of the present section aim at providing additional rules for the functioning, the preparation and conduct of the meetings of (i) the Commissions as well as (ii) of the temporary Commissions and Working Groups established by the General Committee in accordance with article 25.1. f) of the Statues.

Article 12 – Meeting Rules

12.1. Meetings of Commissions, temporary Commissions and Working Groups may be held with or, to the extent legally admitted**,** without physical location designated as place of the meeting. Commission, temporary Commission and Working Group members, guests, General Committee members and the Executive Director may attend the meetings physically. They can also participate in the meeting by conference call, video conference, web conference, by any another electronic means of communication made available by the Association, which offers the possibility to check the identity of the participants. Such electronic means of communication must enable the participants in the meeting (i) to directly, simultaneously and uninterruptedly follow the discussions during the meeting, (ii) to speak to each other and (iii) as far as Commission, temporary Commission and Working Group members having the right to vote are concerned, to participate in the deliberation, to ask questions and to cast definitively their vote on the agenda items. Any participant to such meeting shall be deemed present at such meeting.

Breakdowns, overloads, line failures, connection failures or any other event, incident, technical problem of the same or similar nature beyond the Association's power and related to the use of such electronic means shall not constitute a ground for annulment of the decision taken by the respective Commission, temporary Commission or Working Group. Such technical problems or incidents that have impeded or disturbed the participation by electronic means or the vote must be mentioned in the minutes of the meeting with sufficient precision.

12.2. The President of the Commission, the temporary Commission or the Working Group established by the General Committee will decide whether to call for a Physical Meeting, for a Semi-Virtual Meeting or for a Virtual Meeting of the respective Commissions or Working Groups.

12.3. The calling notice including the date, time, and as the case may be the place, the agenda or draft agenda of the meeting will be sent to the participants to the meeting at least sixty (60) calendar days before the meeting.

The agenda or draft agenda of meeting shall clearly state the different agenda items to be discussed and its order. The supporting documents of the different agenda items of the meeting shall be sent by e-mail, or upon specific request by post mail or by any other acceptable written means of communications in advance of the meeting.

In case of a Semi-Virtual Meeting or Virtual Meeting of the Commissions, temporary Commissions or Working Groups and depending on the meeting platform or the electronic means of communication used, the calling notice will include the unique URL for the meeting along with the required password to log-in or similar information.

Article 13 – Discussion

13.1. The chairperson or moderator of the respective meeting of the Commission, temporary Commission or Working Group shall keep order including speaking order, facilitate effective discussion and move the meeting through its determined agenda. The chairperson of the Semi-Virtual or Virtual Meeting shall take time at the beginning of the Virtual Meeting to explain and demonstrate the various procedures and technical tools that may be used during the meeting. All discussions and debate must be related to the item under consideration. As the discussion can lead to subsidiary proposals, the chairperson shall keep track of what is currently under debate and any subsidiary proposals or motions that need to be reopened.

Article 14 – Vote

14.1. Unless stated otherwise in the Statutes, the members of the Commissions, temporary Commissions or the Working Groups have one (1) vote.

14.2. Once the discussion on one agenda item is closed, and where necessary, the chairperson of the meeting shall restate the proposal currently up for decision, reminding the participants what they are about to vote and shall call to vote on the agenda item.

14.3. Voting can be done on site or remotely**,** in real time, (i) by open ballot by show of hand, (ii) by electronic means or (iii) by secret ballot, using, as appropriate, a paper ballot and/or electronic means. Voting by secret ballot takes place for the election of candidates and on Sensitive Matters. Voting by electronic means on site or remotely, in real time, can be done for the election of candidates or in any other case requiring a secret vote, provided that the electronic voting system/platform chosen guarantees the secrecy of the vote. As an exception to the foregoing, a vote by show of hands and/or via e-mail (as the case may be, after the meeting), is allowed in a Semi-Virtual or Virtual Meeting, if agreed by the Absolute Majority of the participants at the meeting.
The President of the Commission/Working Group can be elected via electronic means (including, but not limited to, via e-mail), in real time or not, whenever the Commission deems it necessary.

Chapter 6 – Breed standards, studbooks and kennel names

Article 15 – Recognition of new breeds

15.1. New breeds can be recognised by the FCI. The recognition comprises two phases: provisional and definitive recognition.

15.2. The procedure for the international recognition of a breed (provisional and definitive) is set out in the attached **Enclosure 5** and must be approved by the General Assembly.

15.3. Once approved on a definitive basis by the General Assembly, a breed is immediately eligible for the FCI-CACIB.

Article 16 – Breed standards

16.1. The Members and Contract Partners must provide the General Committee with a list of their national breeds and their respective Breed Standards in at least one (1) of the FCI official working languages.
The Breed Standards must be written according to the model adopted by the FCI, i.e. the so-called "FCI Vienna Model Standard" as set out in the attached **Enclosure 6.** The Head Office will take care of the translations into the FCI official working languages.

16.2. A new or modified Breed Standard will become effective from the date of its publication on the FCI website in English.
The date of publication of the official valid standard (on the second page of the Breed Standard) corresponds to the date of the General Committee meeting at which the (new or amended) Breed Standard was approved. A new or modified Breed Standard can be published as soon as the final version is available in English.
Translations to the other FCI official working languages will be made available within one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days.
The Head Office shall be responsible for such publication. The date of publication appears on the first page of the Breed Standard.

16.3. The Standards Commission must be consulted before a new or amended Breed Standard is approved and if there is any doubt, particularly in case of an application for recognition of a new breed, the advice of the Scientific Commission may be sought.

16.4. It is incumbent on the General Committee to approve applications for the provisional recognition of new breeds.

16.5. In addition, the amendments to the existing Breed Standards (breeds recognised provisionally and definitively) are also approved by the General Committee upon request of the Members which are responsible for the Breed Standards in question and after having been examined by the Standards Commission and, if necessary and specially in case of new breeds, by the Scientific Commission. New Breed Standards shall be based on the standard from the country of origin or country of patronage. The breeds to be recognised on a definitive basis and their respective standards are approved by the General Assembly.

It is incumbent to the Members and Contract Partners to ensure that their judges are acquainted with the new Breed Standards or the amendments to the Breed Standards as quickly as possible.

Article 17 – Studbooks

17.1 Every Member and Contract Partner as well as every breed club possibly commissioned by them, must keep a studbook for all the breeds recognised on a definitive basis by the FCI. In order to be fully recognised by the FCI and its Members and Contract Partners, dogs must be bred according to the FCI regulations and entered in that studbook. Only such dogs are eligible to be issued FCI recognised pedigrees (i.e. pedigrees bearing the FCI logo).

For those dogs, which are not yet fully recognised by the FCI, the Members and Contract Partners also have to keep an Appendix to the Studbook for the registration of

a) dogs belonging to the breeds recognised on a provisional basis;
b) dogs belonging to the breeds recognised nationally only;
c) dogs with an incomplete pedigree (a pedigree without all three (3) generations fully identified and registered with FCI-recognised studbooks and/or Appendices);
d) dogs without any pedigree;
e) dogs not bred according to the FCI regulations.

For a dog to be eligible for entry in a studbook (and be issued a pedigree recognised by the FCI and the Members/Contract Partners) or Appendix, (and be issued a registration certificate recognised by the FCI and Members and Contract Partners), it must be registered by the Member/Contract Partner of the country where its owner has his Legal residence.
A litter must be registered with the Member or Contract Partner of the country where its breeder has his Legal Residence and the litter was born. Exceptions can be made by mutual agreement between the Members or Contract Partners involved. ***All the puppies of a litter must be identified individually. The microchips will preferably bear the code (if it exists and is available) of the country where the litter was born and where the pedigrees were issued.***
The pedigrees and registration certificates issued to the dogs of breeds not recognised by the FCI cannot bear the FCI logo or must carry the remark "breed not recognised by the FCI".

17.2 Members and Contract Partners must exclusively and reciprocally recognize each other's studbooks, including the Appendices as long as the breed(s) concerned are FCI recognised.
An updated list of the initials of the various studbooks and Appendices will be published by the FCI Head Office.

17.3 On the original pedigrees, the studbook registration number should follow the initials of the studbook in which the dog is registered (e.g.: SHSB/LOS: n° 255 333); in addition, the registration numbers and the initials should be provided for at least three (3) generations. The type of coat, the colour and the size variety should be added, according to the terminology of the breed standards, on the pedigrees, including the export pedigrees.
The official titles of the FCI, i.e. international, world and section titles must appear on the pedigrees and the national titles awarded by Members and Contract Partners can be recorded.

17.4 Notwithstanding article 17.2. of the present Internal Rules, and with reference to article 17.1. of the present Internal Rules, a dog belonging to breeds already recognised by the FCI holding no pedigree, or a pedigree issued by an organisation which is not an FCI Member/Contract Partner/Cooperating Partner can be registered in the Appendix to the Studbook by the FCI Members and Contract Partners, as well as by the breed clubs possibly commissioned by them. In this case, prior to the registration, the dog has to be assessed by an FCI Judge approved for the breed in question. The assessment is also required for dogs under article 17.1. c), d) and e) of the present Internal Rules.

The offspring of dogs entered in the Appendix can only be recognised by the FCI and its Members/Contract Partners once three (3) consecutive generations (parents/grand-parents/great grandparents) are fully identified and registered with FCI-recognised studbooks and/or Appendices. It is only then entitled to be issued FCI recognised pedigrees.

Unless mandatory national laws require a different treatment, dogs (and/or their ancestors included in their pedigrees), which are not bred according to the FCI regulations and therefore are not yet fully recognised by the FCI, can also be entered in the studbook. However, these dogs have to be clearly identifiable, so that they cannot be confused with FCI recognised dogs (e.g., by clearly indicating in the pedigree and in the studbook, which dogs (and their ancestors included in their pedigrees) are recognised/are not recognised by the FCI and its Members/Contract Partners). These dogs cannot obtain pedigrees bearing the official FCI logo.

17.5 Any Member or Contract Partner can refuse to (re)-register in its studbook/Appendix, or alternatively can (re-)register with a "limited registration: not to be used for breeding", a dog suffering from hereditary defects or featuring defects which go against the Article 3 of the Statutes or a dog which does not comply with the rules of selection defined by the Member or Contract Partner in question.

In addition, the Members and Contract Partners are not obliged to automatically register or re-register an imported dog in their studbook/Appendix if they consider the (export) pedigree/registration certificate to have been prepared incorrectly.

In that case, the Members and Contract Partners should clearly explain to the Member/Contract Partner which issued the certified export pedigree/export registration certificate the reason for their denying.

17.6 The breed clubs affiliated to Members and Contract Partners and keeping their own studbooks/Appendix to the studbooks on behalf of their national canine organisation must clearly indicate on the pedigrees/registration certificates that they are members of a national canine organisation.

17.7 Pedigrees have official validity for the Members and Contract Partners and must bear the official FCI logo according to the above points 17.1. and 17.4.

17.8 On issuing a pedigree, obvious, definitive and identifiable deviations from coat colours specified by the Breed Standard are to be clearly stated with the indication "non-compliant with FCI Breed Standard – Not fit for breeding". Each dog of a litter has to be provided with only one (1) FCI recognised pedigree and only one (1) FCI recognised export pedigree, which should include the name of the owner of the dog; if the owner's name is not written on the pedigree, a separate owner's certificate must be issued by the National Canine Organization. In addition, there must be one responsible person for the ownership of a dog. This person has to be the first in the list of owners.

17.9 When a dog is sold abroad, the National Canine Organization must issue a certified export pedigree written in one (1) of the four (4) FCI official working languages. It is however, forbidden, to issue an export pedigree to a dog which is not identified by tattoo or microchip.

A dog registered in the appendix of a studbook has to be issued an export registration certificate for the purpose of being re-registered in another appendix to a studbook.

For each dog registered with a Member or Contract Partner and then exported, the National Canine Organization that last registered the dog shall certify the transfer of ownership to the new owner by stating his name and address on the export pedigree or by issuing a separate owners' certificate.

17.10 The National Canine Organizations and their breed clubs may not make any alteration or change any information about the dog already registered in a recognised studbook. However, if a dog bears more than one (1) kennel name, only the breeder's FCI kennel name must remain, unless a written agreement between the involved parties is presented upon registration of the litter.

The original registration number and the initials of the studbook must appear on all documents containing cynological information (working tests programmes, show catalogues, pedigrees, registration forms) beside the new studbook registration number.

17.11 When a dog is sold abroad, the new studbook registration number and initials of the new studbook must be recorded on the original export pedigree. This information is to be certified by the stamp and signature of the National Canine Organization which keeps the studbook.
It is forbidden to issue a new pedigree to an imported dog.

17.12 The Members and the Contract Partners must provide specimens of the pedigrees valid in their own country to the Head Office. All the Members and Contract Partners must be informed immediately by the Head Office of any alteration to a pedigree.

17.13 The pedigrees issued by a Member or a Contract Partner must be accepted by all the Members and Contract Partners as "documents proving that the pups are born of pedigree parents from the same breed".
Furthermore, in case of a crossbreeding programme approved by a Member within the FCI regulations (the approval of the Members of the countries of origin of the breeds concerned is mandatory), the pedigrees issued by a Member or a Contract Partner must also be accepted by all Members and Contract Partners.
The Members and Contract Partners are, however, allowed to make use of article 17.5 of the Internal Rules. These pedigrees cannot be rescinded by a Member or a Contract Partner under any circumstances.

17.14 The Members and Contract Partners are not obliged to register in their studbooks and to issue pedigrees to pups produced as a result of mating of parents which do not meet the FCI Breed Standards.

Article 18 – <u>Kennel names</u>

18.1. All Members and Contract Partners must apply to the Head Office for the registration of new kennel names in the international FCI Kennel Name Register. A National Canine Organization is allowed to apply for such registration exclusively for the breeders who have their legal residence in the country in question.
The Association recognises kennel name co-ownership. However, in this case, it must be confirmed -per litter- which person in the joint venture is officially responsible for adherence to national and international regulations in all matters concerning breeding and studbook registration.

18.2. The Members and Contract Partners recognise the kennel names registered by the other Members and Contract Partners.

18.3. The Association is responsible for strict control of the international register so as to avoid any double use or any name likely to create confusion.
The criteria to determine whether a kennel name can be registered or not depend entirely on the Head Office and must be respected by the Members and Contract Partners. Kennel names similar to registered brands are not accepted.

18.4. The following provisions shall govern the granting and use of kennel names:

a) Dogs cannot bear in their registered name, as prefix or suffix, a kennel name other than the one of their breeders. Deemed to be the breeder is the owner of the bitch at the time of the birth of the puppies.
b) A dog's name and kennel name cannot be altered once they have been officially recorded.
c) A National Canine Organisation can add the FCI registered kennel name on the pedigrees if the breed in question is recognised by the National Canine Organization issuing the pedigree and/or by the FCI.
d) A breeder can register only one (1) kennel name per breed except in case a second kennel name is registered together with a co-breeder. A breeder can register more kennel names for other breeds.

e) - A kennel name is granted to one individual and is valid for life unless the holder of the kennel name gives it up in writing. As a general rule, it ceases to be valid on the death of the individual to whom it has been granted.

The National Canine Organization can authorize the assignment of a kennel name to a breeder's successor once that party's rights of succession have been duly established. The holder of a kennel name can include his or her spouse, descendants or relatives as associates in the management of the kennel providing that they are at least eighteen (18) years old.

The original holder of the kennel name remains the representative of the breeding activity of the kennel in question.

- Breeding associations of two (2) or more persons must apply for their own joint kennel name; the above rules apply. The FCI must be notified of any changes in the composition of the association.

All other matters shall be governed by the provisions of the relevant National Canine Organization. Each breeder is required, prior to migrating to another country where the FCI has a Member or Contract Partner, to notify both, the Member or Contract Partner of his current and new country of Legal residence about his migration in order to ensure a correct transfer. In addition, both Members and Contract Partners have to inform officially, the Head Office about their accepting the change of Legal residence.

- The conditions under which a kennel name is to be used are based on the rules and regulations of the National Canine Organization.

The use of a kennel name after separation or divorce requires the former owners of the kennel name to provide legal declarations making it clear who is to continue to use it. In this case the kennel name can be transferred to new holder(s) if he/they complies(y) with the requirements of the National Canine Organization for kennel name holders.

- If a complaint is made to a National Canine Organization, the kennel name in question cannot be used until the National Canine Organization has communicated the confirmation to the holder of the kennel name.

f) The kennel names recognised by the FCI have precedence over the kennel names recognised only at national level.

Further to a complaint from the owner of a kennel name registered with the FCI, a kennel name recognised at national level will only be rescinded at the FCI's request if it harms the kennel name recognised by the FCI due to the similarity of the names. The Members and Contract Partners are not allowed to register kennel names at national level exclusively.

Chapter 7 – Events

Article 19 – International Events

19.1. The International all-breed shows and international trials where FCI awards (CACIB, CACIT, CACIAG, CACIL, CACIOB, CACITR, CACID) are granted come under the aegis of the FCI. All documents and catalogues related to the above events must carry the FCI logo. The FCI logo must also be visible at all these events.

Any admissible complaint concerning these events is to be first considered by the organisers before possibly being examined by the General Committee.

Complaints relating to FCI Judges are to be examined by the National Canine Organizations which authorised the FCI Judges in question to officiate at these events.

Complaints against the judging are not acceptable.

Article 20 – National Events

20.1. No CAC (Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat) proposal can be given by a Member or Contract Partner on the occasion of shows held in the territory of another Member or Contract Partner, not even on the basis of an agreement or contract between these Members or Contract Partners.

20.2. The title of national champion of a Member or Contract Partner has to be obtained with at least two (2 CAC) gained at shows held in the territory of this specific country unless the dog already is a national champion of another Member or Contract Partner.

20.3. Any admissible complaint concerning the national events is to be considered by the organisers.
Complaints relating to FCI Judges are to be examined by the National Canine Organisations which authorised the FCI Judges in question to officiate at these events.
Complaints against the judging are not acceptable.

Chapter 8 – FCI Judges

Article 21 – FCI Judges

21.1. Members and Contract Partners are responsible for training and examining (in accordance with the FCI and/or domestic regulations) the FCI Judges who will be authorised to award CACIB, CACIT, CACIAG, CACIOB, CACITR, CACIL and CACID. Only such judges can be recognised by the FCI, its Members and Contract Partners.

21.2. A FCI Judge can appear on the judges' list of a Member or Contract Partner only if he has his Legal residence in the country in which this Member or this Contract Partner has its head office. Furthermore, a FCI Judge must appear exclusively on one (1) FCI Member or Contract Partner's Judges list only. A judge cannot perform his other dog-related activity(ies) (breeding and dog registration) in a country other than the one which issued his judging licence. A transitional period in case a judge moves from one country to another can be agreed between the respective Members or Contract Partners.
In case of doubt, the General Committee is allowed to investigate with the Member(s) or Contract Partner(s) concerned or refer it to the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission.

21.3. Members and Contract Partners must publish their updated show and working judges' list (name, address, email, phone number, qualifications, and languages spoken) on their Internet website and on the FCI Judges Directory.

21.4. Further provisions regarding the application, education, examination and the nomination of FCI Show Judges may be laid down in the FCI Regulations for Show Judges.

21.5. Final approval of FCI international all-breed judges must be granted by the Head Office before the FCI judge can be included, as an FCI international all-breed judge, in the FCI Judges Directory.

Chapter 9 – Dispute Resolutions, Penalties and Sanctions

Article 22 – Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission

22.1. The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall handle a Disciplinary Matter upon respective request of the General Committee in the written report.

22.2. The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission is composed of a panel of five (5) natural persons elected according to article 46.1. of the Statutes, including the chairperson.
The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall have three (3) effective members and two (2) substitute members. The three (3) effective members serve on a permanent basis on the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission and shall handle each Disciplinary Matter submitted to the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission according to articles 22.1. and 23.7. of the present Internal Rules.

In case of vacant position of an effective member in the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission, the vacancy shall be filled at any time by one (1) of the substitute members by decision of the General Committee for the remainder of the term of office.

22.3. If a member of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission is affiliated or has official relationships to any Disputing Party involved in a Disciplinary Matter, the General Committee shall appoint a substitute member who will only serve in the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission until a final decision has been taken in said Disciplinary Matter.
The initial member of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission will remain in function and will exercise its office in any other Disciplinary Matters in accordance with article 46.1., paragraph 2 of the Statutes.

22.4. The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission decides in all Disciplinary Matters by Relative Majority of the votes cast. In case of a tied vote the chairperson has the casting vote.

Article 23 – Dispute Resolution Procedure

23.1. The language to be used during the Dispute Resolution Procedure is English.

23.2. The complaint must be sent to the Executive Director in English together with evidence and all the necessary and supporting documentation by email or by registered post.
The Executive Director must receive the complaint within six (6) months of the dispute facts having arisen or becoming known to the plaintiff and in any case no later than one (1) year after the incident.
If a complaint is sent to the Executive Director, the Executive Director will send the complaint immediately to the Executive Committee for information purposes.

23.3. The plaintiff must deposit at the latest seven (7) calendar days after the filing of the complaint a bail of an amount of three thousand (3000) EUR on the FCI bank account to open the FCI Dispute Resolution procedure.
As per article 47.10, paragraph 2 of the Statutes the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall fix the costs and decide which Disputing Party shall bear the costs of the FCI Dispute Resolution Procedure.
Unless otherwise decided by the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission the costs shall be borne by the unsuccessful Disputing Party. Consequently, the following shall apply:

a) the amount of the bail will be returned to the plaintiff if the complaint has led to a condemnation of the defending Disputing Party.
b) In case of unsuccessful claim by the plaintiff, the amount of the bail will be kept by the Association or refunded to the successful Disputing Party.

23.4. The Executive Committee shall try to settle in a fair way any Disciplinary Matter that may arise between Disputing Parties.
If no result is obtained within thirty (30) calendar days as from the date of notification of the complaint, dispute or incident to the Association, the Executive Director shall upon instruction of the Executive Committee refer the Disciplinary Matters laid down in article 47.1. and 47.2. of the Statutes to the General Committee:
The Executive Director will send a copy of the complaint to the remaining General Committee members for information purposes only as well as to the other Disputing Parties informing them that they have the right to send a reply in English within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of notification of the complaint by the Executive Director to the other Disputing Parties. The reply must be accompanied by all the supporting documentary evidence.

23.5. Upon receipt of the reply by the Executive Director, he shall immediately send one (1) copy of the reply to the plaintiff for information purposes only and the files with all the documents of the Disputing Parties involved to the General Committee members (hereinafter referred to as "**the Evidence File**").

23.6. As per article 47.5. of the Statutes, the General Committee shall make a first assessment of the Disciplinary Matter and inform the Disputing Parties about his decision within seven (7) calendar days from the date of notification of the Evidence File by the Executive Director.
If the General Committee is of the opinion that the complaint is not valid or that the Disciplinary Matter does not raise an issue of misconduct or is trivial, frivolous or vexatious in nature, the General Committee shall advise the Disputing Parties and thereafter shall take no further action in relation to the complaint.
If the complaint has not been dismissed pursuant to the previous paragraph of the present Internal Rules, the General Committee shall further investigate the Disciplinary Matter during a maximum period of three (3) months (hereinafter referred to as the "**Preliminary Investigation Period**") as from the notification of the Evidence File as follows:

a) review the complaint or the request in light of all findings and factual elements at hand;
b) make such inquiries as necessary to determine the circumstances of the complaint or incident, which may include:

(i) sending a copy of summary of the complaint to those named in the complaint, the complainant or to any witnesses with request that they respond in writing to the allegations by a date set by the General Committee;
(ii) communicating with or interviewing persons involved in the incident or whose conduct is the subject of the complaint; and
(iii) communicating with or interviewing other persons who may have relevant information.

23.7. On completion of the Preliminary Investigation, a written report will be elaborated by the General Committee and be sent together with the Evidence File to the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission at the latest thirty (30) calendar days after the closing of the Preliminary Investigation Period. A copy of the written report will be sent by the Executive Director to the Disputing Parties.

23.8. The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall examine the written report of the General Committee including the supporting documentary evidence and conduct a fair hearing of the Disputing Parties regarding the charge or dispute reported in the General Committee's report. The hearing needs not to be a face-to-face hearing.
The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall reach a decision in compliance with article 47.7. of the Statutes within at the latest four (4) months as from the notification of the written report by the General Committee to the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission.
The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission has also the possibility to hear experts, witnesses and all the members of the General Committee. At the request of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission the Executive Director shall communicate the time and the place of the hearing and any other pertinent information to the Disputing Parties. At any time and for the part of the FCI Dispute Resolution Procedure held before the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission, the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission may impose additional rules and deadlines of procedure in compliance with article 45.1. of the Statutes to the Disputing Parties to be communicated by the Executive Director upon request of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission.

23.9. As per article 48.2. a) of the Statutes, some offences, unless frequently repeated, shall be considered as minor violations of the FCI Governing Rules, like for example:

a) registration, in its studbook, by a Member or a Contract Partner of a dog coming from the country of another Member or Contract Partner without any export pedigree or based on a pedigree not recognised by the FCI;
b) failing to provide information requested by the FCI in due time (statistics, surveys, ...).

This list is not exhaustive.

23.10. As per article 48.2. b) of the Statutes, some offences, unless frequently repeated, shall be considered as serious violations of the FCI Governing Rules, like for example:

a) granting an FCI-recognized judging license according to a procedure which does not meet the FCI requirements;
b) approval by a Member or a Contract Partner of the inclusion of a FCI Judge on its judges list whereas the latter does not meet the transfer conditions;
c) falsification of official documents (pedigrees, appendix to the studbooks, studbooks, titles of champion, ...).

This list is not exhaustive

23.11. As per article 48.2. c) of the Statutes, the Members and Contract Partners must consider as serious violations some offences of the FCI Governing Rules, like for example:

a) falsification of official documents (pedigrees, appendix to the studbooks, studbooks, titles of champion, ...);
b) bribery, indecent behaviour, slandering;
c) mistreatment and/or neglect of dogs;
d) criminal or punishable behaviour of a breeder or handler against a judge and other officials at shows or trials/tests;
e) slanderous or offensive conduct of a judge towards his National Canine Organization and/or the Association.

This list is not exhaustive.

Chapter 10 – Legal Residence

Article 24 – Legal Residence

24.1. In case the country of the Legal residence of a natural person cannot be determined according to Enclosure A to the Statutes and article 2.1. of the present Internal Rules, the following criteria are taken into consideration in a descending order of priority:

a) the country of the Legal residence is the country where a natural person spends most of his time;
b) the country of the Legal residence is the country where a natural person has his centre of relationships;
c) the country of the Legal residence is the country for which a natural person is considered to be resident for tax purposes.

24.2. If it still impossible to determine the country of the Legal residence of the natural person or legal entity based on the criterion described under article 24.1. of the present Internal Rules, the General Committee has full power to decide on the country of Legal residence based on the factual elements brought to its knowledge.

Chapter 11 – Conflict of Interests

Article 25 – Definition

25.1. A Conflict of Interests arises when an Interested Person in a position of authority in the Association may benefit personally by having a direct or indirect Patrimonial Interest or a Moral Interest from an operation, transaction, arrangement or decision he could make within its field of powers that is contrary to the interest of the Association.

Article 26 – Procedures

26.1. Duty to Disclose

a) In connection with any actual or possible Conflict of Interests, any Interested Person must disclose the existence of the personal Patrimonial Interest or Moral Interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the General Committee members or the Executive Committee members considering the proposed operation, transaction, arrangement or decision preliminarily to any discussion or decisions-making in these fora.
b) If the Interested Person fails to inform the General Committee or the Executive Committee, any other General Committee or Executive member aware of the Conflict of Interests shall disclose it in order to enable the General Committee or the Executive Committee to examine the situation preliminary to any discussion or decision-making.
c) If the majority of the General Committee members present or represented has a Conflict of Interests, the operation, transaction, arrangement or decision will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval. If the General Assembly approves the operation, transaction, arrangement or decision the General Committee may execute them.
d) If the majority of the Executive Committee members present or represented has a Conflict of Interests, the operation, transaction, arrangement or decision will be submitted to the General Committee for approval. If the General Committee approves the operation, transaction, arrangement or decision, the Executive Committee may execute them.

26.2. Determining whether or not a Conflict of Interests exists

a) After disclosure of the personal Patrimonial or Moral Interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the Interested Person preliminary to any discussion on the agenda of the meeting, he shall leave the General Committee or the Executive Committee while the potential of a Conflict of Interests is discussed and determined.

26.3. The remaining General Committee and Executive Committee members shall decide if a Conflict of Interests exists and is sufficient to justify the exclusion of the Interested Person from the discussions and the decision-making process.

Procedures for addressing the Conflict of Interests

a) After exercising due diligence, the General Committee or the Executive Committee shall determine whether the Association can obtain, with reasonable efforts, a more advantageous operation, transaction, arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a Conflict of Interests.

b) If a more advantageous operation, transaction or arrangement avoiding a Conflict of Interests is not reasonably possible under same circumstances, the General Committee or the Executive Committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested members of the General Committee or the Executive Committee, whether the operation, transaction, arrangement or decision is in the Association's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination, it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the specified operation, transaction or arrangement or to take the specified decision.

26.4. The Conflict of Interests shall be mentioned in the Minutes of Meeting of the General Committee or the Executive Committee.

26.5. When the Conflict of Interests is of financial nature, the General Committee shall inform the General Assembly at its next meeting.

Chapter 12 – Final provisions

Article 27 – Enclosures

27.1. The Enclosures to these Internal Rules constitute an integral part of these Internal Rules.

Article 28 – Amendments of the Internal Rules

28.1. As per article 57.1 of the Statutes, the amendments to the Internal Rules shall be drawn up by the General Committee and adopted by the General Assembly according to the rules provided for in article 19.2.q) of the Statutes.

28.2. Such amendments shall enter into force and constitute an integral part of the present Internal Rules on the date of adoption by the General Assembly, unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly.

List of Enclosures

Enclosure 1 – Application form, Full Member
Enclosure 2 – Application form, Associate Member
Enclosure 3 – Application form, Contract Partner
Enclosure 4 – Application form to host the General Assembly and/or the World Dog Show (Appendix 2 of the *Regulations for FCI Dog Shows*)
Enclosure 5 – FCI Procedure for the international recognition of a breed (provisional & definitive)
Enclosure 6 – FCI Model Standard

These new Internal Rules were approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly in Brussels, on April 3, 2023.

The amendments (Art. 8.1. and 17.1.) in bold and italic were approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly 2025 in Helsinki, 6 August 2025.

T. Jakkel
FCI President

Y. De Clercq
FCI Executive Director