

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)

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## FCI REGULATIONS FOR GROOMING JUDGES



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION ..... 3

2. DEFINITION OF GROOMING JUDGES..... 3

3. MINIMUM RUQUIREMENTS TO BE QUALIFIED AS THE FCI GROOMING JUDGE ..... 3

4. JUDGING ETHICS AND GENERAL BEHAVIOUR ..... 3

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

These “FCI Regulations for Grooming Judges” are meant to specify the minimum requirements for any individual who belongs to the FCI National Canine Organization (FCI NCO) to be qualified as the FCI Grooming Judge.

## **2. DEFINITION OF GROOMING JUDGES**

A FCI Grooming Judge is a person who has been approved to adjudicate in the FCI International Grooming Competitions by the FCI NCO of the country where he has his legal residence.

The FCI NCO must forward to the FCI Grooming Commission the complete information concerning every grooming judge who is permitted to judge outside the country where he has his legal residence.

## **3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BE QUALIFIED AS THE FCI GROOMING JUDGE**

The applications of the candidates wishing to become the FCI Grooming Judges must be accepted under the official FCI NCO regulations of the country where the applicant has his legal residence. It is the responsibility of each FCI NCO to provide adequate courses and satisfactory basic judges training programs for its candidates to get the necessary education, to prepare the necessary examinations and to take care of their official approval as the FCI Grooming Judges.

Each FCI NCO appoints judges from among the grooming judges of its own country, who are suitable for the FCI Grooming Judges with rich judging experiences.

In order to be recognized as a FCI Grooming Judge, the candidate applying for must comply with the following requirements:

1. The candidate must be qualified as a Master Groomer (he must have passed Level A in at least 3 different categories, one of which must be Category 3 (Poodle)).
2. At least 5 years must be elapsed since the candidate was qualified as a Master Groomer.
3. The candidate must be 35 years old and older.
4. The candidate must be maintaining the friendly relationship with his FCI NCO through training groomers of his own country or actively participating in the dog shows.
5. The candidate must have adequate skills and be knowledgeable about the grooming and grooming competitions, and must also have enough judging experience.

The necessary information about approval and nomination as an FCI Grooming judge has to be submitted to the FCI Grooming Commission for final approval.

However, for the near term, the first group of the FCI Grooming Judges shall be composed of the grooming judges who are nominated by their FCI NCO and act as the grooming judges in their countries.

## **4. JUDGING ETHICS AND GENERAL BEHAVIOUR**

The FCI Grooming Judges must fully understand the objectives of the grooming defined in the Regulations for FCI International Grooming Competitions, and always bear in mind that the welfare and health of dogs must be of utmost importance.

A FCI Grooming Judge should always be fair and just. Personal feelings should not interfere with the judge’s decisions.

A FCI Grooming Judge should be unwavering, confident and courteous.

A FCI Grooming Judge should be able to make quick and reliable decisions. A FCI Grooming Judge always bases his score solely on what he sees on the day, never on previous performances or other information gained beforehand.

A FCI Grooming Judge should not get into a conversation with other judge or a competitor during the competition unless it is necessary. In addition, a FCI Grooming Judge maintains a professional attitude throughout the competition and do not engage in unnecessary discussions with the competitors (or audiences) at the competition venue.

A FCI Grooming Judge shall never criticize the decisions or behaviour of a colleague publicly. A grooming judge should be always aware that he should lead by example, even when he is not officiating and this extends to social media platforms.

A FCI Grooming Judge should wear suitable attire for the event.

A FCI Grooming Judge should always conduct himself properly and behave as a worthy grooming representative of the FCI and their NCO.

A FCI Grooming Judge should never ask for a judging appointment.

A FCI Grooming Judge should never take photo, copy or share any score sheet used in a competition.

A FCI Grooming Judge should never use communication devices while judging, no phone calls allowed.

A FCI Grooming Judge should never groom or set patterns on dogs that will be used on competitions, this rule also applies to grooming dogs after judging a competition from competitors on the same day or same circuit.

In their capacity as FCI Grooming Judges, FCI Grooming Judges cannot officiate at any event organized by institutions or clubs that are nor affiliated to FCI Members or Contract Partners.

**These regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee in Madrid, November 22-23, 2022. They are valid upon publication.**