

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

13, Place Albert 1er, B - 6530 Thuin (Belgique), tel : ++32.71.59.12.38, URL : <https://www.fci.be>

Specifications for the Organisation of FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions (OBWWCh)



Effective from 1.3.2026

Contents

1.	General Provisions	3
2.	Application, Dates, Venues, Judges, Staff and Website	3
2.1	NCO Application for Organising the WWCh	3
2.2	Competition dates	3
2.3	Venue requirements.....	3
2.4	Judges and Staff	4
2.5	Website and Information Platform	4
3.	Competition Workflow.....	5
3.1	Preparations from Confirmation to First Registration Deadlines	5
3.2	Between First and Final Registration Deadlines	5
3.3	After the Final Registration Deadline until the start of the Competition Week	5
3.4	Competition Week Management	6
3.5	Post Competition Responsibilities	8
4.	Registration Process	8
5.	OBWWCh Protocol.....	8
5.1	Participants	8
5.2	Team Leaders.....	9
5.3	Chief Steward, Stewards.....	9
5.4	Ring Secretaries	9
5.5	Chief Judge, Ring Judges	9
5.6	Results Management Office	10

1. General Provisions

The FCI Commission for Obedience issues this document to complement the **General Regulations for FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions (OBWWCh)**, approved by the FCI on XX.YY.2025.

These specifications provide detailed instructions for organising the World Championship Competition, offering support to event organisers while establishing clear directives for judges, stewards, team leaders and participants. The document will be periodically updated by the FCI Obedience Commission and requires approval from the FCI General Committee.

2. Application, Dates, Venues, Judges, Staff and Website

2.1 NCO Application for Organising the WWCh

NCOs wishing to host the OBWWCh must meet the criteria outlined in Chapter 2 of the General Regulations for FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions (OBWWCh).

Applications should be submitted at the annual commission meeting at least 24 months in advance or as early as possible; however, later or last-minute applications will still be considered. Applications must include:

- Proposed date and venue
- Travel and entry requirements for dogs and handlers
- National anti-doping regulations
- Competition area and surface details (indoor/outdoor, carpet/sand/grass)
- Accommodation options (hotels, campsite, etc.)
- Number of participants which can be accommodated
- Number of competition rings
- Costs associated with participation, gala evening, accommodation, camping, etc.

The FCI Obedience Commission will determine the successful applicant.

2.2 Competition dates

The hosting NCO selects the competition dates based on venue availability. The FCI Obedience Commission should be notified of the confirmed dates at least 18 months in advance.

2.3 Venue requirements

The OBWWCh venue must be easily accessible by car from a nearby airport and should accommodate:

- A minimum of two competition rings and a designated training area (preferably with the same surface as the competition rings)
- Sufficient parking spaces and an area for team tents
- Nearby accommodation for handlers and dogs, including hotels, holiday apartments, and, if possible, a campsite
- On-site catering services for judges, handlers, spectators, and staff

A gala evening or reception is recommended for all competitors. The venue for the gala evening/reception should be large enough to accommodate all competing teams (handlers and team leaders) and delegates.

2.4 Judges and Staff

The organiser must provide the following personnel:

- Chief Steward
- Stewards
- Ring assistants
- Ring secretaries
- Results management team
- Veterinary services on site or on call
- First aid services on site

The FCI Obedience Commission appoints:

- Chief Judge
- Ring Judges
- Advisory Member of the FCI Obedience Commission

The organiser should set up appropriate communication channels for judges, other personnel and team leaders to enable safe and easy communication during the competition.

The organiser is responsible for inviting honorary guests and covering all expenses and compensations for the judges and the staff. The daily allowance (for judging and travel days) and travel expenses for the Chief Judge, the Ring Judges and the Advisory Member of the FCI Obedience Commission must be paid in accordance with the FCI guidelines for Show Judges at FCI World Dog Shows.

2.5 Website and Information Platform

A dedicated website should be launched at least one year before the event, providing essential information such as:

- Event dates and venue details
- Facility maps, including parking arrangements for cars and campers
- Information on judges, stewards and staff
- Registration deadline (= First Registration) for the number of teams per nation
- Registration deadline for handler's/dog's names (= Final Registration)
- Payment deadlines for registration fees and gala dinner reservations
- Banking details for payments
- National regulations for travelling and competing with dogs, including anti-doping regulations
- All information about the competition, registration forms, etc. must be in English

3. Competition Workflow

3.1 Preparations from Confirmation to First Registration Deadlines

- Secure the venue, accommodations, and campsite
- Send official invitations via FCI Office to all NCOs
- Appoint Chief Steward and Stewards, submitting names to the Chief Judge
- Develop the general event schedule
- Plan opening, closing and daily ceremonies
- Arrange catering and gala evening/reception, if planned.
- Organise accommodation and meals for officials and staff
- Apply for CACIOB from the FCI Office for each of the four competition days
- Invite judges through their respective NCOs
- Prepare competition materials, including microchip readers

3.2 Between First and Final Registration Deadlines

- The organiser and Chief Judge determine the number of reserve teams allowed to compete and inform NCOs accordingly.
- The Chief Steward finalizes the order of exercises, heelwork patterns and ring layouts (subject to the Chief Judge's approval).
- Judges finalize the allocation of judging responsibilities across the rings.

3.3 After the Final Registration Deadline until the start of the Competition Week

- Verify eligibility of participating teams (pedigrees and studbook registrations)
- Conduct the draw for starting numbers, ensuring a fair distribution of teams from each country across all qualification days.

It is recommended that the first two qualification days (Thursday and Friday) include slightly more competitors than the final qualification day (Saturday). This allows sufficient time for bitches in heat, who will compete on Saturday afternoon after all other teams have completed their qualification rounds, and for the gala evening. (For example: 120 competitors → Thursday: 42, Friday: 42, Saturday: 36; 115 competitors → Thursday: 40, Friday: 40, Saturday: 35.)

- Publish the detailed general timetable
- Publish the start list
- Publish the order of exercises and the patterns for heelwork/positions under march at least two weeks before the start of the competition. The concrete order of the positions will be determined at the Judges Meeting on Wednesday.
- Publish the start list for training in the training ring (4 minutes per competitor). National teams will be grouped together in batches from 5 to 9. Smaller national teams (less than 5 competitors) will be so grouped together, that they are also in batches from 5 to 9 (e.g. Nation A with 2 competitors and Nation B with 4 competitors → one batch with 6). Smaller national teams wishing to use their allotted 4 minutes per competitor by themselves must inform the organiser immediately after the final registration deadline, and before the training start list is published. Bitches in heat should have a separate training field available or they may train on Saturday before their official start.
- Publishing the timetable for Registration and Vet Check

3.4 Competition Week Management

Timetable:

- Tuesday: Arrival of the teams, helpers and judges, building up the competition field, first inspection of the area
- Wednesday: Training in the training ring (all equipment, identical to the equipment which will be used in the competition must be available), Registration, Vet Check, Judges Meeting, Opening Ceremony (all teams present, the FCI Obedience flag should be displayed – speeches: representative of the NCO and/or representative of the community, Chief Judge and/or President of the commission), White dog for all spectators, Team leader Meeting
- Thursday: Qualification Day 1 – app. 40 teams (all exercises), Prize giving Ceremony (CACIOB 1, Special Prize 1)
- Friday: Qualification Day 2 – app. 40 teams (all exercises), Prize giving Ceremony (CACIOB 2, Special Prize 2)
- Saturday: Qualification Day 3 – app. 40 teams (all exercises) including bitches in heat, Prize giving Ceremony (CACIOB 3, Special Prize 3), Gala evening (incl. drawing of start numbers for the Final Day),
- Sunday: Final Day – best 20 Teams (all exercises) of the qualification days, including bitches in heat, which will compete on Sunday afternoon after all the other teams have finished their final run, Prize giving Ceremony (OBWWCh Teams, OBWWCh individual and CACIOB 4), speeches (representative of the NCO and/or representative of the community, Chief Judge and/or President of the commission), Closing Ceremony (with handing over the FCI Obedience Flag to the next host country).

Execution of the Exercises and Scores:

Positions for all exercises (Positions under march, Distance Control, etc.) will be drawn at the Judges meeting and announced to competitors at the Team leader Meeting.

All group exercises are conducted in a single ring with all four judges officiating.

Individual exercises for the qualifying competition are divided between a minimum of two rings, with an equal number of judges assigned to each ring.

Individual exercises for the final competition should ideally take place in one ring, with all judges officiating. In case of bad weather or other issues, alternative arrangements can be made in agreement with the Chief Judge.

All judges should be from different countries.

The final score for each exercise is the average of the grades awarded by all officiating judges (3 decimals). The total score for each competitor is the sum of the scores from all exercises.

The Special Prize of the judges is awarded to one team on each of the three Qualification Days. It should showcase an exceptional achievement and not be based only on the score (e.g. rarely participating countries, rarely participating breeds, extraordinary happy attitude of a team, remarkable work of a team who failed to get into the final because of a very unfortunately zero, etc.). This prize is presented by the Chief Judge in agreement with the Ring judges, Chief judge and the Advisory Member.

Special Provisions

All special provisions must be in agreed upon with the organiser, the Chief Judge and the Advisory Member. If the FCI Obedience Commission President and/or Vice-President are present, they should be included in the decision-making process. Decisions should be communicated to all competitors and teams as soon as possible (i.e. by organising an emergency Team leader Meeting). Some examples of issues requiring special provisions:

- **Interruption of the competition**

If incidents arise (weather or other emergency situations, etc.), making it impossible to continue with the competition, it is the decision of the Chief Judge to stop the competition. Should this happen while teams are performing in the rings, the effected teams should be given enough preparation time to resume their work. Alternatively, the effected teams may be rescheduled to compete at the end of the competition day.

- **Cancellation of a whole or partial competition day**

If a whole Qualification Day has to be cancelled completely (due to weather conditions, etc.), this day will be moved to the Final Day (Sunday). The final score of the qualifying competition (all 3 days) will be the score for both, the OBWWCh individual and the OBWWCh Teams competition.

If only a part of one Qualification Day has to be cancelled (max. 20 competitors), the organiser, in agreement with the Chief Judge, should try to reschedule the starts of effected handlers to the remaining Qualification Days, if possible.

If the Final Day has to be cancelled (completely or partially), the final scores of the qualifying competition (all 3 days) will be the valid scores for the OBWWCh individual title. Alternatively, and in agreement with the Chief Judge, it is possible to reorganise the final competition in order to be able to allow all 20 finalists to compete (e.g. dividing the individual exercises into two rings, with only two judges in every ring, like in the qualifications).

- **Illness of a Judge**

If a judge (Chief Judge or Ring Judge) is indisposed before the competition starts, another judge (preferably from the same country) should be appointed by the executive board of the FCI Obedience Commission (President, Vice-President and Secretary). This could, for example, also be the Advisory Member, if the time is very short.

If a Ring judge is indisposed after the start of the competition, the Chief Judge should be appointed as a Ring judge.

If the Chief judge is indisposed after the start of the competition, the President of the FCI Obedience Commission decides who will replace him/her. If the President is also a competitor, then the Vice-President takes this decision.

- **Illness of a Steward or Helper**

If a steward (Chief Steward or Ring Steward) is indisposed before or during the competition, another qualified person should be appointed by the organiser, in agreement with the Chief Judge and the Advisory Member.

- Illness / injury of a dog or handler

A reserve may replace a team member if the dog or the handler becomes ill/is injured before the competition begins. Once the competition has started, replacements can only be made if a veterinarian or doctor verifies the illness/injury of the handler or the dog. However, if a dog has already started its exercises, it cannot be replaced by a reserve. NCOs should provide reserve ranking lists to the organising committee to define the preference order for reserves.

3.5 Post Competition Responsibilities

- FCI Commission Meeting on Sunday evening/Monday, if necessary
- Departure of the judges, stewards, helpers and teams
- Official results publication
- CACIOB submission to the FCI office
- Preparation of a report for the FCI Obedience Commission (incl. photos), ...

4. Registration Process

First Registration

NCOs must provide the organiser with the team leader's contact details, number of participants (maximum 6), and the number of reserve teams (maximum 3).

Final Registration

Team leaders must submit the official registration form for all participants and reserve teams along with a copy of each dog's pedigree, proving that the dog is registered in the studbook of the respective country.

The participating NCO must ensure that all teams comply with Chapter 6 of the General Regulations for FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions (OBWWCh).

5. OBWWCh Protocol

National anthems should be played for winners on each competition day as well as for team winners and finals.

5.1 Participants

- Must participate with their dogs at the Vet Check, the Opening Ceremony, the Closing Ceremony and the Prize giving Ceremony on the day of their start. Participants with bitches in heat may only attend the Vet Check with their dogs, but must participate at all other ceremonies without their dogs. Exceptions to this must be granted by the Chief judge.
- Must be present on all daily ceremonies (can be without dog)
- Must arrive at the ring entrance at their allotted starting time
- Injured dogs, dogs that are not well or ill may not compete
- Bitches in heat must be reported to the Chief Judge immediately and be kept away from the competition field until their start

- Must maintain exemplary conduct throughout the event
- Judges' decisions are final and may not be commented upon

5.2 Team Leaders

- Ensure compliance with entry and anti-doping regulations
- Attendance at the Team leader Meeting is mandatory (a substitute and/or translator may attend)
- Submit appeals regarding formal errors to the Chief Judge
- Support their teams throughout the competition

5.3 Chief Steward, Stewards

The Chief Steward is responsible for the correct setup of the course and the smooth execution of the tournament in the ring. Conditions should be as identical and fair as possible for all participants.

The Chief Steward assigns Ring Stewards to ensure a smooth and efficient flow throughout the competition, avoiding delays.

Additional information about this section is available in Chapter 5 of the General Regulations for FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions (OBWWCh).

5.4 Ring Secretaries

At least two Ring Secretaries per ring must be assigned. They must be positioned in a way that allows them to clearly see the grades given by the Ring Judges.

Grades are recorded on prepared judging sheets by both the Ring Judge and their Ring Secretary, and then delivered to the Results Management Office.

5.5 Chief Judge, Ring Judges

Relevant information about this section is also provided in Chapter 4 of the General Regulations for FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions (OBWWCh).

The Chief Judge is the head of the judging panel, carrying out the following duties:

- Organises and moderates both the judges' meeting and the team leaders' meeting in cooperation with the organiser.
- Ensures that the rules of FCI Obedience Class 3 are followed.
- Serves as the point of contact for questions, uncertainties, and appeals during the tournament.
- Is present on the side of the ring during the entire competition. In cases of uncertainty (exercise repetitions, yellow or red cards, etc.) the Ring Judges must consult with the Chief Judge.
- At the end of each competition day, the Chief Judge reviews and signs the entries in competitor's workbooks and approves the applications for CACIOB titles.

The Ring Judges assess the participants and must place themselves at such locations within the ring so they can clearly see the dog and the handler from their position. Their evaluations are always independent, and they must display their scores simultaneously.

5.6 Results Management Office

The organiser must provide appropriate software and set up a results management office with sufficient staff.

Participants receive a certificate and the final score must be entered in their workbooks. The certificate must include at least the results of each exercise and the total score achieved.

Both the certificate and the workbook entry must indicate that this is a FCI World Championship competition and all officiating judges must be listed.

These specifications were approved by the FCI General Committee in February 2026. They become effective from 1st March 2026.