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GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR FCI OBEDIENCE WORLD WINNER CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS (OBWWCh)



Effective from 1.3.2026

These general regulations for the FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions (OBWWCh) were approved by the FCI General Committee in 2025. They come into effect on January 1, 2026, and will remain valid until a new decision is made and approved by the FCI General Committee. This document replaces all previous versions.

In addition to this document, which outlines the general regulations for the FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions, an appendix is available. The appendix includes specifications, practical guidelines, and advice derived from the experience and knowledge gained from previous championship competitions. It will be periodically updated by the FCI Obedience Commission and subsequently approved by the FCI General Committee.

1. Annual FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competition (OBWWCh)

Only one FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competition (OBWWCh) is held annually. The question of organizing FCI Obedience Section Winner Competitions (such as the FCI Obedience European Winner Championships) is not currently under consideration but will be discussed and decided upon if a need arises in the future.

The annual OBWWCh competition is an event where top handlers from FCI member organizations, FCI contract partners, and national cooperation partners of the FCI can participate. The winner of the competition is awarded the title of FCI Obedience World Winner [year]. World Winner titles are granted for both the best individual and the best national team. The organizing National Canine Organization (NCO) should ensure that this event reflects the prestige associated with World Championships.

FCI OBWWCh Competitions are conducted in accordance with the current Rules & Guidelines for FCI Obedience Trials for Class 3.

2. Applying to Host FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions (OBWWCh)

An NCO wishing to host the OBWWCh competition must submit an application to the President of the FCI Obedience Commission, with a copy sent to the FCI Office. The applying NCO must be a member or contract partner of the FCI, and the Rules & Guidelines for FCI Obedience Trials for Class 3 must be widely implemented in obedience competitions within the applying nation. Under special and justifiable circumstances, the FCI Obedience Commission may grant an exception to this requirement.

The application should include:

- **The name of the applying NCO**, along with contact information and the name and contact details of the official responsible for organizing the event.

- **The proposed city/venue** for the event and a suggested date.
- **Event plans and a description of the facilities** (outdoor/indoor) and the field/court/ring chosen for the event, as well as the available resources. These must comply with the appendix “Specifications for FCI Obedience World Winner Competitions (OBWWCh)”.
- **Confirmation** that all arrangements will adhere to the appendix “Specifications for FCI Obedience World Winner Competitions (OBWWCh)” and that a competent team is available to manage the event.
- **Details of any special legislative considerations** that may apply to participants entering the host country.

The FCI Obedience Commission (or its executive group) will handle exceptions to the principles outlined above and address any other questions not covered in the general regulations for FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions (OBWWCh).

3. General Layout

The relevant rules and guidelines for international obedience classes (Class 3) must be followed.

The OBWWCh competition for national teams and individuals spans four days, running from Thursday to Sunday. An additional day (Wednesday) is reserved for training, registration, veterinary checks, judges’ meetings, team leaders’ meetings, presentation of the course (white dog), the opening ceremony, and other activities.

Qualifying competition

The first three days (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) are designated for the qualifying competition for both the individual OBWWCh and the national team OBWWCh.

The maximum number of participants for the qualifying competition is 120.

National team results are based on the qualifying competition for the individual OBWWCh. The results include the scores of the three best competitors from each national team. (Note: Reserves, who may eventually compete, are not counted in the national team OBWWCh competition unless they are officially replacing a team member due to absence or illness).

Final competition

On the fourth day (Sunday), the final for the individual OBWWCh takes place with all judges officiating.

The best 20 competitors from the qualifying competition advance to the final. The starting order in the final is determined by a draw. The individual OBWWCh title is awarded to the competitor with the highest total score in the final competition.

All scores are calculated as an average of all officiating judges.

Bitches in heat must perform last in both the qualifying competition and the final.

Each day of the qualifying competition and the final competition is held as an FCI CACIOB competition. For details on awarding the FCI CACIOB, refer to the current Rules & Guidelines for FCI Obedience Trials for Class 3.

If the number of entries increases in the future, the number of competitors may be expanded to a maximum of 150 participants. The FCI Obedience Commission will make this decision when necessary.

4. Chief Judge / Ring Judges / Advisory Member

The FCI Obedience Commission appoints a Chief Judge, a minimum of four Ring Judges, and an Advisory Member for each OBWWCh competition.

The host country (NCO) of the OBWWCh competition is responsible for:

1. Inviting the judges, appointed by the FCI Obedience commission,
2. Covering the costs of travel, accommodation, and meals for all judges and the Advisory Member, if one is appointed. The daily allowance (for judging and travel days) and travel expenses must be paid in accordance with the FCI guidelines for Show Judges at FCI World Dog Shows.

Chief Judge

The Chief Judge must have a thorough understanding of organizing an OBWWCh in accordance with the established rules and guidelines. They serve as the chairperson of the judging team and preside over judges' meetings, as well as any meetings with team leaders or competitors. The Chief Judge typically does not participate in judging the exercises in the rings, but may be called upon to do so if circumstances require it.

The Chief Judge acts as the primary liaison between the judges and the competition's organizing committee and is responsible for ensuring compliance with all regulations.

In collaboration with the Chief Steward, the Chief Judge oversees the competition arrangements. After consulting with the other judges, the Chief Judge approves the practical arrangements for the competition and determines whether it is necessary to repeat or terminate an exercise due to issues such as technical problems, excessive disturbances, or if a dog is not functioning properly.

The Chief Judge is responsible for granting permission to the press for photography or filming and determines where the press can position themselves without disturbing the dogs. Under no circumstances is the press allowed in the ring.

The Chief Judge should preferably be a member of the FCI Obedience Commission and from the host country, if such a qualified person is available.

Ring Judges

The judging team for OBWWCh competitions consists of four Ring Judges, each from a different country. The countries from which the judges are appointed are selected by the FCI Obedience Commission; however, one judge should preferably be from the host country, if such a qualified person is available.

Judges for FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions must:

- Have extensive international judging experience (ideally 3 – 5 years) and a broad background in judging obedience,
- Have the status of International Judge,
- Fluently speak and understand one of the FCI languages (English, French, German, or Spanish),
- Have a sufficient command of English.

All commands and instructions given by stewards and judges at OBWWCh competitions must be in English.

In the event of a complaint about judging during an FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competition, the decision of the judges who officiated the relevant exercise is final and indisputable.

Ineligibility Due to Likelihood of Bias

Judges are prohibited from judging:

- Handlers who are family members (e.g., children, parents, grandparents, siblings, in-laws).
- Dogs owned by themselves or their relatives.
- Household members or individuals residing in their household.

If a judge has trained a dog or if a dog has lived in the judge's household within one year before the competition, they cannot judge that dog in the competition.

To prioritize competitors, it is recommended that another judge be invited if ineligibility arises. Competing in an OBWWCh is a unique opportunity and should be encouraged.

Issues regarding ineligibility must be resolved within two weeks after the final entry date.

Advisory Member

The FCI Obedience Commission appoints one of its members as the Advisory Member for the organizing team of the OBWWCh. The Advisory Member ensures that the rules and specifications for organizing an OBWWCh competition are upheld. They work in close collaboration with the Chief Judge.

Preferably, the Chief Judge should also be a member of the FCI Obedience Commission, allowing them to fulfill both roles.

The NCO of the host country must provide the Advisory Member with the names and contact details of key personnel (e.g., Chief Judge, Chief Steward) and establish lines of communication. The organizing committee must share all relevant details about the competition and its program with the Advisory Member.

The Advisory Member is responsible for submitting a written report (including photos) to the FCI Obedience Commission. Ideally, this report is compiled in collaboration with the organizing committee and the Chief Judge.

5. Stewards and Personnel

For FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competitions, a sufficient number of qualified personnel must be available. It is recommended to have one Chief Steward and preferably at least two stewards per ring: one to assist inside the ring and another to call competitors and manage other tasks outside the ring. If two stewards conduct exercises in the same ring, the same steward should conduct the same exercises for all competitors to ensure consistency.

An adequate number of additional personnel should also be available, such as secretaries to record results, clerks to calculate and display scores, and others as required.

All commands and instructions given by stewards at OBWWCh competitions must be delivered in English. Judges, stewards, and ring personnel should dress appropriately, reflecting the prestige of the competition.

The host country (NCO) of the OBWWCh competition is responsible for covering the costs of travel, accommodation, and meals for all stewards and personnel, in accordance with its national regulations for travel expenses.

6. Eligibility to Compete and Represent a Country, Number of Competitors

Eligibility to Compete and Represent a Country

For the FCI Obedience World Winner Championship Competition, NCOs affiliated with the FCI (or those with close relationships, such as the AKC, CKC, and KC) are permitted to send official representatives under the following rules:

- The minimum age of a handler in OBWWCh Competitions is 15 years.
- The owner and handler must either have the nationality of the country they represent or have maintained permanent residence in that country for at least 12 months. It is the responsibility of the NCO to verify the residential status of the owner and handler. In cases of dual nationality, the individual may choose to represent either country without restriction.
- Each handler is allowed to compete with a maximum of two dogs but may represent only one country.
- Dogs must be at least 18 months old on the day of the competition to be eligible for participation.

- Only dogs registered with the studbooks (or “waiting list”/“appendix”) of FCI members and contract partners, or with non-member organizations whose studbooks are recognized by the FCI, may compete. The dog must have been registered with the studbook of the country it represents for a minimum of 12 months. Breeds accepted by the FCI on a provisional basis, or dogs registered in the appendix (waiting list) of a studbook, may compete and earn the title FCI Obedience World Winner. However, they are not eligible for “FCI CACIOB”/“FCI Reserve CACIOB” awards. Breeds not recognized by the FCI on a provisional or definitive basis are not permitted to compete.

Participating NCOs are required to make sure that the pedigrees and stud book registrations of the dogs they are sending are in accordance with the FCI rules.

Any disputes or difficulties should be referred to the FCI General Committee for resolution.

Number of Competitors

A maximum of 120 competitors may participate in the OBWWCh Competition.

Each country may enter a national team consisting of six competitors, with three reserves. All competitors must be appointed in advance, and it must be clearly specified which individuals are reserves and their ranking order. Reserves are permitted to compete only if the total number of entries is fewer than 120.

Additional competitors from each country may be entered (one at a time) based on the results of the OBWWCh national team competition from the previous year. Reserves do not contribute to the national team results in the OBWWCh Competition.

Extra competitors must be informed as soon as possible whether they are allowed to compete, but no later than two weeks after the final entry deadline.

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

NCOs must submit completed and signed entry forms, along with the registration fee, to the organizing committee before the registration closing date. They must also appoint a “team leader” or coach who will be responsible for the entire team.

7. Information on Special Regulations of the Host Country

The host country must clearly specify any special regulations or restrictions related to competition participation or entry into the country. These details must be clearly outlined on the entry form, unambiguous, and widely accessible.

The English text is the authentic document.

The changes in bold and italic characters were approved by the FCI General Committee in February 2026 in Rome. They become are effective from March 1st, 2026.