

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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## RULES FOR FCI INTERNATIONAL WORKING TESTS FOR RETRIEVERS



## 1. Introduction

a) A Working Test (WT) is a competition for the purpose of assessing, without game being shot, the working abilities of the various breeds of Retrievers.

b) An **FCI** International Working Test (**FCI-IWT**) is a working test that is organised and judged according to the 'Rules for International Working Tests for Retrievers'.

c) A working test is already organised every year where national teams compete against each other. This **FCI** International Working Test is called 'THE **FCI-IWT** ' and should be run according to the rules presented here.

d) The retriever is the shooting man's indispensable help during a shooting day. The aim of an **FCI-IWT** is to select the best dogs having good temperament, good marking, good use of nose and showing initiative.

e) Handling is to be considered as an indispensable complement to these qualities. The dog should be steady while walking at heel or at the stand and willing to obey the handler's instructions when sent. Also when the dog has not been able to mark.

## 2. Organisation of the **FCI-IWT**

a) An **FCI-IWT** must be designed by a person or persons with experience of dog work under shooting field conditions. Each dog must be given, as near as possible, equal opportunity with the element of luck reduced to a minimum.

b) On the occasion of an **FCI-IWT**, the organisers must always try to simulate events that occur on a shooting day. They must also ensure the tests are designed to further good gundog work, and not inhibit dogs from marking or showing natural working ability. It is very important that guns and dummy throwers are positioned with this in mind.

c) When retrieving, a dog must not be required to pass too close to another retrieve.

d) Organisers and judges must care for the safety of dogs and must not require them to pass dangerous obstacles.

**e) Regarding the composition of the teams for “THE **FCI-IWT**” Art. 5 D (Nationality) of the Rules for the European Championship for Retrievers (EC) applies accordingly.**

## 3. Conduct of an **FCI-IWT**

a) The decision of the judges is final. Those taking part shall not openly impugn the decision of the judge or criticize the host, ground, or helpers.

b) The organisers shall have the power to exclude dogs from the competition and / or will have the right to refuse an entry.

c) The organisation may restrict the numbers in an **FCI-IWT**, in which case the right to compete shall be decided by the date the registration form was sent.

d) The judges must be field trial or working test judges approved by their national canine organisation and/or Kennel Club A- or B-panel judges. At least one of the judges must be an **FCI Retriever Field Trial Judge (International Regulations for Field Trials for Retrievers – Annex B - FCI Retriever Field Trial Judges Panel List)**.

e) All handlers must carry out instructions of the judges who are empowered to remove from an **FCI-IWT** any dog whose handler does not obey them or whose handler wilfully interferes with another competitor or his dog.

f) No person attending an **FCI-IWT** may allow any bitch in season to be on the test grounds.

g) An **FCI-IWT** can be organised for open dogs, for open and novice dogs, for open, novice and beginner dogs. No other terminology than open, novice or beginners should be used.

h) No dog shall wear a collar whilst competing, not even the beginners.

i) No person shall carry out punitive measures or harsh handling of a dog whilst within the boundaries of an **FCI-IWT**. Such a behaviour will be punished (after judges' decision) by disqualification.

#### **4. Judging**

a) When coming into line the handler must ensure the dog is on the lead, the judge will then explain what is expected. Judges must ensure that spectators are at a reasonable distance from the competitors in the line.

b) Judges will give dogs every opportunity to work well by seeing that the conditions, as far as possible, are in their favour. They will be looking for dogs, which need the least handling and please them most from a shooting point of view.

c) In all retrieving breeds good marking is essential with a quick pick-up and a fast return. When picking up and returning, judges will not penalize a dog too heavily for putting down a retrieve to get a firmer grip, but this must not be confused with sloppy retrieving. Dogs showing marking ability and initiative should be placed above those which have to be handled onto their retrieve.

d) Eliminating faults and faults which lead to zero will disqualify a dog from any awards.

e) The judges are empowered to withhold any prize or award if in their opinion competing dogs do not show sufficient merit.

f) Each exercise is judged on points.

**g) Each test is scored out of 20 points. A zero in one test results in an overall grade of "not classified" (NC).**

h) In case of a major fault a score not higher **than 12/20** should be given.

i) In case of more than one major fault a score not higher than **4/20** should be given.

## 5. Specific instructions

- a) At the start of an **FCI-IWT**, judges must ensure they have the correct dogs with their correct numbers in the line.
- b) A retriever must be steady to shot and fall and retrieve on command. Also, all dogs should be tested at working in water and hunting a zone. A dog must walk steady at heel.
- c) To make sure that water work and hunting a zone can be tested, the organisation should appoint enough judges. For example: 7 judges, for 5 tests for +/- 100 dogs divided over beginners, novice and open.
- d) During an **FCI-IWT** only green standard dummies (500 gr) will be used. Exception: Launcher dummies for a dummy launcher.
- e) When dummies are thrown, and gunfire is used, the shot must always precede the thrown dummy, with the gun positioned no further than approximately 35 meters from the retrieve. With unseen retrieves gunfire is optional. If possible, shotguns should be used instead of pistols.
- f) An **FCI-IWT** should include at least five exercises.
- g) Credit points** (alphabetical order): control - delivery - drive - natural marking - nose - quiet handling - speed in gathering retrieve - style.
- h) Major faults** (alphabetical order): **poor control** and/or disturbing the ground unnecessarily - bad heeling - bad marking and/or bad memory of the fall - being over dependent on the handler - being restless and asking the handler's attention at the post - noisy handling - sloppy retrieving - working slowly and/or without much initiative.
- i) Faults that lead to a zero** (alphabetical order): chasing - hunting with dummy in the mouth – changing retrieve - failing to enter water - failing to retrieve – **gun shyness** - out of control - running in - whining - barking.

If a dog makes a fault the combination (handler/dog) will get zero (0) points. The combination is allowed to complete the remaining exercises.

**j) Eliminating faults** (alphabetical order): aggressive **behaviour** – puncturing the dummy – physical punishment of the dog.

If a dog makes an eliminating fault the combination (handler/dog) is not allowed to stay in the competition.

**The English version of these regulations is the authentic text.**

**The changes in bold and blue characters were approved by the FCI General Committee during its online meeting, September 2020.**

**These amended regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee, on the occasion of its online meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**