

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE FCI TRADITIONAL STYLE (TS) HERDING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS “FCI HEC TS”



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N.B.: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders and numbers.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The FCI Traditional Style Herding European Championship (FCI-HEC) can be held **once every two (2) years**.
- 1.2. FCI-HEC is a three-day event, two days of qualification runs and the last day is the final.
- 1.3. The «**GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF FCI HERDING EVENTS (FCI-NHAT – HWT – IHT)** » *together with the specifications for IHT-3 in «FCI RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL HERDING TRIALS TRADITIONAL STYLE FCI-IHT TS»* apply to this event.
- 1.4. Any National Canine Organisations (NCO), which is a full member of the FCI, that would like to organize a FCI Herding European Championship (FCI-HEC), must apply for it in written form to the president of the FCI Herding Dogs Commission at least two years before the planned date of the event and also before the FCI Herding Dogs Commission annual meeting.
- 1.5. The application must contain:
 - a) the name of the NCO;
 - b) the date of the event;
 - c) the location of the event;
 - d) the name, address, telephone number and email of the NCO (in charge of organising the event);
 - e) NCO signature.
- 1.6. The FCI Herding Dogs Commission shall entrust the organisation of the FCI-HEC to the NCO.
- 1.7. The organising committee (OC), while at the trial, is empowered to cancel or re-schedule the trial for which they are responsible for reasons of law, public safety, emergency or weather.
- 1.8. All European NCOs of the FCI are to be invited by the hosting NCO.
- 1.9. The OC of the FCI-HEC works under the supervision of NCO and NCO under the supervision of FCI Herding Dogs Commission.
- 1.10. The OC must appoint a course director who is responsible for all the tasks related to the event. He must be available to the judges for the entire duration of the event. He should inform the pool of judges in time about all the details of the trial field and number of entries.
- 1.11. The day before the event the OC organizes an invitation meeting, which will be attended by judges, the president of the FCI Herding Dogs Commission and sponsors.
- 1.12. The NCO shall make an application to the FCI for the awarding of the FCI-CACITR.

2. LOCATION

- 2.1. The criteria to be taken into consideration in selecting an outdoor location for the FCI-HEC are as follows:
 - a) the location shall be outdoors and suitable for the event;
 - b) it should be able to host a large number of people in comfortable and safe conditions;
 - c) it should be easily accessible and well signposted;
 - d) it should have sufficient and separate parking space for the officials, competitors and visitors;
 - e) it should include sufficient and decent toilet facilities;
 - f) it should have a separate area for VIPs and press representatives;
 - g) it should have a separate area to keep and walk the dogs;

- h) camping facilities are an essential part of the whole event; a decent camping area should be offered and a list of hotels etc. should be made available on a website or in a brochure;
- i) a sufficient security in and around the venue should be provided.

3. FIELD

- 3.1. FCI-HEC should be organized on fields sufficiently large to provide maximum security for the public, sheep and dogs and to offer the possibility to run the courses.
- 3.2. The use of the field is banned from the evening before the event. The used area, the size of the pen and the **passages** should be adapted to the number of the sheep in the flock.
- 3.3. The area, the pen and the **passages** must be safe for the dog, the sheep and the handler.
- 3.4. The pen fencing must prevent the dog from getting in and the sheep from getting out.
- 3.5. Pens for sheep waiting or resting must be arranged in a way that eye contact is not possible between the handlers together with dogs running their course and the sheep they are working with.
- 3.6. The vegetation must be so low that it does not hinder the dog's view.

4. FIELD EQUIPMENT

- 4.1. All equipment must be the same as described in FCI rules for INTERNATIONAL HERDING TRIALS TRADITIONAL STYLE (FCI-IHT-3).
- 4.2. There must be pens or other places where the sheep can be gathered before, and if needed also after the individual runs. The different pens/boxes/... may be at one place or at different places, but should always be placed in such a way that they are not visible for the sheep at the trial field.

5. TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

- 5.1. A website should be set up in the OC national language and in English. This will provide all the necessary information and should be updated regularly in order to provide everyone with the latest information.
- 5.2. There should be a Public Address System (PAS) with at least one microphone for the show secretary and one for the commentator. The PAS should ensure that all announcements are clear and understandable for everyone. Announcements should be made in OC national language and English.
- 5.3. The national anthems of all the participating countries should be available as well as music for the opening and closing ceremonies.
- 5.4. The flag of each country should be available plus the flags of the hosting NCO and FCI (to be applied for at the FCI). For the opening ceremonies – flags to be carried by the team leaders – there must also be name boards for each nation.
- 5.5. Photocopies printer should also be available to ensure enough printing capacity to produce all necessary lists without a delay.
- 5.6. All competitors will receive start numbers. They should include the following text: «FCI Herding European Championship 20XX» (possibly the name of the country or place where the event is organized). They must be offered to the competitors. Competitors have to wear this number at all times during all their runs.

- 5.7. Officials:
- a) secretariat office (teams to take care of all the results and administration);
 - b) secretary of the pool of judges (for notes and time keeping);
 - c) enough stewards to organize parking and gate (entrance to the event);
 - d) at least **1 person** to check the dog's microchip number and documents;
 - e) enough stewards to build the courses;
 - f) enough stewards with dogs to prepare the sheep for a run;
 - g) at least one commentator (English language);
 - h) translator if needed;
 - i) a veterinarian or veterinary clinic that is appointed to be the «official vet».
- 5.8. The office secretariat should:
- a) display **the** running orders **and** time schedules in several areas around the venue;
 - b) have sufficient judging sheets;
 - c) prepare all necessary documents for administration;
 - d) have all the necessary information – **i.e.** as running orders, course plans, results etc. for the teams and public;
 - e) make sure that the necessary information, mentioned above, is delivered to the VIP area as well as the Press office place;
 - f) **Provide the results at the end of each competition day.**
- 5.9. The OC will provide catalogues containing all relevant information about the dogs and their handlers – listed per country. The catalogue also contains a schedule of the FCI-HEC **and** a list of the **members of the OC**.
- 5.10. A podium must be provided for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd prize giving.
- 5.11. The OC will supply a sufficient number of lists containing the results and classifications for distribution among the delegates of the FCI Herding Dogs Commission. Two similar lists must be sent to the FCI office. The lists contain the complete results. At the end of the Championship days the results will be posted on a scoreboard clearly visible to the competitors and spectators.

6. JUDGES

- 6.1. The FCI Herding Dogs Commission is responsible for the decision on the amount of judges that is necessary for the work at the event. If more than one, one of them must be appointed as a head judge. If possible, at least one judge should live in the hosting country. All judges must be approved and recognized by their **FCI-NCO**.
- 6.2. The pool of judges needs to **choose positions from where they clearly observe all exercises**.
- 6.3. The head judge is authorized to end a performance due to injury or any other reason, even if the handler does not agree.
- 6.4. The judges should judge no more than eight hours a day, except breaks.
- 6.5. The pool of judges decides the time for one course according to the **number** of entries.
- 6.6. The pool of judges has full authority to choose the track, the **passages** and the sequence of the **passages**, and the course director prepares the course as indicated by the judges. The pool of judges specifies what performance of individual tasks they will require and how they will evaluate it with respect to the given conditions.
- 6.7. At the briefing before starting the competition, the **judges** should explain it to the participants; it is suggested for the pool of judges to prepare a drawing of the course.

- 6.8. Each judge evaluates all dogs and the result is the average of all the results of each dog.
- 6.9. Judging sheets must be filled in with the scores and signed by the judge, complete with qualifications, and be delivered to the secretariat office.
- 6.10. The OC will have to cover the expenses of the judges, i.e.:
 - a) daily allowance;
 - b) travelling expenses;
 - c) accommodation and meals during the stay;
 - d) a gift or a souvenir of the championships should be presented to the judges.

7. NATIONAL TEAMS

- 7.1. The total number of competitors taking part in the FCI-HEC is limited to **16** dogs maximum per day.
- 7.2. Every NCO sets up its own qualification system for the FCI-HEC.
- 7.3. Before the first deadline NCO has to inform the OC about the number of dogs it can send to the FCI-HEC.
- 7.4. Each national team can have 2 dogs, representing the NCO and 1 reserve dog.
- 7.5. The size of the national team can be larger, it depends on the number of participating countries. It is determined by the OC after the application deadline period. The OC must inform the person in charge from the applying NCO about it as soon as possible.
- 7.6. Any handler may work with maximum 2 dogs.
- 7.7. Each NCO entry form must mention the names of the dogs, separately from the national team and separately reserve dogs.
- 7.8. The **10** dogs with the highest number of points collected in the first two qualification days will enter the final, which will take place on the last day. All dogs must be run by the handlers running them on the qualification days.
- 7.9. Each competitor must be a member of a NCO that is affiliated to the FCI. Entries of the competitors must be made through the NCO. Entries must contain the names of owner(s) and a handler if they are not the same and all necessary information about the dogs.
- 7.10. The right to start in the FCI-HEC can be given according to the following principles:
 - a) legal citizenship of a handler;
 - b) no matter his nationality, the dog's handler will not be allowed to compete for more than one country;
 - c) the dog must have been registered with the studbooks or appendix to the studbooks of the country for which it will compete for a minimum of 6 months before the event-date;
 - d) the applying dog must prove successful results in FCI IHT-3 TS.
- 7.11. If a dog cannot participate for whatever reason, the national team leader must notify the event organizer immediately. Once withdrawal is confirmed, the team leader can provide the name of the reserve dog and the handler before the start of the qualification day.
- 7.12. Members of the OC may not take part in the FCI-HEC as dog handlers.

8. AWARD

- 8.1. FCI-HEC is a trial in which the order and the winner are announced; the first 3 places cannot be shared places.
- 8.2. If dogs have equal points, the dog which has the most points for ***moving is the winner*** (the pen and then the next points of the judge's point-table, ***are the respective criteria***).
- 8.3. The winner of each qualification day receives the **FCI-CACITR** award, only with excellent qualification, and only when the judges decide to award it with the **FCI-CACITR** award.
- 8.4. The dog with the highest points in the final obtains the title "FCI Herding European Champion", in case of excellent qualification.
- 8.5. The National team with the highest points ***from the qualification runs*** (the sum of the best two dogs) obtains the title «FCI Herding European Team Champion».

9. DISPUTES

- 9.1. The judges' decision shall be final and undisputable. Objections or protests shall only be possible on account of non-compliance with the herding rules. Any protest must be filed with the course supervisor (head judge) by the team leader.
- 9.2. Subject to the foregoing rules, all questions and disputes in connection with any of the trials or in connection with any of the foregoing rules not already settled by the judges or OC shall be considered by "the Council". The proceedings of "the Council" shall be conducted by the president of the FCI Herding Dogs Commission (or his deputy) ; its members shall be the judges and the course director. The decision of "the Council" shall be final and binding and not subject to a Court of Law.

10. INSURANCE

- 10.1. The organizer must have an insurance policy with sufficient cover for personnel, the track supervisor, trial judges, helpers and assistant dogs.
- 10.2. Each competitor shall compensate the cost of any damage caused by his dog. Each competitor must provide proof with his registration application of holding a public liability insurance policy for consequences resulting from being a dog owner.

11. CLOSING PROVISIONS

- 11.1. These specifications were approved at the meeting of the FCI Herding Dogs Commission held in Interlaken (CH) on 23rd April 2017.
- 11.2. These rules were approved by the FCI General Committee in Kiev, August 2017 and are valid as from 1st January 2018.
- 11.3. ***The amended parts, in bold and italic characters, were approved by the FCI General Committee in Thuin, March 2024.***
- 11.4. In case of translation discrepancies, the English text is the authoritative version.