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FCI REGULATIONS FOR

INTERNATIONAL SQUARE TRUFFLE SEARCH **C.A.C.I.R.T. (c)** COMPETITIONS
& INTERNATIONAL SQUARE TRUFFLE SEARCH CHAMPIONSHIP - **C.I.R.T. (c)**



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GENERAL PROVISIONS

National Canine Organizations (NCOs) are invited to promote the spirit of Square Truffle Search and the regulations defined by the FCI.

The main purpose of these FCI regulations is to establish a unique standard for international competitions, to be used for the standardization of international FCI events, guidelines for judges, and the standard for truffle search work in the square.

NCOs should use this document as a basis for the development of their own regulations, the differences of which must be limited solely to meeting local needs.

The FCI Regulations for international square truffle search C.A.C.I.R.T. (c) competitions & International square Truffle Search Championship - C.I.R.T. (c) must be applied in all FCI events.

1. INTRODUCTION

The FCI Square Truffle Search is a dog competition open to dogs of all breeds, provided they are healthy and physically fit and possess a FCI recognised pedigree (studbook/appendix).

The objective of the Square Truffle Search is to search for truffles, concluding the competition in the shortest possible time and committing the fewest errors, resulting in the lowest number of penalties.

It is an educational and sporting discipline aimed at highlighting and developing the dog's intelligence and improving its integration with its handler and in society.

This discipline requires perfect communication and understanding between dog and handler. Competitors must therefore possess the basic foundations of education and obedience.

2. CATEGORIES

In FCI international competitions, there is only one category:

Open: for dogs that have reached 15 months of age on the day of the competition, possessing an FCI recognised pedigree (studbook/appendix).

The dog's admission to the category is verified by checking the date of birth on the pedigree and the dog must be mandatorily identified by tattoo or microchip.

3. COMPETITION AREA (RING)

Square Truffle Search competitions must be organised under the most neutral conditions possible. To ensure this, sites free of natural truffles must be selected; plowed land or marshy areas are strictly forbidden.

Each search field will have an area of 100 m², i.e., 10m×10m (± 1m²), delimited by a plastic strip of suitable height positioned in the same manner and uniformly in all fields. The use of lime, sand, cement, grass clippings, or any other material that could impede the dogs in their search or the judges in their evaluations is absolutely forbidden. The discovery of 6 truffles will be required in the shortest possible time, without incurring penalties, within a maximum time limit of three minutes.

The installation of a fence to keep the public away from the competition areas is strongly recommended. This must be set up at least 5 meters from the boundaries of the search fields. The same distance measure must also be applied between adjacent fields.

Each search field must contain 6 truffles distributed irregularly, but over more than half of the surface. They must always be at least 0.30 m from each other and at least 0.30 m from the edges of the field. No more than two truffles may be placed on any median or diagonal line.

12 holes will be made in the competition area, 6 of which are "hot" (with truffle present) and 6 "cold" (without truffle present). The truffles will be buried to be as least visible as possible at least 1 hour before the competition, at a maximum depth of 5 cm, in order to standardise the ground scent for all dogs. The truffles must be placed in a suitable container where a marker can be introduced, and must have a total weight of approximately 5-10 gr. All truffle species are usable.

If a container holding a truffle accidentally falls to the ground during the field setup, this spot will be marked on the plan and any marking of that spot by the dog during the competition will not be considered a penalty.

After positioning the containers with the truffles, competitors are strictly forbidden from accessing the search field before the competition.

4. DESIGN OF THE COMPETITION AREA

The judge must prepare, in collaboration with the organization, a plan of the truffle positions.

5. CONDUCT OF THE COMPETITION

The handler moves to the entrance of the Competition Area with the dog on a leash and awaits the start signal given by the judge.

For safety reasons, leashes and collars of all kinds must be removed before the start of the competition.

The FCI prohibits the use of collars that deliver electrical impulses to a dog's body. Furthermore, the FCI prohibits the advertising of such collars at events under its jurisdiction. The FCI prohibits the distribution of such collars as prizes or gifts.

The time will start as soon as the dog crosses the imaginary line at the entrance to the Competition Area.

At the dog's first clear and decisive "scratch" (movement of the front paw from front to back), the handler may enter the ring and reach the dog at the hole. It is not permitted to chase the dog to retrieve the truffle.

Once the truffle is found, the handler must remain still near the hole, allowing the dog to restart a new search.

The competition ends and the time stops when, after finding the 6 truffles, the dog and handler cross the entry gate.

The handler puts the leash back on the dog and exits the competition field.

The dog and handler are under the supervision of the judge from the moment of entry until the moment of exit from the competition field.

6. COMPETITOR BEHAVIOUR AND DUTIES

During the competition, the handlers must scrupulously adhere to the following provisions:

- present themselves to the judge with the dog on a leash;
- wait for the judge's start signal before crossing the entry line to the competition field;
- remove the collar and leash from the dog before starting their turn;
- enter the Competition Area only after the dog has signalled the presence of the truffle with the movement of its front paw (scratch);
- not directly signal the truffle's position to the dog;
- immediately place the retrieved truffle (container) inside their pocket or pouch, ensuring it does not fall;
- remain near the discovery spot until the next find and subsequent signal by the dog;
- hand over all retrieved truffles (containers) at the end of the turn to the judge's assistant (failure to hand over results in elimination).

7. ASSESSMENTS AND JUDGMENTS

No competitor may appeal the judge's decision, whose judgment is always final.

7.1 Penalties for errors

Each error committed incurs a penalty that will be added to the time taken.

- The first penalty adds 15" to the total time.
- The second penalty adds 30" to the total time.
- The third penalty results in elimination.

Penalties are applied for the following errors:

- the handler enters the Competition Area before the dog's scratch;
- the handler moves from the point of the dig (after entering);
- the handler indicates the truffle's position to the dog;
- the handler drops food on the ground;
- the dog leaves the ring and then re-enters;
- the dog does not allow the truffle to be retrieved;
- the dog drops the truffle (container) on the ground at a distance greater than 30 cm from the hole.

8. ELIMINATIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

Elimination results in disqualification and the immediate exit of the handler and their dog. Elimination must be clearly indicated by the judge.

The following are causes for immediate elimination:

- unfair conduct towards the judge;
- brutality towards the dog;
- four false holes (incorrect signals by the dog);
- the handler holds food in their hand during the competition;
- the handler does not return the retrieved containers at the end of the turn;
- the handler withdraws (unless otherwise instructed by the judge);
- the dog wears a collar during the competition;
- the dog leaves the Competition Area or is no longer under control and does not re-enter within 10 seconds;
- the dog starts before the judge's start signal.

Any fraud or cheating during a competition will be referred to the disciplinary committee of the organising association, which may impose sanctions prohibiting entry to competitions organised by it for a limited or permanent period, and may request the NCO (National Canine Organisation) of the country to extend the sanction nationally or even internationally.

All cases not covered by these regulations will be resolved by the judge.

9. CASES OF FORCE MAJEURE

In circumstances beyond the handler's control (e.g., people or dogs near the ring, torn or windblown tape, etc.), the judge may stop the competition. After remediation, the expert/judge will restart the dog from the ring entrance.

All penalties received up to that moment remain valid.

10. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION TO FCI INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS WITH AWARDING OF THE C.A.C.I.R.T. (c) (Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat international de Recherche de Truffes au carré)

Dogs of all breeds, over 15 months of age, may participate provided that they have previously obtained at least **two (2) C.A.C.R.T. (c) (Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat national de Recherche de Truffes au carré)** or one **(1) C.A.C.R.T. (c)** plus one **(1) Reserve C.A.C.R.T. (c)** in competitions organised by the national canine organisation (NCO), males and females together.

In addition, these dogs must be:

- registered in a studbook or in the appendix to a studbook recognised by the FCI.
- mandatorily identified (tattoo or microchip).

The dogs' handlers must be members of a club recognised by the NCO affiliated with the FCI.

Participants must possess a working book or a document certifying the entry requirements issued by their NCO.

These awards do not make the dog eligible to enter the working class at international FCI international CACIB shows.

Dogs not admitted:

- pregnant females.
- castrated dogs
- dogs that appear sick, injured, or not physically fit.
- Doped dogs

Dogs coming from or travelling to rabies-infected areas must possess a valid anti-rabies certificate.

Foreign handlers and dogs must provide evidence that they are members of a club affiliated with an NCO recognised by the FCI and that they already have participated in official competitions in their country.

An award given by the judge to a competitor (competing in a foreign country) who has lost the right to compete in his own country will not be homologated by the FCI.

Correct behaviour and appropriate attire are required of competitors. Any act of brutality against one's own dog, or another dog, by a handler will be severely punished with immediate disqualification. Other proceedings may still be taken against the person concerned. The Organising Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry.

Any cheating during a competition will be submitted to the disciplinary committee of the organising association, which may impose sanctions by banning entry into the competitions it organises for a limited period or permanently, and may request the NCO of its country to extend the sanction to the national or even international level.

11. ORGANISATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Committees (Breed clubs, Canine groups, and any other association recognised by the NCO) intending to organise an international Truffle Square search competition must:

- secure a suitable ground for the number of planned competition areas. The nature of the ground must be such that it presents no danger to the dog and/or the handler (no broken glass, nails, etc.).
- designate a judge belonging to the official Register of the FCI-NCO or to the FCI Judges Directory.
- appoint the necessary personnel for the smooth running of the competition, which includes:
 - a **judge's assistant** who records the penalties assigned and tracks the time taken.
 - a **field commissioner** responsible for restoring the competition areas.
 - a **secretary** to transcribe the results onto the judging sheets, compile the ranking, and fill in the qualification books.
 - A **competition area commissioner** who must ensure the correct order of entry.

12. The FCI-C.A.C.I.RT. (c) (Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat international de Recherche de Truffes au carré) and Reserve FCI-C.A.C.I.RT. (c) at stake in international square truffle search competitions

The **basic FCI requirements** to be eligible for the FCI-C.A.C.I.RT (c) Reserve FCI-C.A.C.I.RT (c) are available in the *Regulations for the FCI International Championship [INTRODUCTION 1) 2) 3)]*

The FCI-C.A.C.I.RT. (c) and the Reserve FCI-C.A.C.I.RT. (c) can be awarded to all the breeds entered in the competition. In international competitions the FCI-C.A.C.I.RT. (c) is at stake if at least 6 dogs are entered and physically present and when males and females compete together. The judging criteria on the basis of which the FCI-C.A.C.I.RT. (c) is awarded are identical to those on the basis of which the FCI-C.A.C.I.RT. (c) is assigned. The judges must consider the severity that the FCI expects from them when it comes to proposing subjects for the FCI-C.A.C.I.RT. (c) or the Reserve FCI-C.A.C.I.RT. (c)

These awards do not make the dog eligible to enter the working class at international FCI international CACIB shows

13. Title of FCI International Square Truffle Search Champion - Champion International de Recherche de Truffes au carré - C.I.RT.(c)

To obtain the title of Champion International Recherche naturelle de Truffes au carré - FCI International Square Truffle Search Champion - C.I.RT.(c), a dog must have obtained:

- 2 (two) Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat international de Recherche de Truffes au carré - C.A.C.I.RT. (c) awarded by two different juries composed of different judges, at FCI international competitions organised by two different NCOs in two different countries.
- at the age of at least 15 months, at an FCI international CACIB show recognised by the FCI, regardless of the number of participants, at least the qualification "Very Good" or, in countries where this qualification is not provided for, a second prize, in working, intermediate, open or Champion class.

The English language is authoritative.

These regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee during their meeting held in Rome in February 2026. They become effective on the day of their publication.