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RULES GOVERNING THE ORGANIZATION, COMPETITIONS AND JUDGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITION FOR HOUNDS (SOLO AND PACKS)

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1. General points

- 1.1 The purpose of the EUROPEAN CUP competition is to conserve, publicise and facilitate traditional and classic hunting with hounds, while taking account of environmental and animal protection factors.
- 1.2 The legal basis of this document comprises the statutes of the F.C.I. Commission for Hounds and related business.
- 1.3 The official name of this set of rules is OPL-R 93.
- 1.4 OPL-R 93 applies to all organizational matters relating to the EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITION for hounds. It is binding on all national hound federations, clubs and associations without exception, while respecting the independence of the country organizing the competition.

2. Organization

- 2.1 The above-mentioned competition shall be held each year, where possible.
- 2.2 The F.C.I. Commission for Hounds shall be responsible for this organization.
- 2.3 Only member countries of the F.C.I. represented on the Commission for Hounds can present themselves as organizers. Exceptions can be made by the F.C.I. Commission for Hounds.
- 2.4 The allocation of the competition shall be made by 1 July of the previous year.
- 2.5 The competition can take place using field hares (*lepus europaeus*) or white hares (*lepus timidus*).

- 2.6 Countries whose laws allow pack hunting shall organize competitions for packs and single hounds.
- 2.7 Countries whose laws or ethics do not allow pack hunting shall organize competitions for single hounds only.
- 2.8 Accepting to organize the competition is binding on the national federation, club or associations concerned.

3. Implementation

- 3.1 The competition shall comprise two categories (Article 2.6), insofar as the law permits.
- 3.2 In countries that do not authorize pack hunting, the competition shall comprise the single-hound category only (Article 2.7).
- 3.3 The competition shall be organized during the season when the law of the organizing country authorizes hunting with hounds.
- 3.4 The organizer shall make a terrain available which is large enough to hold the competition and a sufficient number of hares.
- 3.5 The location selected should be “suitable” for hounds.
- 3.6 The draw to select terrains for the competition shall be held on the day before the competition is to take place under the supervision of the competition director and in the presence of the competitors.
- 3.7 Spectators shall be allowed to follow the various hunts. For greater safety, it is not permitted to shoot the hunted hares.

4. Admission to the competition

- 4.1 **The only dogs allowed to compete are those registered with the studbooks or the appendix to the studbooks of an FCI member organisation or contract partner as well as those registered with the studbooks or appendix to the studbooks of a non FCI member organisation with which the FCI has entered into a cooperation agreement of mutual recognition of studbooks (AKC, KC, CKC).**

The competition is open to dogs from the F.C.I. Group 6 for hounds. These dogs must be at least 18 months old (please see Article 1.3 EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITION).

- 4.2 To participate, competitors must be nominated by their national association and club. The selection criteria are left to the discretion of the national federations.
- 4.3 A maximum of three hounds will be admitted per participating country in the single hound category. These can be of different breeds. Reserve hounds should also be brought.

- 4.4 Two packs will be admitted to the pack-hunting competition per participating country.
- 4.5 Each pack shall comprise six hounds of the same breed and from the same country.
- 4.6 In the event of an insufficient number of competitor entries, the organizer can increase the number by sending out invitations after consulting the President of the F.C.I. Commission for Hounds.
- 4.7 If too many competitors enter, the organizer can reduce the number after consulting the President of the F.C.I. Commission for Hounds. Any refusal must be sent in writing and in sufficiently good time.

5. Competition judges

- 5.1 Each participating country shall designate a sufficient number of competition judges.
- 5.2 The national federations concerned shall nominate qualified competition judges to the F.C.I. Commission for Hounds.
- 5.3 The country organizing the EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITION shall choose a competition director from among its competition judges.
- 5.4 The competition director shall be responsible for organizing the competition and is the person to be contacted regarding any problems relating to the competition and involving the F.C.I. Commission for Hounds.
- 5.5 A judge and assessor must be available for each hound/pack in the EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITION. The assessor must be familiar with the location and the terrain.
- 5.6 The judging are definitive and cannot be appealed.

6. Finances

- 6.1 The EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITION cannot be held with the objective of making a profit.
- 6.2 The F.C.I. Commission for Hounds and the organizer shall determine the sum to be paid as an entry fee for each competitor.
- 6.3 The organizer shall make available suitable kennels free of charge to accommodate the hounds.
- 6.4 The dog-handler is responsible for the hounds' transport costs, day-to-day expenses and food.
- 6.5 The competition judges' living and transport expenses shall be borne by their national federation or club or by the judges themselves.

6.6 A competition judge cannot work on a voluntary basis and must be paid a suitable sum by the organizer.

7. Adoption and implementation of OPL-R 93

7.1 The present set of rules was adopted at a meeting of the F.C.I. Commission for Hounds held in Milan on 27 March 1993.

These regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee in November 1999, Brussels.

The text in bold has been approved by the FCI General Committee in Madrid, February 2010.