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Specifications

for the organization of the FCI IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs

These specifications were approved at the meeting of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission held in Zalaegerszeg/Hungary on 24. September 2012.

1. Application and award

1.1. The “FCI European Open for Tracking Dogs” is held each year in October. The number of trial days is determined according to the number of entries. National organisations that would like to organise FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs must apply in writing to the president of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission at least two years beforehand. The application must contain:

- The name of the national organisation
- The date of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs
- The venue of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs
- The name and address of the person in charge of organising the event

1.2. The FCI Utility Dogs Commission shall entrust the organisation and running of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs to a national organisation that is a full member of the FCI. The awarding ensues by a majority decision taken by the FCI Utility Dogs Commission. In the case of a tied vote, the president of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission shall have the casting vote.

1.3. The national organisation that is assigned to organise the World Championship shall bear full responsibility for the smooth and trouble-free running of the championship. The organising national body shall make an application to the FCI for the awarding of the CACIT.

1.4. The national organisations of the FCI are to be invited to attend by the organising national body by February of the year preceding the World Championship at the latest.

1.5. The amount of the registration fee shall be set by the FCI Utility Dogs Commission (€ 100).

2. Organisation

2.1. The minutes and resolutions of the meetings of the organising committee are to be submitted to the FCI track supervisor in writing in the ensuing weeks. The track supervisor is to be given a sketch of the ground in a scale of 1:10.000 showing the tracks.

- 2.2.** It must publish a catalogue showing all entrants and the time schedule. The entrants shall be given catalogue numbers, which they must wear as numbers on their backs. The full text of item 8 CLASSIFICATION AND TITLE of the Specifications for the organization of the FCI IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs is printed in the catalogue.
The most important parts of the catalogue must be drafted in the four FCI languages.
- 2.3.** The organiser shall request the national organisation to donate a prize in good time. The flags of the competing national organisations and the FCI flag are to be put in some appropriate place. The prizes donated can be listed in the programme. The allocation of these prizes shall be the responsibility of the organiser.
- 2.4.** All results must be regularly entered on a results board easily visible to the public at a key place/stand but also in the track area (accompanying car)

3. Trial Chairperson

- 3.1.** The national organisation running the event shall provide a qualified trial chairperson for each group whose work shall include, in particular:
- Technical running of the trial
 - Provision, planning and equipment of a sufficiently large track area
 - Providing a sufficient number of (at least 6) qualified tracklayers (stewards, stewards' supervisor, guides, office personnel, etc.);
 - The trial chairperson must make sure that the tracklayers have approximately the same weight.
 - Preparing the evaluation sheets for the trial judges
 - Organisation of the track area and especially support the participants before the competition starts
 - Only the dog handler, the judge and the track layer can enter the track.
 - Quick and reliable working out of the trial results to determine the winner and order of placing

4. Trial grounds and course of events

- 4.1.** The FCI European Open for Tracking Dogs shall be held in accordance with IPO-FH.
- 4.2.** A key place/stand must be provided for competitors, spectators and trial personnel. A canteen must be available there to cater for the competitors, spectators and helpers. It is also recommended to have a moving canteen in the track area.
- 4.3.** The organiser takes care of the transport service in the track area not only for the stewards, but also for competitors and spectators.
- 4.4.** The tracking ground and the track laid should enable all competitors to have the same conditions. This means also the same number of sharp and right turns. The ground used on the Friday can be used again on the Sunday. However, a competitor cannot work twice on the same track.

- 4.5. A time schedule is to be drawn up showing the presentation time for each competitor. This time schedule must be compiled in such a way that each competitor only has to work out one track in a day and in such a way that each competitor works out one track at different times of the day.
- 4.6. The competitors are to be allocated a training ground for tracking training which corresponds to the actual tracking ground.
- 4.7. A veterinary check is to be carried out before commencement of the trials. Dogs that appear sick and are suspected of being infectious are not admissible. Bitches in season are admissible on condition that they are kept separate from the other competitors. The veterinary check must be completed before the draw. A judge nominated by the Utility Dogs Commission is to be present for the temperament check.
- 4.8. The use of E-devices within the sphere of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs shall lead to disqualification, regardless of the legal situation in the organising country. Any accusation must be accompanied by written evidence and witnesses.
- 4.9. Before commencement of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs, the president of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission shall convene a trial judges meeting to be attended by the track supervisor, trial judges and the person in charge of organisation.
- 4.10. Before commencement of the FCI IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs, the president of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission shall call a team leader meeting to be attended by the track supervisor, trial judges and the person in charge of organisation, the trial chairperson and the team leaders. At the team leader meeting, the order in which the countries are drawn is determined by drawing lots. The competitors from the organising country shall get the final lot.
- 4.11. The draw for the starting order is to be conducted in public on the evening before the FCI IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs. The catalogue number with the lot number assigned by the draw must be made visible to all the competitors. The competitors from the organising national body shall be the last to take part in the draw for the start numbers.
- 4.12. The length of the tracks at the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs can be shortened by the FCI Utility Dogs Commission in consultation with the person in charge of organisation. Information about the length of the tracks, in case it does not correspond to what is provided for in the IPO, about the situation and nature of the ground and about the shapes of the tracks are to be made known to the competitors. Samples of the articles used which must have the size defined in the Regulations must be submitted to the competitors via the team leader.
- 4.13. The tracks are laid for all competitors one after the other and at regular intervals.
- 4.14. After the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs, the president of the FCI Commission for Utility Dogs shall call a team leader meeting to be attended by the track supervisor, the trial judges, the person in charge of the organisation and the team leader. The event that just took place, experiences and possible improvements are discussed at the team leader meeting. In case no meeting of the team leaders is called, the team leaders send their experiences and possible improvements in writing to the President of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission within 4 weeks after the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs.

- 4.15. At the closing ceremony, the results of the individual and team scores shall be announced. The respective national anthem is to be played for the winner (individual and team). In addition, all competitors and teams who have been positively evaluated are to be called by name.

5. Trial judges and track supervisor

- 5.1. The FCI Utility Dogs Commission shall nominate one of its members as track supervisor to assume the duties of chief judge. The supervisor shall be responsible for compliance with all the regulations of the trial rules and the specifications. The organising national body and the competitors must follow the instructions given by the chief judge in all respects.

The duties of the track supervisor, in cooperation with the organiser, shall include:

- cooperation in the selection of the tracking ground
- cooperation in drawing up the tracking time schedule
- guiding and possibly instructing the track layers
- determining the objects and order of laying them out
- arranging the numbering of the article and tracking boards
- checking the weathering of the articles and due and proper laying of the individual tracks and confirming the same for the acting trial judges
- having a track re-laid if it has been made unusable through external, third-party influences, e.g. changes in the ground through agricultural work, large groups of people, etc.

The track supervisor shall have the following rights:

- rejecting a section of the ground that differs greatly from the other tracks through unforeseen changes in the nature of the soil
- rejecting a track layer if he/she repeatedly does not follow instructions

- 5.2. The FCI Utility Dogs Commission shall determine two trial judges. When selecting the trial judges, the national organisations attending the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs are to be considered on a rotation basis. The trial judges appointed must have acted as a judge at a minimum of one major event during the previous two years. The national organisation proposing the judges shall be responsible for their professional qualifications.

- 5.3. The track supervisor and trial judges may not come from the organising national body.

- 5.4. If the trial judges or the track supervisor only have a command of one language, an interpreter is to be provided by the national organisation running the event. The interpreter must be familiar with the course of the trials, display a knowledge of cynology and observe discretion.

- 5.5. The decision of the trials judges shall be final and incontestable

- 5.6. The track supervisor shall be paid by the organising national body.

Resolution by the Utility Dogs Commission dated 17 September 2001: € 0.30 per km, daily allowance € 35, accommodation according to receipt.

5.7. The trial judges shall be paid by the delegating national organisation according to its rate.

6. Admission and registration of competitors

- 6.1. The total number of competitors taking part in the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs is limited to 40.
- 6.2. Each competitor must be a member of a national organisation that is affiliated to the FCI or has been invited to take part by the Utility Dogs Commission. The right of a national organisation to start in the World Championship can be given according to the following principles, the application of which is left up to the national organisation:
- nationality
 - legal residence (in accordance with the FCI Statutes)
 - the dog owner must have the nationality of the country for which his/her dog will compete or must have his/her legal residence for a minimum of 12 months in the country for which he/she will compete. If the dog owner has a double nationality he/she can choose either country without any restriction. If difficulties arise, they must be referred to the FCI General Committee for final settlement.
 - No matter his/her nationality, the dog handler will not be allowed to compete for more than one country and will be authorized to handle only one dog.
 - The dog must have been registered with the studbook or appendix to the studbook of the country for which it will compete for a minimum of 6 months

Registration of the competitors must be made through the national organisation.

- 6.3. A maximum of 2 dog handlers per country can be admitted. Each handler may only enter with one dog.
In case less than 40 dogs are entered, the president of the Utility Dogs Commission can after discussion with the organiser allow that the number of participants is increased (3 per country) or/and the registered substitute handlers to enter the Championships additionally.
In case the number of registered substitute handlers is higher than the number of participants that are not registered (until 40) the selection of the teams with their substitute handlers to reach this number will be drawn during the meeting of the team leaders before the drawing of the starting order for the countries. The team leaders must be informed 8 days after the closing date for registration that the registered substitute handlers can take part to reach the number (40).
- 6.4. The winner of the FCI European Open for Tracking Dogs shall be automatically entitled to enter the Championship the following year outside the national quota to defend his/her title with the dog with which it won the title if registered by his/her country.

6.5. Each national organisation can register one substitute entrant to the World Championship; he is also to be listed in the catalogue. If any of the entrants registered in accordance with point 6.3 above cannot take part because illness/accident/cannot be present, they may only be replaced by the persons registered as substitute competitors.

If the number of substitute competitors is higher than the number of dogs ill or that cannot be present the selection of the teams with their substitute handlers to reach this number will be drawn during the meeting of the team leaders before the drawing of the starting order for the countries.

The team leaders must be informed immediately at the meeting of the team leaders.

6.6. Members of the organising committee may not take part in the IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs as dog handlers.

6.7. Only dogs selected by the national organisation which have successfully passed a test according to IPO-FH with a training degree (AKZ) can be admitted to the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs.

6.8. 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).

Castrated bitches and male dogs can be admitted if proof of original intactness is furnished by way of a veterinary certificate.

6.9. The national organisations must make the number of entrants known by 31 March of the year of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs.

6.10. The national organisation shall send all the registrations with the names to the organiser together before the closing date for registration stated in the invitation. The registration must contain the following information:

- ◆ Name of the national organisation
- ◆ Name, address, telephone number and email address of the team leader(s)
- ◆ Name, address, telephone number and email address of the competitors (substitute competitors)
- ◆ Name of the dog, breed, date of birth, studbook number, identity mark (chip, tattoo, etc.), training degree, show assessment, sire, mother, breeder

The registration must be signed by the national organisation.

6.11. Registrations that cannot be considered shall be brought to the notice of the national organisation concerned in writing without delay.

7. Scorebook

7.1. The competitors must show a scorebook issued by their national organisation. The scorebooks are to be submitted to the organiser together per national organisation prior to commencement of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs.

- 7.2. The term FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs must be clearly entered in each competitor's scorebook in addition to the results.

8. Classification and title

- 8.1. The competitor with the highest total number of points and minimum a qualification of "very good shall be the winner and be awarded the title of "20xx (to indicate the date) FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs.
- 8.2. The winner shall be awarded the CACIT. The awarding of the CACIT is reserved for the breeds subject to a working trial in FCI groups 1, 2 and 3. Reference is made to the special CACIT provisions.
- 8.3. In the case of a tied score, the higher individual result shall be decisive. In the case of tied individual results, the competitors shall be classified in the same position ex aequo.
- 8.4. The organising national body shall send the FCI a result list with the names and countries of the competitors. When drawing up the result list, the handlers with their dogs that have achieved the training degree shall be listed first. The other competitors without a training degree shall then be listed according to their score, numbered consecutively.
- 8.5. For the placing of the teams, each individual positive result (2 X 70 points) counts. The team winner of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs is the team with the highest number of points. In case of a tied score team winner is the team with the best individual results. In case of identical individual results the teams are placed equal.
For the calculation of the team points at least one participant must have two positive results.

9. Prizes

- 9.1. In the interest of promoting international working dog competitions, it is recommended to the national organisations that the national organisation running the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs donate a prize for the dog handlers.
- 9.2. A memento prize should be provided for each competitor.
- 9.3. The FCI Utility Dogs Commission shall be responsible for drawing up rules on the awarding of any challenge trophies. The challenge trophy/trophies shall be handed over by the president of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission or another commission member nominated by him when the results are announced.

10. Protests

- 10.1 The judges' decision shall be final and incontestable. Objections or protests shall only be possible on account of non-compliance with the IPO rules. Any protest must be lodged with the track supervisor (chief judge) by the team leader. In such case, a guarantee bond of € 300 must be lodged at the same time which shall be forfeited in favour of the organisation if the protest is rejected.
- 10.2. The proceedings shall be conducted by the president of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission (or his deputy). The ruling on protests shall be made by the trials judges, the trial chairperson and the track supervisor. The decision taken by these persons shall be final.

11. Insurance

- 11.1. The organiser must have taken out an insurance policy with sufficient cover for personnel, the track supervisor, trial judges and helpers.
- 11.2. Each competitor shall him/herself bear the cost of any damage caused by his/her dog. Each competitor must provide proof with his/her registration application of holding a public liability insurance policy for consequences resulting from being a dog owner.
- 11.3. The local veterinary provisions must be observed.

12. General remarks

- 12.1 The provisions set down in the *FCI Guidelines for International Working and Tracking Dog Trials, IPO-FH Class*, must be adhered to strictly and precisely.
- 12.2 In cases of doubt and matters concerning the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs which are not provided for in these specifications, the president of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission shall make the final decision together with the respective trial judge and the track supervisor (chief judge) appointed by the Commission.
- 12.3. An invitation is to be given to the president of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission by the organiser of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs with the associated costs borne by the organising national body.
- 12.4. The members of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission shall have free entry to all the event facilities of the FCI-IPO European Open for Tracking Dogs.

The German version is the authentic one.

These specifications were approved by the FCI General Committee in Helsinki, October 2013.