

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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## FCI GUIDELINES FOR SLED DOGS WORKING JUDGES

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**These Guidelines have been designed in order to help FCI member organisations and contract partners to develop or adjust their own national regulations.**

**NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders and numbers**

## 1. General

The guidelines set forth in **the paragraphs 1 through 7 must be considered as MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS of the FCI** for any individual to be accepted as a Sled Dog Working Judge by his national canine organization, being member of the FCI (hereafter named “FCI National Organization”, shortly “FCI NO”). It is up to each FCI NO to increase and specify the general requirements set by the FCI. However, under no circumstances, may the rules of each country be in conflict with these FCI Guidelines.

## 2. Minimum requirements regarding application, education, examination and nomination as sled dog working judge

The applications of the candidates wishing to become sled dog working (SDW) judges must be accepted under the official FCI NO’s guidelines of the permanent country of legal residence of the applicant. It is the responsibility of each FCI NO to provide adequate courses for its candidates to get the necessary education, to prepare the necessary examinations and to take care of their official approval as SDW judges.

The FCI NO must provide a satisfactory basic judges training programme in order to educate the trainee on the subjects mentioned in paragraph 2. Such training programme must be on offer for the student judges on a regular basis.

The same programme should be attended by the judges wishing to confirm their knowledge after a long absence from judging, maximum five (5) years, as well as for show judges wishing to apply for becoming SDW judges.

Such programme should be attended by the candidates before they are required to take the written examination.

In order to be recognised by the FCI as international SDW judge, the candidate must comply with the following requirements:

- a. Must be of legal age and member of the FCI NO or accredited by the FCI NO.
- b. At the time of application to become a trainee, the applicant must prove that he has previously been a breeder of at least one of the four polar sled dog breeds (Alaskan Malamute (243), Siberian Husky (270), Samoiedskaïa Sabaka (212) and Grønlandshund (274) with a registered affix and must have dogs registered with the official studbook of his country;  
or  
alternatively that he has been involved in sled dog racing or working activity for at least 5 years;  
or  
alternatively that he has had active and responsible involvement in the canine activities for a minimum period of 5 years;  
or  
alternatively that he has been an active musher with proven results for at least 5 years;
- c. Must have been on duty at working or racing trials as secretary at least one time and at official sled dog races as marshal, deputy or official judge at least 2 times over a minimum period of one year in order to become knowledgeable about procedure and regulation matters.

- d. The candidate must be examined by the official examination committee nominated by his FCI NO and take a written preliminary examination showing sufficient knowledge on the following subjects:
1. Anatomy, morphology and movement of dogs
  2. Genetics, health and character
  3. Knowledge of the four breed standard(s) mentioned under b.
  4. Behaviour, principles and techniques of judging
  5. National sled dog races regulations and other additional national rules (like Working test rules)
  6. FCI Guidelines, these FCI rules for SDW judges

The candidate must **“PASS”** the written examination in total.

- e. Complete breed knowledge is one important factor in judging and a qualified judge must be thoroughly conversant with the FCI breed standard in order to be able to make decisions based upon knowledge of the breed being judged.  
The practical training must allow the trainee to gain a complete knowledge and understanding of the four polar breeds (see b.), of all regulations, as well as procedure on the races. The practical training consists of the successful completion of an amount of events where the candidate receives education, subject to having passed the written examination. It is the responsibility of the FCI NO to establish a period of time and the amount of practical training.
- f. The practical education can be taken under the supervision of FCI recognised and well-experienced judges. The candidate has to write reports on the trial, working or racing test, he has seen during the education and forward them to the judge who has the responsibility of confirming the aspirant judge’s knowledge, and his performance and behaviour to the official committee in charge.  
After successful completion of the practical education, the aspirant has to take a practical test supervised by a representative of the official examination committee. This examination committee has to receive a written statement about the test and its results.
- g. Once approved by his FCI NO and included in its SDW judges list, a candidate first has to judge at least three times the tests for which he has been approved in his country of legal residence over a minimum period of 2 years before he is allowed to accept to judge at FCI sled dog events [with CACIT] outside his country of legal residence.

It is the responsibility of each FCI NO as member of the FCI to include in their official list of judges of the FCI only those individuals who have fulfilled the requirements stated above and who are fluent in one of the official languages of the FCI, to keep their list as well as all the information about every judge updated and to forward it to the FCI Office every year.

This list must indicate clearly the tests for which the judge is licensed to give the CACIT, the tests he is licensed to judge (racing, working or both).

### 3. DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES OF SLED DOG WORKING JUDGES WITHIN THE FCI

A SDW Judge of a FCI NO can be:

- a) FCI SD Racing test Judge
- b) FCI SD Working test Judge
- c) FCI All tests SD National Judge
- d) FCI All tests SD International Judge

The FCI NO can forward to the FCI complete information concerning every judge who is permitted to judge outside his country of legal residence.

- a) A FCI SD Racing test Judge is a person who has been approved by his own FCI NO to judge sled dogs racing tests according to national rules.
- b) A FCI SD Working test Judge is a person who has been approved by his FCI NO to judge sled dogs working tests according to national rules.

If a new breed is recognised by the FCI as a sled dog breed, a FCI SDW judge is automatically allowed to judge it.

- c) An FCI All tests SDW National Judge is a judge who has been approved by his FCI NO to judge all kinds of SD tests (Racing and Working tests) at national level. This judge is approved to judge all CACIT Sled Dog Events only in his own country. The FCI All tests SDW national judge is allowed to officiate outside his own country only for the Racing or Working tests for which he is approved by his FCI NO. The information about approval and nomination as a FCI All tests SD National judge has to be sent to the FCI.
- d) An FCI All Tests SD International Judge is a judge who has been approved by his FCI NO to judge all kind of SD tests (Racing and Working tests). Only these judges are approved to officiate at CACIT Sled Dog Events around the world for the four FCI recognized breeds.

If a new breed is recognised by the FCI as sled dog breed, an FCI All Tests SD international judge is automatically allowed to judge it.

However these judges can be made eligible as FCI All Tests SD international judges only five years after their qualification in their country of legal residence. The FCI NO has to consider that a judge can only be a FCI All Tests SD international judge when he has been educated and approved for different kinds of tests existing in the country. The information about approval and nomination as an FCI All Tests SD International judge can be sent to the FCI office.

#### **4. General conditions for admission as a SDW Judge**

Only those judges who are included in the list of SDW judges of any FCI-NO in accordance with previous conditions are allowed to award a CACIT.

- Judges who have been approved by their FCI NO but have not been judging for a period of 5 years or longer, must take a new practical test before being allowed to judge again. The FCI NO, before granting a new authorization to judge, must verify the capacity of the applicant to judge the test or tests, he had previously been authorized to judge.
- Judges emigrating to a country whose national canine organization (hereafter named "NO") is not an FCI member or contract partner can, on application to the FCI, remain admitted for the tests for which they had been licensed in an FCI NO, provided that no disciplinary action is or has been taken against them, that the inviting organizer is informed about it and that the FCI agrees to it accordingly. The FCI Office keeps a corresponding list and issues the authorizations to judge. The FCI has jurisdiction over these judges.
- Judges emigrating from one country whose NO is member of the FCI to another one remain admitted and should be approved by the FCI NO of the new country for the tests they had been licensed by their former FCI NO, provided that no disciplinary action is or has been taken against them. An application must be sent by these judges to the FCI NO of the new country within a maximum period of 3 years after changing legal residence. This FCI NO will then be responsible for these judges.

#### **5. GENERAL DUTIES OF A SDW JUDGE**

At events in countries whose NO is a member of the FCI, sled dog working judges must always follow the valid FCI standards of the four polar breeds (see 2.b.) they are judging. They may not interpret any standard in such a manner to be in conflict with the functional health of a dog.

When judging, any SDW judge has to obey strictly to the FCI SDW Judges Guidelines and all other rules of FCI.

The judges have to prepare for each event by studying the standards and all other important sled dog Racing or Working test regulations.

Judges must always be thorough and careful in their work, obey the conventional rules of ethics and respect their judges' colleagues and the participants.

## 6. TRAVEL AND INSURANCE ARRANGMENTS

### a. Travel arrangements

Judges are free to make private arrangements with race or working test organizations, which may differ from those stated *in the Appendix to the Sled Dog Events Regulations and Sled Dog Working Judges Guidelines of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale*. However, when such personal arrangements have not been made, they should expect to be provided with the benefits *stated in the appendix*.

It is advisable that financial arrangements should be laid out in advance in the form of a contract or written agreement between the judge and the Sled Dog Working organization and have to be honoured by both parties

### b. Insurance

The judge should sign up an insurance contract (flight cancellation, accidents, etc) whenever he is invited to judge abroad. Considering the high number of different possibilities offered in the member countries, the judges is recommended to act as follows:

- The judge who frequently officiates abroad should sign up this insurance contract for the whole year;
- The judge who seldom judges abroad should sign up this insurance contract on an event-per-event basis.

## 7. BEHAVIOUR

### 1. General

Every Sled Dog Working judge of any FCI member organization accomplishes an important duty in the international sled dog society. His behaviour should therefore be reliable and beyond reproach whether officiating or in his private life.

Consequently:

- A judge should never be late for his judging appointments or leave the race or working test ground before he has completely fulfilled the duties that were assigned to him.
- A judge should not criticise the work of another judge.
- Under no circumstances can a judge solicit appointments to judge.
- At the stake-out or finish area a judge must behave properly and examine all dogs indiscriminately. He should be soberly and properly dressed, in accordance with the duty to be fulfilled, and should always be correct and urbane.
- A judge cannot smoke while officiating.
- A judge cannot drink alcohol on the area.
- A judge cannot use a mobile phone for private calls while judging.

- A judge is not allowed to travel to the events where he is judging with those participating under him at those events.
- Under no circumstances should a judge socialise or stay with those who will be participating under him. A judge may do so only AFTER his judging appointment is completed.

## **2. Accepting Assignments**

- a. An FCI Sled Dog Working Judge can only judge at FCI sled dog races or sled dog working tests organized by FCI NO or FCI contract partners.
- b. Upon receiving an invitation to judge in a country outside his country of legal residence, a judge has to make all necessary inquiries to ascertain that the race or working test organization comes under the jurisdiction of the FCI or is organized by an organization recognised by FCI.
- c. If the race or working test is organized by a club, the judge must verify that this club is officially recognised by the FCI NO or FCI contract partner of the country where the event is being held.
- d. When judging outside his country of legal residence, a judge must be fluent in at least one of the four languages of the FCI (English, French, German or Spanish). In case a judge is unable to fulfil this requirement, he is responsible for providing his own interpreter.
- e. All the judges, including those from countries that are not members of the FCI, must under all circumstances know the FCI breed standards as well as race or working tests rules when they are officiating at FCI sanctioned events.
- f. Judges from countries that are not members of the FCI and judges from FCI associate member countries are only licensed to judge the breeds recognised by their national canine organizations when officiating at FCI international SD Racing or Working tests.
- g. It is absolutely forbidden for a judge to charge a double reimbursement for any expenses related to a judging assignment. If a judge is found to have claimed a double reimbursement, he will be punished by his FCI NO.

## **3. Permissions for judges**

FCI SDW judges must have a written permission, issued by their respective canine organization in order to judge at FCI SD tests. Only judges who are authorized by their national organization to judge these tests (racing or working) are allowed to judge dogs. While on assignment, they are obliged to judge in accordance with the FCI breed standard and test rules that are currently valid.

FCI Sled Dog Working international judges from federate FCI NO are allowed to judge, without any authorization from their national canine organization any competition.

FCI Sled Dog Working international judges are allowed to judge any breed recognized only at national level as sled dogs, providing that the breed standard is made available to them in due time by the racing or working test organizer.

At all international FCI SD Racing or Working tests, at least 2/3 of the invited judges on the panel have to be FCI judges approved by a FCI NO.

## **8. PENALTIES**

1. Any judge violating, in any way, the FCI Sled Dog Events Regulations and/or the national ones as well as the FCI guidelines for SDW judges falls under the jurisdiction of his FCI NO, which has to penalize the judge in question if the violation has been proven. The FCI NOs are obliged to pass a rule which enforces them to penalize any misconduct or any violation from their judges.
2. It must be guaranteed that the judge in question shall be heard, either verbally or in writing. The judge must be given the right to appeal against the decision. No person having been involved in imposing the penalty may be a member of the authority where the appeal is made.
3. The FCI NO should foresee the following penalty options:
  - a) Settle the case without penalization.
  - b) Issue a warning with or without threatening to ban the judge from judging.
  - c) Banning the person to judge for a certain period of time.
  - d) Cancellation as a judge.
  - e) Refusal or withdrawal of the permission(s) to judge abroad.
4. After becoming legally effective, the FCI has to be informed about the decision by its FCI NO.

## **9. ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITIONS**

The Executive Committee of the FCI, especially when parts of these guidelines become invalid, may, on its own final decision, take action on changing parts of these guidelines in order to ensure the validity of any international event held under FCI rules and to enforce the application of these guidelines.

The invalidity of one part or parts of these guidelines does not force the whole guidelines to become invalid.

**The English text is the authentic one.**

**These guidelines have been approved by the FCI General Committee in Brussels on November 9 2011.**



**Appendix to the SLED DOG EVENTS REGULATIONS AND SLED DOG  
WORKING JUDGES GUIDELINES of the Fédération Cynologique  
Internationale**

**COMPLEMENTARY RULES FOR THE TRAVEL EXPENSES OF THE JUDGES**

1.

All normal travel expenses to include real kilometrage (reimbursement to be decided by the FCI General Committee, a minimum of 0.35 €/km), parking, train, bus, taxi, flight (a reasonably priced economy ticket including a cancellation insurance – if possible - and an option for changeability), as well as meals during travel to the SD Racing or Working test, incurred by a judge have to be reimbursed immediately on arrival or following whatever previous arrangements made with the organiser.

2.

For judging at World, Europe and International SD Racing or Working tests a judge is allowed to charge, in addition to the above mentioned costs and to cover his small expenses, a “day-fee” of 35 euros (covering all insurance expenses) for each day of judging as well as for each travel day.

**The English text is the authentic document.**

**This appendix has been approved by the FCI General Committee in Brussels on November 9 2011.**