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Guidelines for judging and organizing the ICC, the CdE and CACIT retriever field trials in general



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These guidelines are written to facilitate the communication upon organizing and judging the ICC and the CdE, the two most important retriever trials on the continent.

Most of what is stated below also applies – mutatis mutandis - to the international CACIT field trials in general.

A field trial is good when the organization and the judging has enough 'flow' and when at the end of the day the best dog(s) and handler(s) win. Following these guidelines will help to get that necessary flow.

CACIT, CdE, ICC

- A CACIT trial can be a one day or a two days trial. In case the trial is run over two days, the judges decide which dogs/handlers they take into the second day at the end of the first day of the trial. In a two days trial, the CACIT is eventually given to the winner at the end of the second day.
- The CdE is a team event over two days. Two (eventually more than two) semi-finals at the first day. At the end of the first day the CACIT is eventually given to the winner of each semi-final. After the first day the judges select the dogs/handlers for the second day's final. They make the selection for the final using a criterion that is the same for each semi-final. At the end of the second day the CACIT is eventually given to the winner of the final. On the basis of marks attributed to each dog a team ranking is made. On the same basis the top dog over the two days is chosen. See article 10 of 'Rules for the European Cup for retrievers'.
- The ICC is an individual competition over two days. The ICC can be run as the CdE with eventually CACIT at the end of the first and the second day. Preferably the ICC is organized as a CACIT trial over two days and only one CACIT is eventually given at the end of the second day.

Rounds, amount of retrieves

- First round two retrieves, second round one retrieve; third ... round: one or two retrieves upon decision of the four judges in the trial.
- Deliberation between the four judges after the second round and every following round.
- A minimum of 5 retrieves for the top dogs. A minimum of 5 retrieves for the winner. For the top dogs and the winner the amount of retrieves should not exceed 8 retrieves.
- For the semi-finals: 5 to 6 retrieves. For the final: 6 to 8 retrieves.

Draw of numbers

- Since the ICC is an individual challenge, each competitor draws his number. E.g.: 1 to 24 start in the A semi-final, 25 to 48 run in the B semi-final. Competitors run with the same number in the final.
- Since the CdE is a team event, the competitors of each national team should be spread over the semi-finals.

Teams of judges

- Judging in pairs. Each trial two pairs of two judges. Each pair is composed of judges with a different nationality (when possible).
- If needed (when on driven game), the first round can be divided in one retrieve under each judge of the pair of judges.
- Eventually (when on driven game) the two retrieves of the first round can be under one judge and the one retrieve of the second round can be under the other judge of the pair of judges.
- No stand alone judging after the second round.

In line for a first round on driven game

Semi-final B (25 to 48)		Semi-final A (1 to 24)	
Judge A Judge B	Judge C Judge D	Judge W Judge X	Judge Y Judge Z
Dogs 27-28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48	Dogs 25-26, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47	Dogs 3-4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24	Dogs 1-2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23
All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 30 to 48 put the lead on and wait to be called in line	All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 29 to 47 put the lead on and wait to be called in line	All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 6 to 24 put the lead on and wait to be called in line	All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 5 to 23 put the lead on and wait to be called in line

Or

Semi-final B (25 to 48)		Semi-final A (1 to 24)	
Judge A Dogs 27-28, 34, 38, 42, 46 All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 34 to 46 put the lead on an wait to be called in line Judge B Dogs 30-32, 36, 40, 44, 48 All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 36 to 48 put the lead on and wait to be called in line	Judge C Dogs 25-26, 33, 37, 41, 45 All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 33 to 45 put the lead on an wait to be called in line Judge D Dogs 29-31, 35, 39, 43, 47 All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 35 to 47 put the lead on and wait to be called in line	Judge W Dogs 3-4, 10, 14, 18, 22 All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 10 to 22 put the lead on an wait to be called in line Judge X Dogs 6-8, 12, 16, 20, 24 All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 12 to 24 put the lead on and wait to be called in line	Judge Y Dogs 1-2, 9, 13, 17, 21 All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 9 to 21 put the lead on an wait to be called in line Judge Z Dogs 5-7, 11, 15, 19, 23 All dogs off lead during the drive. After the drive 11 to 23 put the lead on and wait to be called in line

In line for a first round on walked up game

Semi-final B		Semi-final A	
Judge A Judge B	Judge C Judge D	Judge W Judge X	Judge Y Judge Z
Dogs 27-28	Dogs 25-26	Dogs 3-4	Dogs 1-2
Dogs 29 and 30 ready to move in		Dogs 5 and 6 ready to move in	

Running order

- Lowest number, positioned on the right, first.

Scores

EL	Eliminating fault: hard mouth, whining, running in, out of control, ...
MF/EW MF/FDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major fault/Eye-wipe• Major fault/First dog down
MF/...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The dog is not sent for the retrieve, or the handler has to call his dog in, because of a major fault (other than EW or FDD): noisy handling, bad heeling, bad at post, ...
B	Retrieved to hand without being called up by the judge(s), but – in my/our opinion – the dog should be dropped
A-	A retrieve that could have been better, but – in my/our opinion - the dog can be kept in
A	A clean retrieve; eventually with a positive or negative remark
A+	A superb retrieve

Dropping and keeping in of dogs/handlers

- An eliminatory fault leads immediately to the end of the trial for the dog/handler.
- The two judges of a pair must agree upon eliminating a dog for hard mouth. The handler must have the opportunity to inspect the game.
- A dog/handler with a MF gets no further retrieve, even in the first round.
- A dog/handler with a B is (usually) dropped.
- A dog/handler with two A- is (usually) dropped.
- A dog/handler with one B in the first round is kept in for the second round (until the deliberation of the four judges after the second round); but is (most of the times) dropped after the second round.
- A dog/handler with two A- in the first round is kept in for the second round (until the deliberation of the four judges after the second round); but is (most of the times) dropped after the second round.
- Dogs with more than one A- are (usually) not taken into the final round.
- A dog/handler with one A- is kept in until the final round.

Attributing CACIT, RCACIT, EXC, VG, G, NC, EL

- Eliminated/EL: eliminating fault
- Not Qualified/NC: worse/less than 4 retrieves with two A-
- Good/G: 4 retrieves with no more than two A- (no B, no MF)
- Very Good/VG: 5 retrieves with no more than two A- (no B, no MF)
- Excellent/EXC: 5 retrieves with no more than one A- (no B, no MF)
- CACIT for 1 EXC; RCACIT for 2 EXC
- Only competitors with EXC are placed (1, 2, ...)

Ranking, qualifications and places: an example

Semi-final A

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Place / Qualification
8	A	A pos	A	A	A pos	A	1 EXC/CACIT
4	A	A	A	A	A	A	2 EXC/RCACIT
23	A	A	A neg	A	A	A	3 EXC
21	A	A	A	A	A-	A	4 EXC
1	A-	A	A	A neg	A	A	5 EXC
2	A	A-	A	A	A	A-	VG
18	A	A	A	A	A	MF	VG
24	A-	A-	A pos	A	A		VG
3	A-	A	A	A	A-		VG
5	A	A	A	A	MF		G
20	A	A-	A	A-			G
22	A	A-	A	B			NC
6	A	A	A	MF			NC
10	A-	A	A	MF			NC
7	A	A-	A-				NC
12	A-	A	A-				NC
14	A-	A-	A-				NC
19	B	A	B				NC
16	A	A	A	A	EL		EL
9	A-	B	EL				EL
15	B	EL					EL
13	A	EL					EL
11	A-	EL					EL
17	EL						EL

Semi-final B

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Place / Qualification
32	A	A	A-	A	A pos		1 EXC CACIT
47	A	A	A pos	A-	A-		VG
45	A-	A	A	A	A-		VG
42	A-	A	A	A	A-		VG
28	A	A	A	A	MF		G
15	A	A	A-	A	MF		G
27	A neg	A-	A	A	MF		G
48	A	A-	A	MF			NC
24	A	A-	A	B			NC
29	A	A pos	A	MF			NC
44	A-	A	A	MF			NC
46	A	A-	A-				NC
30	A-	A	A-				NC
34	A-	A-	A-				NC
31	B	A	B				NC
36	A	A-	MF				NC
38	A pos	A	A	A	EL		EL
43	A	A	A	EL			EL
40	A-	A	A neg	EL			EL
33	A-	B	EL				EL
39	B	EL					EL

37	A	EL					EL
35	EL						EL
41	EL						EL

Making the selection for the final (see the example on the previous page)

- The criterion to qualify for the final should be the same for the two semi-finals.
- If the criterion is a qualification 'Good' that stands for 4 retrieves with two A- (no B, no MF) or better:
11 dogs/handlers from semi-final A and 7 dogs/handlers from semi-final B qualify for the final; a total of 18.
- If the criterion is a qualification 'Very good' that stands for 5 retrieves with two A- (no B, no MF) or better:
9 dogs/handlers from semi-final A and 4 dogs/handlers from semi-final B qualify for the final; a total of 13.

Important helpers

- For each pair of judges one steward (preferably with field trial experience) for calling up the dogs/handlers needed by the judges and one steward (preferably with picking up and/or shooting experience) for marking the game down during a drive. Eventually one person can do both jobs.
- One chief steward (who knows the ground, host, gamekeeper) for each trial who coordinates the trial in close understanding with the judges, stewards and the host/gamekeeper.
- Good picking up teams (handlers who know the ground, host, gamekeeper) that only work after permission by the chief steward.
- A flag-man/woman (instructed by the chief steward) positioning eventual spectators.

These Guidelines were approved by the FCI General Committee in Rome, April 2011. They are effective from September 1st, 2011.