

# **FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)**

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# FCI

## **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR WATERWORK DOGS**

### **REGULATIONS**





## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION CLASS FOR WATERWORK DOGS REGULATIONS

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The rules are applicable to all FCI international championships and FCI international competition class for water- work dogs. The concept must be seen as a sport, a competition for highly qualified couples of handlers and dogs who obtained the required qualities as proper initiative and ability to help people in the water. It is important that dogs have the physical capacity, morphology and temperament to execute and assist the handler in all different rescuing situations in water. This competition does not lead to operational work.

## 2. GENERAL RULES

### a. Regulation

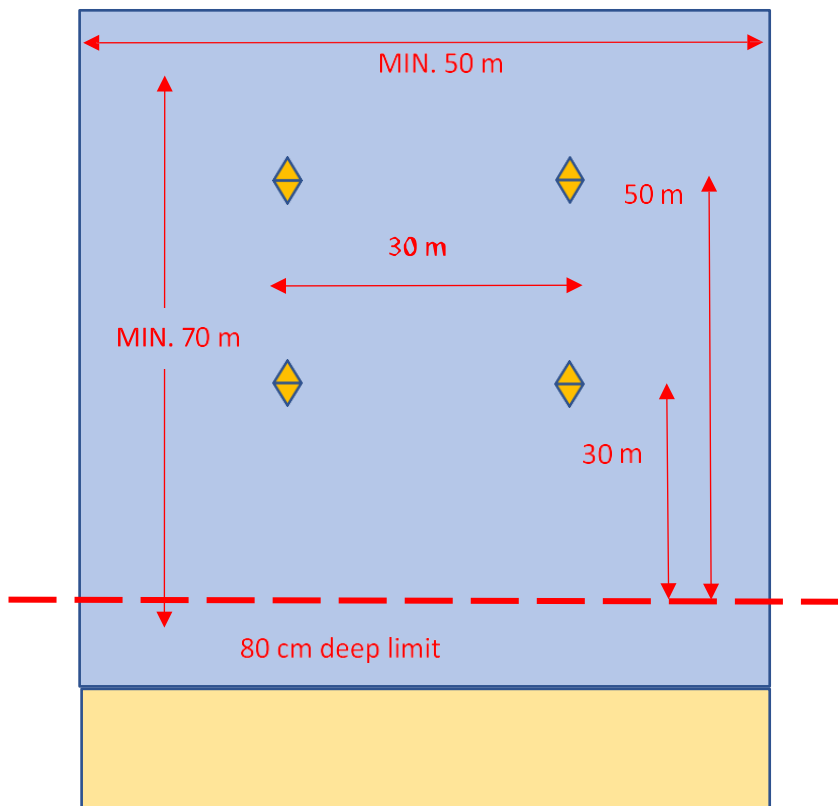
These rules are valid for FCI international championships and FCI international competitions of waterwork and can also be added as extra class in waterwork competitions approved by NCO.

### b. Rules modifications

The rules can be revised every 5 years by the commission.

### c. Competition site

The size of the water surface should be big enough to delimit a working area in the water of min. 50 m x 70 m and min. 2 m depth. This area must be free from any obstacles. The working area on land must be min. 500 m<sup>2</sup> on the beach with direct access to the water. The entrance to the water must be smooth without obstacles and safe to walk into the water. Hidden obstacles in the water must be removed.





#### **d. Admission and registration of participants**

Only dogs that have passed the highest class in a national waterwork competition can enter international competitions class without having to first pass all classes in the organising national canine (NCO)'s country

The entry form must contain the following data:

- Name, address, telephone number and email address of the owner and
- Name of the dog, breed, birthdate, stud book/registration number, identity mark (chip, tattoo)

The handler will include proof of the dog's results obtained in the highest class in the entry form by providing a copy of the waterwork result book, certification or license.

Each handler must be a member of a national organisation affiliated to the FCI (member, contract partner, cooperating partner).

A dog can be handled only by 1 handler. Double handling and changing handler during the competition is not allowed. NCO maximum number of dogs allowed per competition day may not exceed 18 dogs in international competition class on 1 competition day.

The dogs must be in good health and authorised to travel. The dogs must have all required documents and vaccinations required by the organising NCO's country.

It is clear that the judge -on own initiative and even against the dog handler's opinion- can terminate the performance, when the judge observes that the dog is sick or injured. The same also applies if the dogs that are presented, are obviously not able to perform because of their age and thus from an animal welfare perspective. The following remark is then added in the trial documents: "Termination due to injury".

#### **e. Bitch(es) in season**

Bitche(s) in season may only enter the competition area to execute their exercise. They are not allowed to cross the competition area at other times during the competition. It is recommended to the organisers to provide a separate space to locate the bitche(s) in season and inform all the participants about it.

#### **f. Judges**

Only judges that are licensed to judge abroad by their own NCO are authorised to judge international competition class in national competitions; the number of judges is set following the national rules.

#### **e. Helpers**

Only international qualified helpers can act in the international competition class. To become international qualified helper, helper must pass a test that is evaluated by 2 qualified judges. List of qualified judges is published by the commission. Helpers that pass the test will receive a diploma. A test is organised every year during the weekend of the European Championship.

An NCO that wants to organise additional tests for helpers in its own country has to ask the commission the authorisation to organise the test. The organising NCO is in this case in charge of judge's costs.

After the qualification test the judges will send a report of the test to the secretary of FCI commission to update the list of qualified international helpers.

During the competition the helpers are not allowed to discuss with or forward instructions of the judges to the participants, from which participants can take advantage.

The helpers need to be in good health conditions to perform all exercises in the competition. They must be able to climb from the water into a boat without help.



### 3. EXERCISES

#### a. General

Every dog performs 1 exercise on land and 4 exercises in water. Maximum number of points for each exercise is 20. Thus, the maximum number of points from the competition is 100 points.

The exercises in the water are divided in 3 groups:

A : retrieving drowning and unconscious person

B : retrieving (general)

C : bringing exercises.

The exercises in the water will be chosen by the raffle: 1 exercise from group A, 1 exercise from group B, 1 exercise from group C and one exercise from all the remaining exercises in any group.

Only 1 attempt per exercise is allowed, no exercise is eliminating. The dog that obtains the highest points wins the individual cup.

The objective of this competition will be to reward the work of the dog and the handler. Each exercise will therefore have one main objective and failure which results to zero points in that exercise.

#### b. Administration

The organising club is responsible for coordinating all the arrangements for the competition, like invitation and agreeing practical things with judges, helpers and other needed personnel. They are also responsible for taking care that all equipment needed in the competition is in place according to the rules.

Organising club is also responsible to prepare all the documents needed in the competition and acting as a secretary during the competition- Documents include:

- scoring forms for judges,
- scoring forms for the handlers that they will receive at the end of the competition

#### c. Safety

Every handler and every person that enters the boat must follow the security rules of the organising NCO's country and must accept instructions from the boat pilot and the judges.

For health and safety reasons, ground and water work area and boats are non-smoking areas.

#### d. Equipment

- A minimum of 2 inflatable boats between 3,5 and 4,5m in length with hard board floor equipped with an engine (min. 6 HP or electric powered equivalent), about 3-metre long, around 15-20mm diameter floating towline. Only a single knot at the end of the rope is allowed. The boats have to be equipped with anti-slip pads such as carpets or blankets on the inflatable tubes (on each side) to avoid a slip of a helper or a dog and avoid a risk of pinching a dog's paw under a rope. For safety reasons, the boat must have its safety ropes or handles on both sides to allow the helper to board the boat easily without help.  
Each boat must be equipped with an anchorage.
- A floating rope 15-20 mm in diameter and 60 m long without a knot on the reel.
- If floating bed is used, this should be between 10-15 cm thick and big enough to fit a normal adult on it.
- One lifebuoy equipped with a 15-20 mm floating rope running around the lifebuoy to form 4 non- sliding loops creating a 30 cm space wider than the width of the lifebuoy.
- A 50 NM head-on flotation lifejacket with straps to allow the helper to fully put it on.
- A sailboard without sail or sup board, equipped with a floating tow-line rope about 3 m long and 15- 20 mm in diameter. Only a single knot at the end of the rope is allowed.



- 5 marking buoys to delineate the working area (2 to 50 m and 2 to 30 m spaced 30-50 apart) and an additional buoy used to mark the location of the boats when fixed points are required in the exercise. Fifth buoy may be boarded by helpers or pilots to position the boat.
- Every handler, helper, pilot and judge must wear a full body covered neoprene suit min. 5 mm thick. Otherwise, a life vest must be worn, also when wearing a drysuit. If the local law of the organising NCO's country has further requirements, the organising NCO country has to inform the participants beforehand.
- Handlers are not allowed to wear jackets or other textiles and accessories that have pockets or other possibilities to hide toys, snacks, etc.

#### **e. Dog Equipment**

The dog must be presented with a harness and will wear it during all exercises of the competition (including groundwork). Harness must include at least one handle on top of the shoulder of the dog and 2 side rings about 15 cm in diameter (1 on each side). The strap around shoulder neck of the dog must provide enough free space to avoid the impression that the dog is kept on the leash. The judges will control the harness and the tension before the start of the competition and can renew the control when needed.

The harness may not provide any flotation assistance to the dog so that the judge can judge the dog's physical ability. No collar or similar around the neck is allowed during the ground and water exercises.

#### **f. Starting and stopping of exercises on water**

The judge gives permission to the handler to start the exercise and to give commands to the dog.

Start position from land is on the shore, handlers can enter the water till the dog reaches the swimming depth. This depth depends on the size of the dog. The handler who advances more is sanctioned.

Too strong assistance to the dog at the start will be sanctioned, the dog must show free initiative. A handler who touches a swimming dog is sanctioned.

When returning to shore at the end of the exercise, the handler comes to assist the dog as soon as the dog has all 4 paws on the ground.

The judge stops an exercise when the judge estimate that the dog is no longer working, when the dog has not started the exercise within 30 sec after the authorization of the judge or when a dog returns to the shore with 4 paws on the ground before the end of the exercise.

A handler who refuses to start an exercise is excluded from the competition and will be considered abandoned. The points already obtained will be the final result for the competitor.

#### **g. Instructions for helpers**

##### **Drowning person (conscious)**

- The helper is calling during the whole exercise, without ever pronouncing the name of the dog. However, the helper reduces the intensity of the call (voice and gesture) when the dog is within the 3 metres from the helper.
- The helper starts shouting as soon as the helper falls into the water.
- If the dog turns away before reaching the helper, the helper does not change anything but continues to shout in the same way as before.
- The helper will never swim/approach to catch a dog. Helper grabs the harness of the dog when the dog is within the arm length distance.
- The helper will try to stay in a fixed point in the water.
- During the triangle exercises the conscious helper will have to change the side of the dog if necessary to allow the dog to work comfortably with a helper on each side. First helper aims to change the side before hitting the second helper so that dog's progression is not blocked by the helper.
- In the exercises where the helper has to grab the rings of the harness or the lifebuoy, the helper stays upright in the water till the dogs pulls the helper in horizontal position.



### **Unconscious person**

- The helper keeps the open hand flat on the water with the inner side towards the water for both arms taking exercises so that the dog may choose to take the wrist, forearm or fingers.
- The thickness of the gloves of the divers is max. 5 mm. Max. length of the gloves is to cover the hand. No double protection on wrist or arm is allowed. Gloves have to be so long that when wearing dry suit, the dog does not break the seal. The helper may not wear any hard plastic and metal items like watches, bracelets, ...
- After falling into the water, an unconscious helper will place the feet in the direction required by the exercise. Unconscious helper does not make any movement or noise or make any correction of the position. Helper remains unconscious and floats with the movements of water and wind. If the dog swims over the body, arm, hand, or legs, the helper does not react as long there is no risk of injuries.
- The helper keeps the legs together to prevent the dog coming between the legs
- After dog has caught the arm, helper gives a sign to the handler by putting the other arm on the chest.
- During a painful arm grip, the helper must indicate this clearly to the handler to give the order to the dog for a release. Painful grip may be caused by poorly positioned grip or because dog's grip is too tight. In the first case helper shows the open hand to the dog handler who will command the dog for a release and recovery. In the second case when too tight is causing pain the helper will show the closed fist to indicate that to the judge. In this case handler needs to command the dog to release helper's arm and call the dog back.
- In case of exercise stopped by the helper due to painful arm catching, the helper has to show their hand to the judges to show the marks of the teeth. In case of doubt of the judges, they can ask to do again this exercise with the same dog but with the second helper to have a second advice.

#### **h. Boat pilots**

The pilots have the permits or authorization to drive the boats following the national civil laws. The pilot is responsible for the safety of the persons entering in the boat. It is recommended that the boat drivers are protected by insurance from the organising NCO's country or club.

The boat pilot is asked to drive the boat for every dog in the same way (trajectory – speeds – waiting location). When there is a fixed point with the boats, the boat pilot should keep the boat on the same spot. In case of stronger winds or water tides, it is required to use an anchor or marking buoy.

#### **i. Commands**

Correct commands are short eventually combined at the same time with a body signal. Continuous body signals are taken into account when awarding the points.

No command to start the exercise may be given before the authorization of the judge.

#### **j. Disqualifying errors**

The waterwork is a sport where the dog shows its ability to help people in the water. The dog must show a gentle and stable behaviour. Any form of aggressive behaviour towards humans or other animals is strongly penalized and aggressive behaviour during the competition leads to disqualification from the whole competition.

Every form of cheating or misleading by the handler results in disqualification. The handler is not allowed to bring any form of food, treats, snacks, toys etc. to the competition area.

If a dog climbs on the head or over the body of a helper it receives zero points from that exercise. If the dog just swims over an arm or a leg, it will just be sanctioned by a loss of points.



## 4. EXERCISES DESCRIPTION

### A. EXERCISE ON LAND

The ground exercise is divided into 2 parts of 10 points each.

#### Part 1:

The handler presents the dog to the judge on the leash. The judge takes a physical contact with the dog to check the dog's social behaviour. After that, the handler removes the leash and the collar of the dog and goes to the starting zone. The handler asks the dog to sit. After signal of the judge, the handler walks at normal walking speed approx. 50 m course determined by the judges passing through public and other dogs on the beach. Competitors in the same group will be along the course in a zone specified by the judges, with their dogs on leash and the behaviour of dogs not working is also judged.

#### Part 2:

The judge shows a spot where the dog has to lay down. The handler collects all equipment on the beach and puts them into the boat placed in the water (appr. 1 minute) and returns to the dog. The dog has to lay down during the whole exercise. After waiting of three seconds, the handler asks dog to sit and exercise is finished.

#### Main objective:

The dogs must show to follow the handler within a distance of 0,5m and stay in lay down position.

#### Failure:

- Dog leaves more than 3 m away from the handler
- Handler has physical contact with the dog
- Dog leaves the spot during stay period

### B. EXERCISES IN WATER

#### Group A

##### 1. The triangle with 2 helpers: start from land

The handler is with the dog on the beach. Two boats each having one helper inside are driven simultaneously with the distance of 25 metres in between towards 50-metre markings. When arrived at 30-metre marking the judge gives the signal to the 2 helpers to jump simultaneously into the water. Both boats continue their way out from the working area.

When both helpers are simulating drowning situation, the handler is allowed to send the dog. After the dog has been swimming approximately 5 m, the judge chooses by lottery for each dog which helper becomes unconscious. When the dog has been swimming appr. 10 m, the judge gives a signal to one of the helpers to become unconscious and to put the feet in the direction of the other helper.

The handler has to send the dog first to the drowning helper and the dog has to pass within 0,5m the drowning person so close that drowning person is able to grab one of the rings on the harness of the dog. The dog will continue towards the unconscious helper. The dog takes the unconscious helper by the wrist or hand and brings both to the handler on the beach. As soon as the dog can walk the handler goes to take the helpers by the hand.

#### Main objective:

The dog demonstrates the ability to recognize the prior saving of a conscious drowning person to an unconscious victim and the power to bring the two helpers safely on the beach. The dog must show a soft grip respecting the integrity of the helper.



**Failure:**

- Dog touches unconscious helper before saving the conscious helper
- Dog doesn't save both helpers together

## **2. The triangle with 2 helpers: start from boat**

The handler is with the dog in a boat placed at one of the 30-metre markings. The second boat with 2 helpers passes the other 30-metre marking and the judge gives the signal to the first helper to jump into the water and call for help. 15 m further the judge gives the signal to the second helper to jump into the water and lay unconscious with the feet towards the first helper.

When both helpers are in the water, the handler has to send the dog first to the drowning helper and the dog has to pass within 0,5m the drowning person so close that the helper is able to grab one of the rings on the harness of the dog. The dog will continue towards the unconscious helper. The dog takes the unconscious helper by the wrist or hand and brings both helpers to the handler in the boat.

**Main objective:**

The dog demonstrates the ability to jump off the boat and to recognize the prior saving of a conscious drowning person to an unconscious victim and the power to bring the two helpers safely to the handler. The dog must show a soft grip respecting the integrity of the helper.

**Failure:**

- Dog touches unconscious helper before saving the conscious helper
- Dog doesn't save any of both helpers together

## **Group B**

### **1. The hidden helper**

Two objects are placed 25 m from the beach, 5 m distance from the angle start position handler – boat. The boat will be placed at 50 m, an unconscious helper is hidden behind the boat. The dog and handler on the beach may not observe when the boat, helper and objects are placed in start position. Before the exercise starts, the objects are chosen by lottery between lifejacket, lifebuoy, boat fixed to anchor and floating dummy. The chosen objects are equal for all dogs.

On signal of the judge, the handler can turn towards water and send the dog to search the unconscious helper. The helper puts the feet in the direction of the boat. The dog takes the wrist or hand of the helper in its mouth and brings the helper back to the handler on the beach. As soon as the dog can walk the handler should take the helper by the hand.

**Main objective:**

The dog should swim in straight line without regard to the floating objects and search the helper behind the boat.

**Failure:**

- Dog catches one of the disturbing objects to its mouth
- Dog does not fetch the helper



## 2. Surfer fallen from the surfboard/sup board

The helper is sitting on the surfboard 50 m away from the beach and calls for help. The handler is on the beach with the dog.

The judge gives the signal to the handler to start the exercise. The dog swims to the helper. The helper gives the rope to the dog and the dog brings the surfboard back to the beach. Approximately at the 30-metre markings, the helper lies down and glides off the surfboard to the water and simulates unconscious person with the feet towards the beach. The handler asks the dog to drop the rope of the surfboard and to return to save the helper. The dog takes the wrist or hand of the helper in its mouth and brings the helper back to the handler on the beach. As soon as the dog can walk the handler goes to take the helper by the hand.

### **Main objective:**

To demonstrate the dog's ability to drop the rope and understand the importance of saving the person instead of the surfboard. When the dog saves the person without dropping the rope, max. half of the points can be obtained.

### **Failure:**

- The dog doesn't save the helper.

## 3. The boat on shore

The handler and the dog are in the boat 30 m from the beach. A second boat is placed close to the beach and the helper keeps the rope of the boat in the hand.

The helper starts to call the dog. As soon as the helper is calling, the handler sends the dog to jump and swim to the helper. When the dog is walking on 4 paws, the helper gives the rope to the dog and the helper enters the boat when it is floating. The dog brings the boat with the helper to the handler in the boat.

### **Main objective:**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to save a person in need on shore with the aid of a boat. The dog should show also the ability to return to the handler after the dog was standing with the 4 paws at the shore.

### **Failure:**

- The dog doesn't deliver the rope of the boat to the handler.

## 4. Lost boat from boat

One boat with a helper goes to appr. 30 m from the shore and stops the engine. The helper places the end of the rope appr. 30 cm floating in the water and the remaining rope inside the boat. The boat driver and the helper lie down in the boat out of sight. The dog and handler may not observe this while waiting in the boat at the shore. The boat with the dog and the handler is driven then to 30 m distance from the floating boat parallel to the shore. As soon as the judge gives the start signal, the dog jumps on order of the handler and swims to the second boat. The dog catches the rope and brings back the boat to the handler. The handler takes the rope and gives to the helper so the handler can take the dog in the boat.

### **Main objective:**

To demonstrate the dog's ability to find the floating rope without being called by anyone inside and bring it back to the handler.

### **Failure:**

- The dog doesn't deliver the boat to the handler.



## 5. Saving 2 drowning persons

The handler is with the dog on the beach. Two boats with one helper in goes parallel offshore spaced 25 m. At 30-metre marking one helper jumps into the water and simulates drowning situation. At 50-metre marking the second helper jumps into the water and simulates drowning situation.

The judge gives the signal to the handler to start the exercise. The dog swims in direct line to the helper 50 m from the shore and the handler swims in direct line to the helper 30 m from the shore. The handler secures the drowning helper while the dog is retrieving the second helper. When this second helper has grabbed the ring of harness of the dog, the dog will swim to the handler and the handler grabs the other ring of the harness. The dog continues to swim to the beach to bring back the handler and both helpers. The handler is allowed to help the dog in the return by swimming with the legs.

### **Main objective:**

To demonstrate the dog's ability to operate in collaboration with the handler. It is important that the dog has focus on the helper in 50 metres instead of following the handler.

### **Failure:**

- The dog doesn't bring back the handler and the 2 helpers to the beach.

## Group C

### 1. The triangle with lifebuoy and boat

The handler and the dog are on the beach. The boat with 2 helpers passes parallel to the beach at 30 m. The judge gives a signal to the first helper to jump into the water and to simulate a drowning situation. The boat continues 15m and stops, the second helper in the boat simulates panic situation without calling the dog.

On signal of the judge, the handler throws the lifebuoy into the water (or gives it into the dog's mouth) and sends the dog to the drowning helper. The dog swims to the helper within 0,50 m distance so that the helper is able to catch the lifebuoy (without catching the rings of the harness). Then the second helper in the boat will call the dog. The dog brings the first helper to the boat by the lifebuoy. When arriving to the boat, the dog brings the lifebuoy to the helper in the boat and the drowning helper climbs quickly to the boat him/herself. After the drowning helper is in the boat, the other helper in the boat gives the rope of the boat to the dog and the dog has to bring the boat back to the handler on the beach.

Regarding the exchange of lifebuoy rope to the rope of the boat, the dog should give the lifebuoy to the helper when helper puts the hand to the water to take it. In case that dog does not release the lifebuoy rope the following steps are taken which leads to loss of points:

- If the dog does not release the lifebuoy, the handler gives a second release order
- If the dog still does not release the lifebuoy, the helper will make a short and small tension on the lifebuoy rope to cause a release.
- If the dog still does not release the lifebuoy, the helper offers the dog an exchange with the front rope of the boat

### **Main objective:**

The dog must bring the helper with the lifebuoy safely to the boat, drop freely the lifebuoy to the helper in the boat, wait to take the rope after the helper is in the boat and bring boat back to handler



**Failure:**

- Dog doesn't bring helper to boat
- Dog doesn't bring boat back to handler

## 2. Lifebuoy: start from boat

The two boats are on the beach, in the first one are the dog and its handler, in the second is the helper. The first boat is in line with the 30 and 50-metre marking buoys while the second is slightly outside the other line with 30 and 50-metre marking buoys. Both boats head out offshore. The first boat with the dog and the handler stops at the 30 m mark while the second passes the 30 metre-marking and the helper jumps into the water. This boat doesn't stop and continues to 50-metre marking in the 30-50 m line from the first boat.

As soon as the helper falls into the water, the handler throws the lifebuoy into the water and asks the dog to take it to the helper who calls and simulates drowning. As soon as the dog is in the water, the first boat continues directly towards the second boat which is at the marking buoy of the 50 m. The first boat secures the second while

the dog works undisturbed to save the helper. The dog passes helper with the lifebuoy less than 0.5 m from the helper, so close that the helper can catch the lifebuoy (without grabbing the harness). The dog brings the helper by the lifebuoy back to the handler who secured the second boat. The helper will first be mounted on the boat and after the dog is taken into the boat.

**Main objective:**

To demonstrate the dog's ability to save a person with the lifebuoy without being disturbed by the fact the handler is leaving to secure the second boat

**Failure:**

- Dog doesn't bring lifebuoy to the helper
- Dog doesn't bring helper to the handler in boat

## 3. The lifejacket

The handler and the dog are in the first boat 30 m from the beach. A second boat with the helper passes the first boat from 30 m distance and the judge gives the signal to the helper to jump into the water. The helper simulates a drowning situation. After the judge has given the start signal, the handler gives the command to the dog to jump into the water. When the dog is in the water, the handler gives the lifejacket to the dog. Lifejacket is not thrown to the water but given to the dog. If the dog has jumped far, handler commands dog to come back. The dog takes the lifejacket to the drowning helper.

The dog approaches the helper within 0,50 m distance and gives the lifejacket to the helper voluntarily or following order by the handler when the helper approaches the lifejacket. The helper takes the time to put the lifejacket on. The dog must stay close until lifejacket is on and until the helper has grabbed one of the rings of the harness. The dog returns with the helper to the handler in the boat. Helper is taken first into the boat and dog after that.

When bringing the lifejacket to the helper, the dog should give the lifejacket by its own initiative or by order of the handler. In case dog does not give lifejacket to the helper, the following actions are taken leading to reduction of points

- If the dog does not give the lifejacket, the handler gives a second release order
- If the dog still does not give lifejacket, the helper will make a short and small tension on the lifejacket to cause a release.

Reduction in points is also done when the dog doesn't stay close to the helper during the waiting time while the lifejacket is put on or dog is too close and disturbs the helper.



**Main objective:**

To demonstrate the dog's ability to take lifejacket to helper, to show patience while helper is dressing the lifejacket, and to return the helper to the handler in the boat

**Failure:**

- After the dog has taken a lifejacket, it is not swimming to the helper or is coming back to the handler without helper
- Dog is not delivering lifejacket to the helper

#### 4. The floating bed/surfboard/sup board

A helper goes on a floating bed/surfboard/sup board to the 30-metre marking. The handler and the dog are on the beach. The helper sits on the floating bed/surfboard/sup board and on the judge's signal the helper starts calling the dog.

The handler gives the rope to the dog. The dog brings the rope to the helper. The dog has to give the rope to the helper. The handler pulls back the helper on the bed to the shore while the dog is swimming back aside the helper.

**Main objective:**

Assist a helper on difficulties and give the rope.

**Failure:**

- Dog doesn't give the rope to the helper or catches it again after it has been given

#### 5. Passenger transportation

First boat is anchored on 30 m offshore with a helper, a judge and a pilot inside, parallel to the shore. The handler and the dog are on the beach with the second boat.

The handler gives the front rope of the boat to the dog and gives the order to the dog to go to the anchored boat. The handler jumps into the boat to go with the dog towards the boat in difficulties. The dog has to take the boat close enough of the anchored boat to allow the helper to change of boat. After that, the dog has to bring the boat back to the shore with the helper and the handler inside.

**Main objective:**

The dog is able to bring a boat and turn on order close enough so helper can change boats.

**Failure:**

- The helper cannot change the boat because dog has left it too far away or the dog doesn't bring
- The boat back to the shore.

#### 6. Bringing boat to shore

Two boats start simultaneously. First boat with the handler and the dog will go to one of the 50-metre markings. The second boat with the helper will go the opposite 30-metre marking. The helper places the end of the rope appr. 30 cm floating in the water and the remaining rope inside the boat. When the boats are in place, the judge gives the signal to both boat drivers to start moving slowly at 'rowing' speed parallel to the shore. As soon as the boats are moving, the judge gives the signal to the handler to start the exercise, and the helper starts to call for the dog.

The handler gives the command to the dog to jump and go to find the rope in the second boat. When approaching the second boat, the boat driver stops the engine and the dog has to find the rope by itself. Then, the dog has to bring the second boat to the shore. As soon as the dog can walk, the dog can drop the rope and the exercise is finished. The second helper on the shore will keep the dog until the handler has joined the dog.



**Main objective:**

The dog has to show it can find the rope and bring to the shore.

**Failure:**

- The dog is not bringing the boat to the shore.

**These regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee in August 2025 (Helsinki) and are effective upon publication.**

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