

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)

Place Albert 1er, 13, B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique), tel : +32.71.59.12.38, internet: <https://www.fci.be>

EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP FOR WATERWORK DOGS



Supported by the FCI



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR WATERWORK DOGS ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	GENERAL RULES	3
	a. Competition site	3
	b. Organisation of annual competition	3
	c. Trophies	3
	d. Financial aspects	3
	e. Admission and registration of competitors	3
	f. Judges	4
	g. Helpers	4
	h. Date of the competition and schedule	4
	i. Training	5
3.	EXERCISES	5
	a. Progression	5
	b. Administration	5
	c. Equipment	5
	d. Bitch(es) in season	5



1. INTRODUCTION

The European Open Championship for waterwork dogs is supported by the FCI and is open to all national canine organisations members, contract partners and cooperating partners of the FCI (NCO).

2. GENERAL RULES

a. Competition site

A campsite to host the participating teams should be within the walking distance from the competition area.

b. Organisation of European Championship

The NCO that wants to organise next year's Championship, must send to the Commission min. 30 days before the annual competition a full detailed presentation map for next year's competition. The map includes all information about location, plans, pictures of competition area and list of hotels (pets accepted). The commission will study the provided information. After approval the commission assigns the organisation of next year's Championship and sets the participation fee.

If 2 or more NCOs want to organise the Championship, the commission will decide the organising NCO NC referring to geographical situation and past organisations. The next organising NCO will present the location and their organisation during the official dinner of the annual Championship. The next organising NCO has to participate with a team the year before they organise the Championship themselves.

c. Trophies

The trophies of the best national team and the best individual dog will be given every year. The team with the highest sum of 3 individual results wins the Nations Cup.

d. Financial aspects

The organising NCO will open a special account for the annual competition. Entry fees will be paid to this bank account. The entry fee should cover all the expenses for judges, helpers and the operational costs of the commission. Travel costs will follow FCI rules: equal to the reasonable price for an 'economy class' ticket by plane or train in economic class for distances above 350 km, shorter distances by car travel costs will be calculated by km.

e. Admission and registration of competitors

The national organisation shall confirm their participation before the 1st of June. The registration must contain the following information:

- Name of the national organisation
- Name, address, telephone number and email address of the team leader(s)

A maximum of 3 dog handlers per NCO can be admitted. Each handler may only enter with one dog. Each national organisation can register two substitutes into the Championship, who are also to be listed in the catalogue. If any of the team members cannot take part because of illness/accident, they may only be replaced by the persons registered as substitute competitors.

In the case of too few registrations, the Commission can allow the registered substitute handlers to enter the Championships for their team additionally. The decision is to be made and communicated to the team leaders immediately after the closing date for registration and before the 15th of June.

The national organisation will pay the entry fee.

The selection of the dogs is done by the member NCO. The national organisation shall send all the registrations to the organiser and the general secretary before the 1st of August.

The registration must contain the following information:

- Name of the national organisation
- Name, address, telephone number and email address of the team leader(s)

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, etc.), copy of achieved highest level, result book, certificate or license.

Each competitor must be a member of a national organisation that is affiliated to the FCI. The dog owner must have the nationality of the country for which his/her dog will compete or must have his/her legal residence (in according with the FCI Statutes) for a minimum of 12 months in the country for which he/she will compete.



The dog handler who must also have the nationality of the country he/she is competing for or must have his/her legal residence for a minimum of 12 months in that country will not be allowed to compete for more than one NCO and will be authorised to handle only one dog. If the dog owner and/or handler has a double nationality he/she can choose either country without any restriction. After his/her first participation, he/she is not able to compete for another country in future. If difficulties arise, they must be referred to the Commission for final settlement. The dog must have been registered with the studbook or appendix to the studbook of the NCO for which it will compete for a minimum of 6 months.

A dog can be handled only by 1 handler. Double handling and changing handler during the competition is not allowed. The team leader can replace a couple handler/dog by a substitute, latest before the drawn out of starting grit and exercises. The dogs must be in good health and authorised to travel. The dogs must have all the required documents and vaccinations to enter the organising NCO.

The winner of the Championship shall be automatically entitled to enter the Championship the following year and his/her NCO will select him/her inside their national team to defend his/her title with the dog with which it won the title. Registrations that cannot be considered shall be brought to the notice of the national organisation concerned in writing without delay.

f. Judge

The European Open Championship will be judged by 2 qualified judges for international waterwork competitions. One judge is proposed by the organising NCO and one judge is proposed by the next organising NCO. The commission will confirm the 2 judges for the Championship. In case where the next organising NCO is not known before the closing, the commission will assign the second judge.

The judges can discuss about the performance of the dog, but each judge gives the points independently without showing or informing the points to the other judge. The secretary will publish the average of both points when all dogs have finished that exercise.

A meeting of judges (all the judges present on place) will be organised before the competition.

g. Helpers

Helpers will be selected by the organising NCO (or commission in case the next organising NCO is not known before the closing) from a list of qualified helpers. The names of the selected helpers have to be communicated to the commission for validation.

The helpers cannot come only from the organising NCO.

The helpers and the pilots will have a briefing and training before the competition; the dogs of the reserve teams can be used for this training.

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 advantages.

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

h. Date of the European Open Championship and schedule

The date of the Championship will be decided during the annual commission meeting 2 years before and has to take place at the end of the season from the last week of August onwards.

The principles for planning the competition will be as follows:

The starting day of the competition will be defined regarding the number of NCO that want to participate. The maximum number of dogs for one day is 18 and maximum number of exercises per day is 90. When more dogs take part in the competition, the competition will be run over more days with the respect of max. 90 exercises per day. All dogs have to perform same exercises on the same day.

The competition will finish on Sunday when also the end ceremony with the award ceremony is taking place. A detailed schedule of the event is done by the commission and sent to the delegates latest on 1st of August. The annual European Open Championship can be cancelled when there are less than 10 participants registered.



i. Training

All teams have the possibility for free training the day before the competition. Each delegate informs the organising NCO min. 30 days before, if they want to participate in the training in order to make a schedule for training. The organising NCO will make a schedule and transfer to all team leaders. Each team will bring their own helpers but the pilots are provided by the organising NCO. The official helpers are not allowed to assist during this free training.

Once the exercises are chosen by lottery, no competitor has access with the dog to the competition area. During the competition the dogs are only allowed to enter the water in the competition area to perform the exercises and if the weather is too hot the organising NCO will provide access to the water just to refresh the dog and not for training. Any other training/access to the water will lead to disqualification.

3. EXERCISES

a. Progression

The exercises to be performed in the competition as well as the start list of dogs in the competition for the first exercise is chosen by lottery in the opening ceremony.

All dogs perform the first exercise on land. The total number of participants will be divided into groups of 6-9 dogs to perform the land exercise. After that, the exercises in water are performed so that each dog performs one exercise in each round: 1st exercise in round one, 2nd exercise in round two etc.

After the first land exercise, the starting order in following water exercises are performed according to the ranking of the dog after each exercise so that the dog with lowest points so far starts and the dog with highest points performs last.

b. Administration

The commission will prepare:

- Registration forms for national teams
- Registration forms for handlers and dogs

c. Equipment

For the Championship a third inflatable boat between 3,5m and 4,5m in length equipped with an engine (min. 6 HP or electric powered equivalent) is required for reserve in case some technical issue would occur with one of the other boats.

d. Bitch(es) in season

In case of the presence of a bitch(es) in season, the participating teams are divided into two groups (males and females). The males will be the first group and perform all exercises first. When all the males have finished all the exercises, the females will be able to start their competition. When the competition is organised so that it lasts more than one day, the group of females performs the scheduled exercises on the same day as the group of males. However, there will be only one general classification.

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 whole weekend. It is recommended to the organising NCO in providing a separate space to locate the bitch(es) in season and informing this space to all participants.

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

The English text is the authentic document.