

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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## Minutes of the FCI Agility Committee meeting Helsinki, Finland–2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2019

**Item 1 - Present were delegates from** – see attendance list:

Austria: Gabriele Steppan  
Belgium: Wilfried Claes (Vice-President)  
Croatia: Alen Marekovic  
Czech Republic: Eva Lacnakova  
Denmark: Allan Hansen  
Estonia: Piret Reinsalu  
Finland: Mia Laamanen (in replacement of Mr R. Ojanperä)  
France: Maryannic Jourden  
Germany: Christa Bremer (President)  
Hungary: Tamás Tráj  
Italy: Paolo Meroni (Vice-President)  
Japan: Rie Nemoto  
Luxembourg: Romain Stein  
Latvia: Solvita Možeika  
Lithuania: Dalia Udriene  
Netherlands: Marc Valk  
Norway: Linda Stensrud (in replacement of Mr T. Thiesen)  
Poland: Leszek Kalisz  
Portugal: Luis Narciso (in replacement of Mr H. Pinto)  
Russia: Grigorii Grechkin  
Slovenia: Blaz Oven  
Spain: Berit Kittel  
Switzerland: Peter Feer

**Excused were the delegates from:** Ireland, Slovakia, Sweden

**Absent were the delegates from:** Argentina, Bulgaria, Columbia, Greece, Monaco, Philippines, Republic of San Marino, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine

**Interpreters:** Hiroko Kanari (Japan) – Agnieszka Krystyna Kowalik (Poland)

**Guest:** Mr Steve Croxford, President of „The Kennel Club“/Great Britain

The President opened the meeting at 8.30h.

She welcomed the delegates and thanked Wilfried Claes for standing in for her during the time she was unable to chair the meetings as President of the Committee.

### **Item 2: Approval of the agenda**

Additions to the agenda:

Portugal 2021 EO add to item 4

Application for the JEO from Germany add to item 6

Request from the World Dutch Shepherd Federation add to item 8

The agenda was approved.

### **Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the last meeting**

No remarks. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

### **Item 4: Information AWC – EO - JEO**

#### **Agility World Championships 2019**

- The schedule will be like last year's in Sweden.
- The organisers are aiming to fill the stadium (10.000 seats). Saturday will be a family day, different dog disciplines will be presented etc.
- Two big training facilities are available for pre-event about 10 kilometres from the city centre. Both can be rented from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Details will be sent to the team leaders. They are open to all proposals for training.
- The organisers have negotiated a deal with Sixt for car rental for the team leaders.
- One parking slot will be reserved for each team close to the entrance to the hall.
- There will be a shuttle bus from the City Centre to the Gatorade Centre – with a competitor pass free of charge.
- In Finland agility is a sport under doping regulations for the dog and the handler.

#### **European Open 2019**

- FCI European Open 2019 will be held in Arnhem, the Netherlands
- Competition dates are: 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019
- 25<sup>th</sup> July: booking in, training, vet. check and measuring.
- Venue will be Sport Centre Papendal (same location as EO in 2009)
- Webpage: [www.eo2019.eu](http://www.eo2019.eu)
- Email: [info@eo2019.eu](mailto:info@eo2019.eu)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EO2019NL>

Bringing dogs to the Netherlands:

- The animal must first have an ID. This must be an implanted microchip. EU: The animal must have an EU Pet passport. The passport must be issued by a veterinarian
- vaccinated against rabies which is certified by a veterinarian in the passport. The primary rabies vaccination must be given at an age of at least 12 weeks and at least 21 days prior to departure. Therefore, importing animals younger than 15 weeks is not possible in the Netherlands.
- High risk country's need blood sample, testing the rabies antibody level (not on this list: <https://eurlex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R0577&from=NL#page=7>)

Animal welfare:

- Very strict in Netherlands
- Cropped dogs are not allowed / Docked dogs are allowed if accompanied by a medical document (or naturally bobtailed)
- Animal Welfare Team will be on site. They will check if dogs are well treated (i.e. have enough water, are not left alone in car) They will have the authorization to disqualify competitors.

#### **Junior European Open 2019**

12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Switzerland

- The Bodensee Arena is an Ice Hockey Arena with 6'000 seats
- Multi-purpose arena, among them are concerts and exhibitions
- Restaurant and Hotel with lecture rooms in the arena
- Outdoor area with five soccer fields of the local football club FC Kreuzlingen
- The location is precisely on the border between Germany and Switzerland

- Directly adjacent to the lake with possibilities to take a refreshing bath for dogs and handlers
- Food & Beverage for visitors, volunteers and competitors will be provided by the Bodensee Arena
- In front of the arena is an area with 540 parking slots as camping spots for the competitors with caravans and campers. The traffic management will be organized by the local police force of the city of Kreuzlingen
- Electricity and water for the campers will be provided through the already existing infrastructure. The infrastructure will be offered from the city of Kreuzlingen and the Bodensee Arena
- For the visitors and spectators are 130 public parking spots available. Further parking possibilities are available close to Kreuzlingen Tägerwilen with a shuttle service to the Bodensee Arena

Registrations can be made from 31.3.2019 on [www.jeo2019.com](http://www.jeo2019.com)

For questions about registration, please contact [sport@jeo2019.com](mailto:sport@jeo2019.com)

### **European Open 2021**

There were some concerns expressed in previous meeting about weather conditions in Portugal for this event.

- Will be held in Abrantes, about 1 hour from Lisbon and Porto
- Natural grass on soccer pitch
- At the end of July the average will be about 30 degrees, humidity 40 – 50%
- Large (20 x 60) climate-controlled marquee to accommodate the dogs (25 degrees)
- Water sprays at many points to cool dogs and handlers
- Two swimming pools for dogs
- Proposal to have early start in the morning with some hours break during the hottest part of the day and continuing into the evening
- There are enough hotels that allow dogs

The delegate informs the committee that the Portuguese kennel club will propose to move the date forward to 15 – 18 July, because the average daytime temperature will be about 2 degrees lower.

### **Item 5: Nomination foreign judges for the 2020 JEO and EO**

#### **a) Junior European Open 2020**

There are three nominations – votes in brackets:

Petr Pupík (15),

Kurt Ove Stenset (10)

Anders Virtanen (16)

Petr Pupík (Czech Republic) and Anders Virtanen (Finland) will be the foreign judges for the 2020 JEO.

#### **b) European Open 2020 (United Kingdom)**

Three nominations – votes in brackets:

Sacha Grunder (17)

Renan Andrade Campos (12)

Jari Suomalainen (14)

Sacha Grunder (Switzerland) and Jari Suomalainen (Finland) will be the foreign judges for the 2020 EO.

A discussion took place about the courses presented by the judges as examples of their course design. Concern was expressed that the courses presented did not comply with the judging guidelines. Another concern was the trend amongst judges to leave out certain obstacles from their course designs (e.g. the tyre and the flat tunnel).

The point was made that the judges at these events are the trend setters and will influence course design before and after these important international events.

It was suggested that the judges at these events should be asked to ensure that their designs should include all the official obstacles and must be used at least once in their course plans during the event. The course plans sent in for nominations, as well as the course plans for the events, should also include the judge's path. This was agreed.

This guideline will be applied from this year onward and will be used for the AWC, JEO and EO.

If the nominated judge sends in examples of courses which do not comply with FCI rules or guidelines, they will immediately be rejected and not considered for the FCI sanctioned events. The nominations from the countries for judges must be received by the committee at least six weeks before the meeting for them to be considered and these must include example course plans.

## **Item 6: Updating EO and JEO regulations**

### **European Open**

Two proposals for the EO to be considered.

Removing the name of the host country from the rules - as well as the names of competitors that are entitled to defend titles. It will make reworking the rules every year unnecessary. This was agreed.

To reduce the number of dogs allowed per country.

The example was given that in 2018 there were 400 dogs in the category Large alone. This meant early start and late finish for the large dog judge and it is considered that is probably too many dogs for one judge in one day.

- Reduce the number of dogs for the home country from 64 and lower the maximum number of dogs to 28 per country.
- It was agreed at the meeting in October 2017 that the waiting list should be removed from the rules and this was confirmed at the meeting of 2018. It was therefore agreed that reference to the 'waiting list' should be removed from the rules.
- In each height category the team can enter a maximum of three reserve dogs per height category.
- A country may enter up to a maximum of 28 dogs and with a maximum of 12 dogs in any one height category.
- The cap on the maximum amount of entries of 750 is to be removed.
- It was agreed that the host country should continue to have a higher quota of entries than all the other teams. The host country may enter any additional team of four dogs per height category. Maximum of 16 + 12 + 12.
- Handlers entering the event must confirm they agree to abide by the FCI rules.

The changes made to these rules will come into effect in the competition year after the rules for this event are changed.

### **Junior European Open**

- For the JEO the quota will be the same as the recommended changes for the EO, i.e. a maximum of 28 dogs in total per country. A maximum of twelve dogs in one height category and a maximum of eight dogs in each of the other two height categories.
- A country may exceed its quota and additional dogs beyond the maximum will go on to the waiting list. After the closing date for entries the organisers may select dogs from the waiting list. Only dogs already on the waiting list will be entered by the organisers.
- The waiting list for the JEO will apply until such time as the maximum number of dogs in total at the event reaches its limit i.e. 700 dogs (max. 300 dogs in Large).

The entry fee for the JEO this year will be €45,00 for both the individual and team competition, €30,00 for the individual or the team event.

The changes made to these rules will come into effect in the competition year after the rules for this event are changed

International events:

AWC: 2019 Finland – 2020 Estonia – 2021 Russia – 2022 Czech Republic

EO: 2019 Netherlands – 2020 United Kingdom – 2021 Portugal – 2022 Belgium

JEO: 2019 Switzerland

Finland expresses an interest in organising the 2020 JEO and Portugal for 2021 one week earlier than the EO and at the same place.

### **Sunday:**

#### **Item 7: Dealing with complaints outside the competition**

The Vice President explained that the aim of the procedure was to deal with incidents (for example, unacceptable or unsportsmanlike behaviour) occurring at official events that cannot be resolved at the time of the event, or immediately after the incident concerned.

A long debate on the subject concluded that the draft will be revised, and the final version presented at the next meeting.

Out of the debate the idea also grew whether there should be an assistant judge who could advise in case of obvious errors. The following was proposed to be used for briefing the assistant judge:

'It should be stressed that the judge's assistant is not there to judge and cannot themselves make decisions, except for the up-contact of the dogwalk and, if need be, the tube tunnel if it is positioned under the up-plank of the dogwalk. He (or she) is not there to advise on the judges' opinion or interpretation of a set of circumstances; his/her role is to assist in matters such as a missed dislodged brick out of the wall, or any other obvious occurrence. However, should the Judge wish to seek the opinion of the judge's assistant on any matter then he or she is of course free to offer advice if requested to do so.

If something obvious is seen to have been missed by the judge, the judge's assistant can advise the judge in the ring immediately after a run, thus enabling the correct decision to be reached.

The assistant should position himself/herself at a quiet location ringside and should stand up at all times to obtain the best possible view.

This system is not designed to undermine or replace the judge, or to indicate a lack of confidence in his/her abilities, but these are high pressure, public events which are quite often time driven. By employing this system, the judge and his/her assistant should work together as a team to ensure that any obvious errors in judging can be avoided.'

The committee agreed that these guidelines and the use of an assistant judge should be tested at the next world championships.

#### **Item 8: Other business**

It was suggested that the committee begin to consider what the impact might be on the AWC, JEO and EO if the committee was to recommend one or more extra categories.

Some countries offer the option to compete in XS, S, S/M, M, M/L, L, XL in their national events.

A working party will review this: Marc Valk, Eva Lacnakova, Gabi Steppan, Tamás Tráj and Risto Ojanperä  
Eva will write the reports.

A request from the World Dutch Shepherd Federation: would it be acceptable if they use the name 'WDSF Agility World Champion'. The committee had no objections.

They also asked if they would be able to send the winner of this competition as a wild card to the FCI Agility World Championships. This the committee did not agree with.

Proposals for the guidelines should be sent in before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Russia wanted to know when there would be another judges workshop in 2019. They would be a candidate to host it. Finland and Austria also expressed an interest in hosting it.

The countries are asked to update the judges list on a regular basis.

There was a remark that some kennel clubs are quite slowly to confirm when they are asked if one of their judges is qualified/approved to judge abroad.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

The next February meeting will be held 1/2 February 2020.

The president thanked the Finnish kennel Club for taking such good care of us. She also thanked the delegates and wished them a safe return home. She closed the meeting at 12.10h.



Christa Bremer

President



Wilfried Claes

Vice-President