

DOG SHOW REGULATIONS

Approved by the Council of the Finnish Kennel Club on 29.5.2016. Valid from 1.1.2017 to 31.12.2021.

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1. GENERAL

These regulations apply to dog shows authorised by Suomen Kennelliitto (SKL, Finnish Kennel Club). By entering a dog in a show, the exhibitor commits to follow these regulations as well as the supplementary SKL dog show organiser's rules and FCI rules as well as consents to the possible publication and handover to third parties of personal and address details submitted in the entry form unless the exhibitor has separately refused this on the part of his or her address details.

A dog show must be announced at least two months before its realisation in the SKL publication *Koiramme - Våra Hundar*.

2. PURPOSE OF DOG SHOWS

The purpose of dog shows is to afford an opportunity for dog breeders and dog owners to compete with the dogs they own/present. In dog shows the results of breeding efforts can be compared and the breeding material available in their breed can be evaluated.

Dog's welfare always takes top priority at all dog shows.

3. RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION

Dogs belonging to breeds approved by the FCI and the Nordic Kennel Union (NKU) and registered by FCI-recognised national kennel clubs may participate in dog shows, provided that they have identification number approved by the SKL and meet the SKL health requirements in force at the time. In international dog shows, breeds that have not been approved by the FCI are placed separately in the show catalogue and may not participate in group finals.

A dog may not wear a muzzle or other comparable control implement during judging.

Dog show participation is not open to

* dogs, which are not vaccinated as required under the Kennel Club vaccination regulations.

* sick dogs.

* bitches in whelp 30 days or less before whelping (= 63 days after the first mating) and whelped bitches before 75 days after whelping

* dogs that have their ears cropped or tails docked in a manner that breaches Finnish law (see separate list of breeds that exhibit so-called natural bobtails)

- * dangerously aggressive dogs.
- * dogs, which have been given the grading *disqualified* on three occasions because of mental attributes at dog shows.
- * dogs which have been subjected to measures aimed at improperly altering their appearance, performance or character, or intended to conceal signs of injury or illness.
- * dogs, whose coat has been dyed or trimmed in a manner that is contrary to the breed standard with the purpose of concealing, for example, long coat or the dog's actual coat quality.
- * it is forbidden to prepare a dog with any substance that will alter the structure, colour or form of the coat, nose or skin.
- * dogs that are in breach of general anti-doping regulations (appendix 1).

For the purposes of investigating suspected breaches of regulations, a person authorised by the Show Committee is entitled to take necessary samples during the dog show or within five days of its conclusion.

The right to participate does not extend to

- * dogs with an owner, or even one member in a consortium of owners, who has, as an additional sanction, been banned from participating in dog shows as an exhibitor or handler by the Disciplinary Committee of SKL or who has been temporarily banned from participating in dog shows as an exhibitor or handler by the Board of SKL.
- * breeder groups with even one member breeder who has, as an additional sanction, been banned from participating in dog shows as an exhibitor or handler by the Disciplinary Committee of SKL or who has been temporarily banned from participating in dog shows as an exhibitor or handler by the Board of SKL.

3.1 Conflicts of interest

Dog shows shall observe the SKL's general rule for conflicts of interest in force at the time.

3.2. Health regulations

The dog show's veterinarian may examine dogs and dismiss a dog from the venue if it is discovered to be sick. The vet may also take samples from dogs during the course of the show or within five days of the show's conclusion.

4. ENTERING

Entry must be submitted either via mail or electronically on a form approved by SKL and, together with the entry fee, delivered to the Show Committee before the entry period ends.

Both the date of payment and the date on the letter's postmark must be no later than the last day of the entry period.

Dogs must take part using the name and breed that they are registered under. Dogs must be signed up for a quality grading class in which they are entitled to participate. Dogs may not be transferred to another class (unless the case involves a mistake attributable to the organiser) after the close of the entry period.

Dogs that have been entered with incorrect details may be excluded from the show and any results it has achieved can be cancelled.

5. REFUND OF ENTRY FEE

An exhibitor may request a refund of the entry fee if

- the dog show is cancelled.
- entry is cancelled because of a change in judge, unless the Show Committee has, before the close of the initial entry period, announced a reserve judge for the breed in the dog show's official announcement (*Koiramme - Våra hundar* magazine).
- entry or entry fee arriving too late.
- the breeder of a dog entered at the show is invited to judge for the breed in question after the close of the entry period.

Entry fees will not be refunded if

- a dog entered at the show has not been vaccinated or identification marked in accordance with SKL regulations.
- a dog entered at the show or dog's owner becomes ill.
- The dog show is cancelled because of a force majeure event (official ban on public gatherings, transport strike, dog health emergency, etc.)

The Show Committee is entitled to deduct the administrative costs caused by a refund of entry fees.

6. REGULATIONS CONCERNING EXHIBITORS

Exhibitors must look after the wellbeing and appropriate treatment of their dogs.

Exhibitors are responsible for covering any damages the dogs they own/handle may cause at the show.

Exhibitors may not start conversations with the judge before or during the judging unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

Exhibitors may not disturb or criticise the judge or in any other way conduct themselves inappropriately or ignore good manners in the show place.

7. LIABILITY INSURANCE

The show's organiser is required to take out a group accident insurance for the judges and ring officials as well as a liability insurance policy, which covers the compensation liability that may derive from personal injury or damaged property occurring to an audience member, an official or an external party in relation with the organising of the dog show.

8. JUDGES

The officiating judge must be authorized by SKL.

9. RULES FOR JUDGING

The officiating judge gives a written report of each dog on a SKL form. A duplicate of this report will be given to the exhibitor.

The judge may, under his or her own discretion, decide to accept only a veterinary certificate approved by the SKL and take this into consideration if the dog has an injury that affects quality grading (e.g. vertebral anomaly in the tail or a missing tooth). A notation of the presentation of a certificate must be made in the report form.

No attempt may be made to disturb the dog or reduce dogs' chances of being judged fairly.

Obviously influencing the dog during judging with the help of anyone inside or outside the ring is forbidden. The officiating judge or a ring official must intervene in activities that disturb judging inside or outside the ring.

Dogs that arrive too late for judging can only receive a quality grading.

Once a dog has been brought into the ring for measuring and/or quality grading, it must be presented in all the classes for which it is eligible on the basis of its competition record, unless the Show Committee grants permission for the dog to leave prior to the conclusion of the show.

10. JUDGING CRITERIA

Dogs are judged by class in a sequence determined by the dog show's regulations. A written report will be provided on the participating dogs.

10.1. Quality grading

As many different quality grades as is required in light of the breed standard of the presented dogs shall be issued.

Quality grades:

The quality grading the judge issues must correspond with the following definitions:

EXCELLENT may only be awarded to a dog which comes very close to the ideal standard of the breed, which is presented in excellent condition, displays a harmonious, well-balanced temperament, is of high class and has excellent posture. Its superior characteristics in respect of its breed permit that minor imperfections can be ignored; it must however have the typical features of its sex.

VERY GOOD may only be awarded to a dog which possesses the typical features of its breed, has a well-balanced structure and is in good condition. A few minor faults may be tolerated, but none of a morphological nature. This grading can only be awarded to a dog that shows class.

GOOD may be awarded to a dog that is a typical representative of its breed, however showing clear faults.

SUFFICIENT must be awarded to a dog which corresponds adequately to its breed without possessing the generally accepted characteristics or whose physical condition leaves something to be desired.

DISQUALIFIED shall be awarded to a dog whose morphology does not correspond with the breed standard, is clearly angry or whose behaviour does not match the breed standard, does not have normally developed and positioned testicles, lacks teeth or has abnormalities in bite or jaws, whose colouring or coat is deficient or clearly exhibits signs of albinism. This grading may also be awarded to a dog, which does not appear healthy. In addition, it can be awarded to a dog that has faults that are listed as disqualifying faults in the breed standard.

Dogs that cannot be awarded with any of the abovementioned grades shall be removed from the ring with the rating:

CANNOT BE JUDGED

This rating will be awarded to a dog that does not move, constantly jumps around its handler or attempts to get out of the ring, whose gait is impossible to judge or if the dog makes it impossible to examine its bite and teeth, morphology, tail or testicles, or if there are detectable signs of measures or treatments which look like attempts at cheating or if the judge has reason to suspect that a defect in the dog has been corrected (e.g. eyelids, ears or tail). The reason for awarding *cannot be judged* should always be entered on the judge's report.

10.2. Competition classes

In competition class, the judge places the four (4) best dogs of each class that have received a grading of *excellent* or *very good*. An entry marking their final placing is made on the judge's report.

The judge may, under his/her consideration, award the title of *CERTIFICATE QUALITY (SA)* to dogs that have placed in the competition class as well as to other dogs that have competed in the same class and received the grading *excellent*. This entitles the dog to participate in the Best Male or Best Bitch class.

11. DEFINITION OF CLASSES

A dog can only be entered in one (1) class at the same show (except for progeny classes and breeders classes).

Males and bitches are judged separately, apart from the Best of Breed-, Breeders- and Progeny classes, group finals and the Best in Show-competitions.

A dog may only be entered for one of the following classes (a-h)

a) **Baby Puppy class** (BABY) is a competition class for dogs, which on the day of being shown have reached the age of five (5) months, but have not reached the age of seven (7) months. The judge may award an Honour Prize (KP) to puppies he or she deems worthy of one. The Baby Puppy class can only be organised in the speciality shows of breed associations.

b) **Puppy class** (PEK) is a competition class for dogs, which on the day of being shown have reached the age of seven (7) months, but have not reached the age of nine (9) months. The judge may award an Honour Prize (KP) to puppies he or she deems worthy of one.

The best male and bitch puppy with an Honour Prize participate in the best puppy competition.

Puppy classes are unofficial and they are organised only if the Show Committee desires so.

The Best in Show Puppy competition can only be organised at speciality shows.

c) **Junior class** (JUN) is a quality grading for dogs which, on the day of being shown have reached the age of nine (9) months but have not reached the age of eighteen (18) months.

d) **Intermediate class** (NUO) is a quality grading for dogs which, on the day of being shown have reached the age of fifteen (15) months but have not reached the age twenty-four (24) months.

e) **Open class** (AVO) is a quality grading for dogs which, on the day of being shown have reached the age of fifteen (15) months. There is no upper age limit in this class.

f) **Working class** (KÄY) is a quality grading for dogs which, on the day of being shown have reached the age of fifteen (15) months.

At international dog shows, the only breeds eligible for the working class are those appearing as working breeds in the FCI Breed Nomenclature, taking into account the exceptions granted to some countries for some breeds. (Appendix 3, list of breeds).

For these breeds, the trial qualification result required for participation in both international and national dog shows is at least the result or results required for the title of Finnish or International Champion.

For sighthounds a valid licence card is required for participation in working class. In addition, the dog must have participated in at least two (2) international races (CACIL) and placed in the upper half of all participants in both races. In a lure coursing, the dog must have achieved at least 2/3 of the maximum point score. The minimum time separating its competition results is one year and one day. When entering a sighthound in the working class, a copy of dog's valid licence card must be enclosed to the entry form for the Show Committee.

At national dog shows, breeds that can achieve the title of Working Champion in Finland, but do not belong to the set of FCI-approved working breeds, can participate in working class events once they have been awarded the title of Working Champion.

An exception is made for the Alaskan Malamute, the Greenland Dog, the Samoyed and the Siberian Husky, which are required to have achieved an approved result from a breed-specific trial.

An approved result in a mental test does not entitle the dog to participate in working class.

g) **Champion class** (VAL) quality grading for dogs which, on the day of being shown have reached the age of fifteen (15) months and have been awarded the title of Champion by an FCI-recognised kennel organisation or International Champion. A Finnish Champion must always enter in the Champion class unless the dog is entitled to participate in the Working or Veteran class.

h) **Veteran class** (VET) quality grading for dogs which, on the day of being shown have reached the age of eight (8) years.

The best veteran dog of its breed which has received the grading *excellent* may continue to compete for the title of Best in Show Veteran.

i) **Best Male and Best Bitch** (PU/PN). Dogs, which have received the grading *excellent* and placed among the top four in the Junior, Intermediate, Open, Champion, Working or Veteran class and been awarded the title of *Certificate Quality (SA)* are entitled to participate in this class.

The judge may award a certificate to the best eligible dog that has been awarded the title *Certificate Quality (SA)*, but which has not accumulated the show results required for the title of Finnish Champion. A reserve certificate may be awarded to the second-best dog that has been awarded the title *Certificate Quality (SA)*, but which has not accumulated the show results required for the title of Finnish Champion.

The judge may, **under his/her consideration**, award the CACIB to the dog considered best and the reserve CACIB to the dog considered second-best, provided that they have competed in the Intermediate, Open, Working or Champion classes.

j) **Best of Breed (ROP) and Best of Opposite Sex (VSP).**

In this class participates the best male dog and the best bitch dog from the Best Male class and the Best Bitch class.

The dog that has been named Best of Breed goes on to compete in the finals for Best in Group (RYP).

k) **Breeders class** (KAS) is a quality grading for groups of four dogs representing the same breed. The dogs must be bred by the same breeder or registered under the same FCI-approved kennel affix. In addition, the dogs must be awarded the grading *excellent* or *very good* at the current show.

A breeder may only take part with one group per breed. If the judge considers the group to be of consistently high quality, it can be awarded an Honour Prize (KP).

Competition class for the Breeders class (KAK). The judge ranks four (4) breeder groups according to order of merit. The best breeders group with an Honour Prize goes on to compete in the finals.

l) **Best in Show Breeders class** (BIS-KAS). The best breeders group of a breed that has received an Honour Prize participates in this category. The judge ranks the four (4) best groups in order of merit.

m) **Progeny class** (JÄL) is a quality grading for a group comprised of a male or a bitch and four of its offspring of the same breed. The offspring must have been awarded the grading *excellent* or *very good* at the same show. The male or the bitch does not have to be signed up for other classes, but it has to be presented together with its progeny group.

This class can only be organised at speciality shows of breed associations.

If the judge considers the group to be of consistently high quality, it can be awarded an Honour Prize (KP).

Competition class for the Progeny class (JÄK). The judge ranks four (4) progeny groups according to order of merit. The best progeny group with an Honour Prize goes on to compete in the Best in Show Progeny class.

n) **Best in Show Progeny class** (BIS-JÄL). The best of breed progeny group awarded with an Honour Prize participates in the Best in Show Progeny class. The judge ranks the four (4) best progeny groups in order of merit. BIS-JÄL can only be organised at the specialty shows of breed associations.

o) **Best in Show Veteran** (BIS-VET) for the best breed representatives that have competed in Veteran class. The judge ranks the four (4) best dogs in order of merit.

p) **Best in Group** (RYP) for the winners of Best of Breed in their own groups. The four (4) best dogs in each group are placed.

q) **Best in Show** (BIS) is for the Best in Group winners. The four (4) best dogs are placed.

12. PRIZE DESIGNATIONS

Prizes are identified by the following colours:

Excellent	red
Very Good	blue
Good	yellow
Sufficient	green
Disqualified	grey
Cannot be Judged	brown
Certificate Quality	pink

Placing in the competition is identified by the following colours:

1. red
2. blue
3. yellow
4. green

The rosettes and ribbons awarded at the show:

Certificate	blue-white
Reserve certificate	light blue
CACIB	white
Reserve CACIB	orange
ROP	red-yellow
VSP	white-green
Honour Prize	lilac
Finnish Champion	red-green

13. JUDGMENT AMENDMENTS

The judge's decision is final and cannot be appealed. The judge cannot amend his or her assessment of a dog unless an organizing mistake or other comparable mistake has occurred (e.g. a dog has been judged in a class in which it is not eligible to participate). Amendment must be performed together with a member of the Show Committee.

If the case involves a marking error that can be rectified on the basis of recorded results, the rectification can also be performed at the SKL when the show's results are checked.

A judgement made by a judge can be appealed only if the judge has breached these regulations or failed to observe established good practice.

14. OTHER DIRECTIONS

These dog show regulations are supplemented by the Kennel Club Board's rules for organising dog shows, rules for judges, the other rules issued by SKL as well as the FCI rules endorsed by SKL.

The Board of the Kennel Club can, for compelling reasons, limit participation in the show or issue other special orders related to the organizing of the show.

15. OBJECTIONS

Complaints shall be lodged as provided for under the appeal procedure authorised by SKL. (Appendix 4)

16. VALIDITY

These regulations are in force from 1.1.2017 to 31.12.2021.