

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (F.C.I.)

**F.C.I. REGULATIONS FOR  
INTERNATIONAL LURE COURSING**

## 1. PURPOSE

These rules unite the FCI member countries with respect to the organisation of international lure coursing trials and will enable awarding the CACIL.

## 2. GENERAL

Lure coursing is an excellent way to allow sighthounds to carry out their original work. In addition, it provides a very good opportunity to judge and reward their performance in the field.

## 3. COMPETITION FRAMEWORK

The organising club is bound to respect the following rules, established by the FCI.

## 4. GUIDELINES WITH RESPECT TO THE TERRAIN, SURFACE CONDITION AND COURSE LENGTH

A large meadow comes closest to the ideal coursing field. A slightly sloping or somewhat hilly terrain is also highly acceptable. A few bushes as well as some trees are beneficial as long as they do not constitute any danger to the hounds. The ground should be not too slippery and must be free of stones. Some (natural) obstacles are highly recommended, but not compulsory. They must be well visible from the perspective of the hounds, from a distance of at least 30m, particularly in the case of depressions in the ground.

The course length should be between 500 and 1.000m for the larger breeds and between 400 to 700m. for the smaller breeds.

## 5. DISTANCE BETWEEN PULLEYS

The distance between the pulleys is of the greatest importance, it must be adapted to the condition of the terrain, and can vary from 40 to 90m. The first pulley should be at a minimum distance of 60m from the start. There may be 7 to 10 pulleys to complete the course, finishing with a straight line of 60 to 100m. Turns sharper than 60 degrees are not permitted.

## 6. OPERATING THE LURE

The location of the lure machine should be such that the operator has a clear view of the whole course. He must operate the lure at the correct distance in front of the hounds, which requires great competence and excludes any inexperienced operator.

## 7. THE COURSE LAYOUT

The whole course must be clearly visible and free of any danger in view of the very high physical performance demanded of the hounds during coursing. The course layout must be changed for the second course of the day.

## 8. THE START

The hounds will run in pairs, being slipped simultaneously. One will run under red, the other under white or blue, depending on national regulations.

## 9. MUZZLE

From 01.01.1997, the use of a muzzle will be compulsory.

## 10. JUDGING

*Coursing judges will judge the performance of the dogs on the basis of five criteria. The maximum amount of points to be given for each criteria will be 20.*

*Judging in accordance with the PVL -or equivalent rules is also permitted. If the PVL or any equivalent system is used, the judges are free to establish the necessary qualifying sectors within the general established framework.*

*CACIL can only be given to a Sighthound, subject to having achieved at least two thirds of the possible total points. Sighthounds which did not get at least 50% of the points in the first round without any reason, will not take part to the second round.*

### **10.1 Speed**

The speed necessary to catch prey. Shown by the rapidity in which ground is gained when hounds react to the surprise departure of the lure at the start. Speed of a sighthound will be shown on the entire length of the course but especially at the take of the lure. Speed is shown by rapidity in moving, the rate of motion, and the hound's progression. The judge must reward the dog that runs low, really stretches itself and works the lure. Since timing is not used to measure speed, the hound's manner of "giving itself" is an important means of assessing its ability to cover ground. Absolute speed is not taken into account when judging because the speed of a sighthound must be compared to that of its competitors. A go-bye can be made when a hound in second position gives its utmost and overtakes its opponent. A go-bye will always take place between two successive pulleys.

### **10.2 Enthusiasm**

Enthusiasm in the pursuit, whatever the conditions of the ground are (rough or with obstacles) and whatever incidents occur such as overshooting the turns, in falling, and in becoming unsighted.

The enthusiasm of a sighthound is shown :

At the start : by its concentrated attention, by its fixing its eyes on the lure.

When in pursuit of the lure : by its permanent drive on the lure, forcing the operator to accelerate the lure to avoid a take before the end of the course, by a clean jump without hesitation of an obstacle, by its desire to return on the lure if it becomes left behind.

At the take of the lure : at full speed, by tackling the lure with a sliding take, by its attempts to catch the lure, even when it has been taken by its opponent.

### **10.3 Intelligence**

Intelligence shown in the pursuit will make a sighthound run a path that will put it in a good position to take the lure, with an agility without which even the fastest hound will not succeed in a take. A hound will show its intelligence by putting itself between the lure and its path to prevent the lure escaping to rough ground.

### **10.4 Agility**

A sighthound's agility is shown :

By its rapid changes of direction, provoked by the turns of the lure

By its clearing obstacles

At the take, and notably by a sliding tackle on the lure.

### **10.5 Endurance**

Endurance is that ability of a sighthound to finish its course in good physical condition. It is the end sum of its physical and mental abilities.

## **11. JUDGES - VETERINARIAN**

International events will be judged by at least two judges who must have a national coursing judge's licence. They may be assisted by a number of field observers. At those events where the CACIL is awarded, one of the judges must be invited from another country which is bound by these rules. For these events, a veterinary control and continued presence of the veterinarian during the event is obligatory.

## **12. LICENCES**

A national racing or coursing licence is required for participation. The age limits corresponds to those set by the FCI. for racing.

## **13. SANCTIONS**

Only qualified judges (see Art.11) can impose sanctions that must be in accordance with those enforced in FCI racing regulations.

### **13.1 Pre-slip penalty**

In case the handler slips a hound too early, judges may deduct 10% of the total score for the course of this hound. If the same course will be re-run, the penalty cannot be applicable. In case there is a false start, the judges must seek the advice of the starter or the chairman of the coursing organisation. This penalty cannot be applicable if both hounds are started by a single slipper.

### **13.2 Course delay**

Absence at the time of the start of a course may incur a dismissal for the day.

### **13.3 Excuse**

Judges may send back for the day the hound that :

- Remains near its owner after the start signal or that walks off the field
- Follows its opponent and not the lure.
- Does not have the necessary physical condition for competition - as confirmed by the opinion of the veterinarian.

### **13.4 Disqualification**

Judges may disqualify the hound that obstructs the course of its opponent.

The hound must effectively interfere with the course of the other hound. The intention of interference is not sufficient cause for disqualification.

Judges may also remove owners or handlers who become involved in disputes with other competitors, judges or officials.

The term of disqualifications are in accordance with the FCI racing regulations :

- 1st offence : suspension for the day
- 2nd offence : suspension for 4 weeks
- 3rd offence : suspension for 8 weeks

If a hound is disqualified 4 times in a period of two years of coursing, it will lose its coursing licence. It may regain its licence by fulfilling the standard requirements again. If however, it loses its licence again after 4 disqualifications in the following two years, renewal of the licence will be impossible.

## **14. CALENDAR**

Authorisation of international coursing dates will follow the same procedure as for FCI races.

## **15. LIABILITY**

Neither the organisation nor the officials will accept any responsibility in case of an accident involving a dog, an owner or an official, nor for the loss of a dog which may have run away.

## **16. TRANSLATIONS**

In case of any ambiguity in the interpretation of these rules, only the original French text will be considered as binding.

Regulation approved by the General Committee on May 2 & 3, 1994 in Roma.

Modifications accepted by the General Committee in March 1999 in Amsterdam.