

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI)

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## F.C.I. INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR SIGDTDOUNDS RACES

### 1. Aim of the regulation

This regulation aims at standardizing the elements of the races within the F.C.I. The compulsory requirements for all the national federations are included therein, as far as the admission, the publication and the progress of the Sighthounds international races are concerned.

### 2. Definition "Sighthounds international races", authorization, guarantee of date, fees

- 2.1 The designation "Sighthounds international races" must be used only for events, for which the date and place of the organization have been asked to the national federation and authorized by the F.C.I.
- 2.2 The application for the guarantee of date may be refused by the F.C.I. when :
  - a) this date has already been granted to another races society
  - b) this date coincides with another important cynologic event
  - c) the guarantee for an irreproachable performance is not given.
- 2.3 The authorization is submitted to the payment of fees. The amount of the redevance for the guarantee of a date is fixed by the commission for Sighthounds Racing and that, each year for the following year.

### 3. Admission, authorization to start

- 3.1 In principle, all the breeds of sighthounds are admitted.
- 3.2 The following requirements are valid for the authorizations of the start for the Sighthounds:
  - a) the racing dog must be registered in a Stud Book, i.e. register recognized by the F.C.I.
  - b) It must be in possession of a valid race licence.
  - c) Minimum age : for the large breeds = 18 months  
for the Whippet and Italian Greyhound = 15 months
  - d) Maximum age : until the end of the races season during which the 8th year is completed.
  - e) Inscription under the owner's name, indicated on the licence card
  - f) The owner must be a member of a national federation, affiliated to the F.C.I.
  - g) The appearance of the dog must not be artificially modified (for example, the natural coat shall not be clipped)
  - h) The maximum height at the withers is for the Whippet : 51 cm for the dogs, 48 cm for the bitches, for the Italian Greyhound : 38 cm

#### 4. Licence cards

4.1 The licence card must be established by the National Federation of the owner's residence. It must give the following informations :

- a) breed, sex, dog's name, Stud Book's number and as far as it is possible tattooing number, date of birth, name and correct address of the owner.
- b) For the Whippets and Italian Greyhounds, certified attestation of the height at the withers.

4.2 Measuring at the withers for Whippet and Italian Greyhound.

The measure is taken from 12 months old. When it is noted, at less than 24 months old, for male Whippet 49 cm, for a female Whippet 47 cm and for an Italian Greyhound 37 cm or more, the dog must be measured again before the beginning of the races season which follows the completion of its second year of life.

If however, this measurement was not done, the licence becomes null and has to be withdrawn from the dog concerned by the competent national federation.

This second measure is to be written as definitive in the licence card.

The measurements at the withers can be performed and confirmed only by the authorities commissioned by the National Federations, that is to say by **qualified judges in accordance with the following procedure :**

1. **As far as the age to which the dog should be measured is concerned, the F.C.I. International Regulations for Sighthounds Races apply.**
2. **The dog will be measured when he is calm. He will stand on an even and not-slippery platform or sufficiently large table. The dog will show correct angulation of the legs and naturally raised head (throat approximately at the same level as the top of the withers).**
3. **Between the measurements, the dog will be moved at least twice on the ground. He will be handled by his owner or by any person appointed by him. The dog will be placed in a different way by the judge only if the owner handler consents to it.**
4. **The measurement can be carried out once the dog stands correctly. The dog will be measured at the withers or at the spinal process of the vertebrae in case it extends above the top of the shoulderblades. Should it be impossible to place the dog correctly, the measurement will be stopped and considered null and void.**
5. **The measuring device is rigid or with an electronic sensor, with two legs set to the excluding sizes in accordance with the FCI International Regulations for Sighthounds Races.**
6. **The judges responsible for the measurement and the secretary for the report are appointed by the organizing country and more particularly by the person in charge of Sighthounds Races issues. The judges and the secretary can be neither the owner nor the breeder of the dog.**
7. **The committee in charge of the measurement will be made up of two judges and the secretary for the report. The judges measure alternatively. The secretary supervises the operation and writes down the results.**
8. **The dog will be measured ten times. The most frequent measure will be recorded on the documents of the dog. In case a dog being well under the maximum size allowed, the committee, further to unanimous decision, can stop the operation after the fourth measurement and record the results on the papers of the dog. In case after 10 measurements, an equal result of 5 results under and 5 over the maximum size allowed is obtained, an 11th measurement will be made and recorded as the final correct size.**

**9. The final result can only be recorded on the dog's papers by the person or the committee in charge of each FCI member organisation.**

**4.2.1 In case of a protest regarding the size of a Whippet or Italian Greyhound, any national organisation may request a control measurement for the dog in question. The dog will be measured in the country of residence of the owner by a delegate of the FCI Sighthounds Races Commission of another country, who will be appointed by the president of the Commission. He has to measure according to the procedure described under 4.2.**

4.2.2 For the dogs overtopping the size under 3.2. § h) a regulation must be found at the level of the national federations permitting to these dogs a participation in the Sighthounds races.

4.3 When there is no racing-track in a country recognized by the F.C.I., the preliminary requirements for obtaining a race licence may be accomplished in a neighbouring country. The racing dogs concerned must obtain their licences from the competent national federation.

4.4 A valid licence card for Sighthounds International Races can be established only when it is proved that the racing dog is not an attacker (rowdy, hustler) and that he goes after the mechanical rabbit with the other dogs.

## **5. Publication of the races**

5.1 The publication of the races may be sent off only after the obtention of the guarantee of date and the authorization for the race.

5.2 In the publication of the race, it must be mentioned:

- a) organizer, place, date, time of the beginning of the event as well as the delay for the presentation of the dog.
- b) The name of the race's director.
- c) Information about the racing track (length, shape, radius of curves, nature of the ground, type of hare technique).
- d) System of time-keeping.
- e) Inscription fees.
- f) Type of competition.
- g) Indication about the type of classification, if the race is organized with division in classes or if, possibly, the dogs and bitches run together.
- h) Prizes considered, as well as the time scheduled for the homage to the winners.
- i) Closing date of the entries.
- j) Responsibility under reservation according to point 16 of the F.C.I. regulation for races.

5.3 An inscription form must be attached to the publication. This one must correspond to the model (see enclosure 1) and dispose of clearly specified headings for all the informations requested according to the model.

5.4 The publication must be lodged with the National Federation of the organizer. These documents have to be forwarded by the National Federation to the F.C.I. Commission for Sighthounds Racing.

- 5.5 When the F.C.I. Commission for Sighthounds Racing has objection to express concerning a publication, the instructions given by the F.C.I. Commission for Sighthounds Racing, must be taken into consideration for the future races.

## **6. Modalities of progress**

The modality of progress is determined by the organizer. The race is composed of preliminary races and finals. The eliminatory races, possibly necessary, are to be considered as preliminary races. For each dog participating in the finals, two races shall be scheduled if necessary.

A modality of progress is the determination of the dogs participating in the finals, according to the order of arrival in the preliminary races. Another modality of progress is the determination of the dogs participating in the final according to the time obtained in the preliminary races. However this modality can only be used when the automatic time-keeping is guaranteed in all the preliminary races for all the dogs passing the finishing line. In all the cases, the time-keeping starts immediately at the opening of the start boxes.

## **7. Registration forms and distribution of the races, separation of the sexes, programmes of the races**

### 7.1 Numbers of registration and distribution of the races.

- |   |                        |               |
|---|------------------------|---------------|
| a) Minimum number of registration per breed : | 6 racing dogs          |               |
| b) Minimum number of distribution per breed : | 3 racing dogs          |               |
| c) Maximum number of repartition per race :   | 6 racing dogs          |               |
|   | races in plain :       | 6 racing dogs |
|   | races with obstacles : | 4 racing dogs |

### 7.2 Separation in sex.

7.2.1 When at least 6 dogs per breed and sex are announced, the dogs and the bitches make separated races. If for one sex, there are less than 6 dogs announced, the dogs and the bitches run together.

7.2.2 When there are, by the terms of the publication, separated races according to the classes, the dogs and the bitches belonging to the same class may run together, without taking the number of enterings into consideration. However, this must be mentioned in the publication.

### 7.3 Programm of the races

The programm of the races must be established by the organizer. The racing dogs must be designated for the various races in full consciousness and without any preference. The racing dogs of the different countries are to be proportionally distributed in the various races. It must be avoided to have the fastest dogs or the dogs of the same owner running in the preliminary races.

## **8. Absence of dogs and of officials**

8.1 The dogs for which there is an impediment to participate in the race, must be signaled out to the direction to the race before the beginning of the event. In any case, the entering fees has to be paid.

8.2 The officials, who are put at the disposal for a race, are bound to inform the direction of any impediment before the beginning of the event. An untimely leaving of the accepted function may be done after informing the director and with the agreement of the Jury.

## 9. List of the officials - mission of the officials

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9.1 Jury                  | 9.5 Observers of the course  |
| 9.2 Director of the races | 9.6 Start team               |
| 9.3 Jury of the arrival   | 9.7 Hare technical service   |
| 9.4 Time-keepers          | 9.8 Local veterinary surgeon |

9.1.1 The Jury is the superior institution of the event. It supervises the observance of the races regulation and follows the races' progress. Its decisions are final in the cases of disputes or doubts. The Jury is formed of three members who must have jury's licence. As far as possible, they must be chosen in different countries.

9.2.1 The totality of the technical and organizing services is managed by the races' director. All the questions related to the technical or organizing problems of the races are submitted to his decisions during the event. The races' director, jointly with the Jury, is authorized to exclude and send off the racing ground persons who do not abide to the orders of the officials, insult them or have an improper behaviour. These occurrences are reported by the organizer to the National Federation concerned.

9.3.1 The jury of arrival which should have an international composition according to the possibilities, decides of all the questions concerning the order of priority at the arrival of the dogs. The tip of the nose is the deciding factor at the arrival.

9.4.1 The time-keeper and the way of keeping time are determined by the organizer. For the time-keeping as well as for the priority order at the arrival, it is the tip of the dog's nose which is decisive. The beginning of the time-keeping is the opening of the boxes of start.

9.5.1 The organizer designs at least four observers on the circuit, who must have a course observer's licence or a judge's licence. The director of the races places the course observers on the sectors of the race; they have the task to supervise the different races and to signal to the Jury all the irregularities and infringements of the races regulation which have occurred on the track and this, immediately after the race.

9.5.2 The Jury's decisions which are not in accordance with the opinion of an observer of the course must be explained to the latter.

9.6.1 The team of the start of the dogs examines before the placing of the dogs:

- a) the boxes of start
- b) the correct position of the muzzles which must square with the model approved by the F.C.I. (muzzle with wires, muzzle with wire covered with plastic, plastic muzzle)
- c) the good position of the blanket which must be conformable to the model approved by the F.C.I. (see enclosure II) even for its colour.
- d) eye flaps are not permitted.

9.6.2 The control, the setting and the start must take place promptly but without precipitation.

9.7.1 The technician of the hare machine receives his instructions from the director of the races. The lure must be trailed along at a regular distance of about 20 m. in front of the first dog. In case of a wrong start, the hare must be immediately stopped providing that it is still in the first half of the straight start line.

9.8.1 The veterinary surgeon for the event is called by the organizer. He must be present and ready to intervene during all the event. It is recommended to take care of the explanations given in enclosure III concerning the veterinary surgeon's duties.

9.9 The officials (members of the jury, judges at the arrival, circuit's observers) whose dogs participate in the race may not do their duties during that race; they must be replaced.

## **10. Distances of the races, dimensions, nature of the track.**

10.1.1 The distances of the races are measured at a meter away from the inside fence. They are :  
a) from 250 to 900 meters for the large breeds  
b) from 250 to 500 meters for the Whippets and Italian Greyhounds.

10.1.2 Are authorized to participate in races longer than 525 m. the racing dogs which were at least 2 years old on the 1st January of the year concerned and not older than 6 years. In these long distance races, the dogs are under a special control by the veterinary surgeon.

10.1.3 The lapse of time between two races which follow one another for the same dog is :  
a) 30 minutes at least for a distance up to 525 m.  
b) 60 minutes for a distance above 525 m.  
For distances of races above 525 m. the racing dogs may run at the maximum twice daily. Restarting races on the same day is forbidden.

10.2 The minimum width of the track is 6 m. on a straight line, 8 m. in the curves and 7 m. in raised curves.  
Are to be considered as a raised curve, these with a 8 % angle of elevation. The radius of the curves must be at least 40 m. from the lower fence.

10.3 The international races must be organized on a track, covered with grass in good condition (not freshly cut and hard grass) and a sufficiently soft ground or on sandy track. The track must not show holes and it must be free from foreign bodies, endangering the dogs or susceptible of diverting them.

10.4 The start boxes must be set in order that the racing dogs, from the boxes, have a straight line of at least 40 m. The lure must carries on, beyond the finishing line, for at least 30 m. at a higher speed. The stopping ground, beyond the finishing line, must be 50 m. long.

10.5 The weighing-house must be separated from the racing-track; it must be clean and suitable to receive the dogs. The view over the pist must be hidden from the dogs'sight, if necessary by a partition. The dogs can likewise be kept in the car, on a parking designated by the organizer. In this case the car is considered as being part of the weighing-house. In the weighing paddock, each dog must bear a well appropriate collar that it will keep until the start. Nailed collars or choke collars are forbidden. Each owner is responsible for his dog in order that it remains quiet in the weighing paddock and that it should be sufficiently early at the starting line.

10.6 All the racing tracks on which international races are organized must dispose of an authorization, issued by the F.C.I. Commission for Sighthounds Racing. If however, modifications are brought in the tracks and in the technique, they must be notified to the National Federation concerned, for transmission to the F.C.I. Commission for Sighthounds Racing.

10.7 The Jury has a right to ascertain, before the event, if the track effectively corresponds to the informations given by the organizer, namely as far as the possible dangers are concerned.

## **11. Racing material**

The organizer is bound to make available a material in perfect condition and which runs. It includes :

- a) The motion of the hare must be carried out in the following manner : it must
  - be able to accelerate rapidly
  - answer promptly to the speed adjustments
  - dispose of a sufficient reserve of performance.
- b) The rollers must not be painted with a light colour and must not shine.
- c) The lure must be made with a light hare skin of about 40 cm. long or with a similar material. When the weather is rainy or humid, a lure in plastic or cloth can be used.
- d) The minimum measurements of the start boxes are as follows :  
length 110 cm, height 84 cm, width 28 cm. The spaces between the different boxes must be at least 10 cm. The inside lining must be smooth and without asperities. The floor must be rough and much as possible to be at a level with the grass or the sandy track. The front doors must not reflect but allow to the dogs a suitable sight on the lure; the doors must be built in order to avoid any injury to the dogs.

## **12. Re-start of the races**

12.1 It is incumbent on the Jury to decide restarting a race. The reasons given are namely when :

- a) The leading dog has drawn near to the lure by less than 10 m. or is at a distance of more than 30 m. or when the lure disturbs sensibly the race by rising from the ground.
- b) The lure is drawn, at least at equal speed, less than 30 m. beyond the finishing line.
- c) The start boxes do not work.
- d) The lure is brought to a standstill on its way.
- e) The track observers or the Jury have noted a serious disturbance in the progress of the race. Racing dogs' falls are not to be considered as a disturbance.

12.2 At the occasion of very criticized races, but in very clear cases, the Jury may exempt the leading dogs to start the race again and place them according to the arrival when their position, before the beginning of the disturbance, was absolutely unquestionable and that the dogs had covered at least half of the circuit and that the regular progress of the event remains assured.

12.3 Restarting races may be done immediately, when all the dogs of the race at issue have run less than half of the race distance, otherwise a rest according to point 10.1.3 must be respected.

## **13. Disqualifications**

13.1 The jury may disqualify dogs which stop during racing, which impend the progress of the races, which must be encouraged to leave the boxes by persons outside and which must be called beyond the finishing line. Reasons for disqualification of dogs can be calling, gestures, whistling or other handlings to oblige the dog to come out.

13.2 The jury must disqualify dogs which attack or try to attack other dogs, or want to escape.

- 13.3 Aggressing dogs are the dogs that do not turn their attention to the lure, but attack or try to attack other dogs in order to prevent them to pursue the lure normally. It is permitted to drive off immediately an aggressing dog. When a dog obtrudes itself in order to have a clear field before it in the race, without meaning to fight and that is only interested in the lure, this will not be considered as a scuffle.
- 13.4 The disqualifications must be clearly noted in the licence card. The licence card must be held back by the organizer and forwarded to the Races Secretariat of the National Federation of the owner within 3 days. For this recording the following abbreviation must be used : disqualified = disqu.
- 13.5 Racing dogs disqualified by the Jury must put up with the following eliminations :
1. disqualification during the racing year : no elimination
  2. disqualification during the racing year : 4-week elimination
  3. disqualification during the racing year : 8-week elimination

When a dog, after two racing years, is disqualified four times, it is deprived of its races licence. It has however the possibility to obtain it again after having fulfilled the requirements. If however, it was losing it again after four disqualifications within the two following years, a new obtention of the licence would become impossible.

#### **14. Doping**

- 14.1 A doping, whatsoever, bringing to the racing dog an increase or a modification of the performance, is forbidden.
- 14.2 When there is a suspicion of doping, the Jury, jointly with the veterinary surgeon in service, may order a doping control. The dog's owner is bound to put his dog at disposal for this control. If however, a doping is noted, the expenses are at the charge of the owner.
- 14.3 The F.C.I. Commission for Sighthounds Racing will request of an appointed laboratory at least two doping controls per year. There will be a drawing of lot of the events, before the beginning of the season, of which the result will remain secret.
- 14.4 It is compulsory to carry out anti-doping examinations on the occasion of World and European Championship races. It is recommended to have approximately 10 dogs from different breeds examined.

#### **15. Information**

The organizer is bound to send within two weeks after the progress of the race, three leaflets of programme, with the registered results, to its National Federation. The National Federation is responsible for their immediate transmission to the F.C.I. Commission for Sighthounds Racing.

#### **16. Responsibility**

Nor the organizer, neither the officials are responsible for the accidents to the dogs' owners, to the dogs or to the officials. The responsibility is likewise non-existent in the case of escaped dogs. The owner of a dog is not responsible either if his dog have injured another dog during the race.

#### **17. Disputes**

The disputes are dealt with by the Jury. Its decision is final.

**18. Races with titles European and World Winners**

- 18.1 It is the F.C.I. Commission for Sighthounds Racing which designs on request the country and the racing-track where the races with the titles will take place. The candidature for a race must be forwarded, in writing, through the channels of the competent National Federation. The applicant must guarantee a perfect progress of the race.
- 18.2 The requirements for the realization of the two Championships are fixed in a special regulation "Regulation for the realization of races with the titles World and European Winners". These may not be inconsistent with the present regulation and are part of this regulation (see enclosure).

**19. Protection of the animals**

The notion of the animals' protection must always been respected. Consequently, the owner of a dog is always free to withdraw his dog from the race. On the veterinary surgeon's request, the Jury can forbid to a racing dog's owner the carrying on of the race by the dog concerned, if the dog's health is endangered.

**20. Enforcement**

Adaptations of the regulations have been made by the Commission for Sighthounds Racing of the F.C.I. at the meeting of June 18th, 1994 in Helsinki. These adaptations will be in force from 01.01.1995 after authorization by the F.C.I. General Committee.

**All the portions in bold type were approved by the F.C.I. General Committee, Athens, April 6th and 7th, 2000.**