



Brugsesteenweg 105 - 8450 Bredene (Belgium) – fmbb.be

Specifications for the Organization of the FMBB World Championship IHT TS (International Herding Trials Traditional Style)

For the organization of the FMBB World Championships

Revision date: 13.2.2026

1. General Provisions

- a. The WC Belgian Shepherd organizing party will uphold following regulations. In case of doubt or possible exceptions, always contact the FMBB Herding Commission or the FMBB Board.
- b. The FMBB WC IHT TS must be held under the International IHT TS rules of the FCI.

2. Composition

- a. The FMBB World Championship IHT TS exists in three parts.
 - FMBB WC IHT-1 TS World Winner.
 - FMBB WC IHT-2 TS World Winner.
 - FMBB WC IHT-3 TS World Championship.

3. Competitors

- a. Competitors must have the qualification for the class they have entered according to the General Conditions for the Organization of FCI International Herding Events Procedure system.
- b. Once a dog has participated in a trial in a certain class, regardless of its performance, it is not eligible to compete in a lower class at FMBB.

- c. As the FMBB WC IHT TS consists of two separate trials, a dog will compete in the same class for both trials of FMBB, even in case of fulfilling the requirements to step up to higher class during the first trial.
- d. If before competing at FMBB WC IHT TS a dog in FCI-IHT-1 or FCI-IHT-2 gets “EXC” 3 times, or 5 times “Very Good” or “EXC” under at least two different judges it must proceed to the next class.
- e. A handler can compete with the maximum number of two dogs.
- f. The maximum number of competitors per country is 5 with a maximum of 2 competitors in IHT-3 + maximum three reserves in IHT-3 and 3 reserves in IHT-2 + IHT-1.
- g. If there is free capacity after the application deadline, the organizer can send the request to enlarge the number of participants per country to the FMBB Herding Commission. If agreed by the Herding Commission, the Organizer must inform the applying countries about the possibility as soon as possible.
- h. The maximum number of dogs competing per day is 20 for IHT-1, 18 for IHT-2 and 16 for IHT-3. For combination of class 2 and 1 in one day the organizer must take care to be able to accommodate all competitors. In case the number of applications exceeds the standard capacity, the solution is to be discussed with FMBB.
- i. A category must contain at least 3 competitors. In case of 1 or 2 competitors the category will not be held.

4. Judges, Stewards, and helpers

- a. Two judges with the qualification to judge international FCI trials must be invited. At least one of the judges should be of another nationality than the organizing country. One of the judges will be announced as the main judge. The average score of the two judges per each run makes the final score for an individual run.
- b. Two secretaries must be present to assist the judges during the entire competition.
- c. Sufficient number of helpers and helper dogs with appropriate herding skills for preparing and changing the flocks must be present each day of the trial.
- d. Judges, secretaries, and stock helpers should be able to speak English (main language of FMBB).
- e. All other helpers, as for example traffic exercise driver for IHT-3, or helpers to build the trial course must be organized by the organizer.
- f. The two judges must agree on the trial course and passages set up at least one month before the competition and send it by e-mail to the organizer, so that the organizer is able to prepare all necessary material to build the trial course properly.

5. Trial field

- a. The trial field must be outdoors of appropriate size, properly fenced and in such condition that it will be safe for the handler, dog and sheep.
- b. All general requirements must be in accordance with the General Conditions of FCI International Herding Event and FCI-IHT TS rules. In addition, there should be enough space to prepare the dog without disturbance from spectators or e.g. free running dogs.

6. Equipment

- a. All equipment must be in accordance with the FCI-IHT TS rules.
- b. Sufficient equipment for all classes must be available.
- c. Sufficient amount and good quality material must be available to build the trial course according to the judge's set up.
- d. A field with natural obstacles which can be used in the trial course is preferred.
- e. The grazing area borders should be marked, preferably by natural material, cut grass or plough line.
- f. Safe marking of the sheep for the catch exercise must be available (ex. animal spray marker, sheep collar)
- g. A car or safe vehicle (4 wheels and engine) to execute the traffic exercise must be agreed with the judge prior to the trial and secured by the organizer.
- h. All equipment and material used at the trial course must be safe for the sheep, dogs, and handlers.

7. Sheep

- a. The flock of sheep must be of such condition and number to sustain a good quality welfare during the entire competition.
- b. All specifications concerning the sheep must be in accordance with the FCI-IHT TS rules.
- c. Flocks as large as possible for each run are highly recommended to be used to allow the dogs to perform their natural working style. The minimum number of sheep in a flock must be in accordance with the FCI-IHT TS rules.
- d. Each sheep can be used maximum two times during the level IHT-3 trial days. Each sheep can be used maximum three times during the level IHT-2 and IHT-1 trial days. In total at least 80 sheep plus sufficient reserve are required.
- e. Pens for sheep waiting or resting must be arranged in a way that eye contact is not possible between the resting sheep and the sheep on the trial course.
- f. It is recommended to build such a number of sorting pens that it is not necessary to select a new flock after each run, but there are about 5 to 10 flocks sorted out and ready. This is to secure fluent progress of the trial and spare sheep from unnecessary stress.
- g. In the weekend before the start of the FMBB WC using the sheep for training with participants of the FMBB WC IHT or for a trial is strictly forbidden. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before the start of the FMBB WC using of the trial sheep for any kind of training, trials or tests is strictly forbidden.
- h. During the entire event access to water and feed must be secured for the sheep in the resting pens. All sheep in resting pens must have access to shade in case of warm weather.
- i. During each trial day at least one hour break time should be scheduled for the sheep, ideally after the first half of the total number of runs. In this time the sheep should be let free to graze in the pasture.
- j. For each organization and in each country, local animal welfare regulations must be strictly followed.

8. Performance of competition

- a. All start numbers must be drawn by lottery by each competitor personally during the opening ceremony before the first trial day for all four trial days. Competitors with two dogs are to be considered if both dogs are in the same class.
- b. The competition is to be held in the following way:
 - Thursday: IHT-2 first round, IHT-1 first round
 - Friday: IHT-3 first round
 - Saturday: IHT-2 second round, IHT-1 second round
 - Sunday: IHT-3 second round
 - Each trial will start with a trial briefing for the competitors with the judges. The main judge will explain the expected execution of each exercise of the trial course.
 - The evaluated total points of each judge, and the average points of the two results of every dog will be publicly announced right after every run. A photograph will be taken of both scoresheets before handing them to the office. The points will be published directly after the run online and on the board.
- c. Individual competition

The best 3 competitors in each class must be awarded. The total points of both rounds awarded by both judges make the final score. Dogs receiving evaluation NPA, RET and DISC will not receive any points. Dogs receiving TIME evaluation will keep the points collected until they stop their run. In IHT-3 they are getting FMBB medals, the lower classes are getting awards from the organizer or FMBB medals, up to the Organizer to decide.
- d. National Team Competition

At least two dogs in any level representing the same country will create the team for the National Team Competition. The average of the average % score of all classes (both runs of all competitors) make the result for the National Team Competition.
- e. Best in Variety

One dog of each of the four varieties of Belgian Shepherd (Malinois, Groenendael, Tervueren, Laekenois) shall be awarded as The Best in Variety of FMBB WC IHT TS. The best becomes a dog with the highest % score of its two runs average score, regardless of the competition class. Best in Variety cannot be awarded to a dog that has 0% score.

9. Trial course

- a. The trial course plan must be published two weeks before the competition on the organizers' homepage and must be sent at the same time by e-mail to the team leaders. It is highly recommended to also publish the used equipment.

10. Time

- a. The handler can start his/her run on the signal from the judge. The measuring of time starts when the handler touches the gate to open it and ends when the Team completes the Re-Pen exercise as dictated by the judge.
- b. The time is measured by a dedicated assistant or the course director. The person responsible for time measuring will set the time limit determined by the judge on the timer device. The timer will be switched on as the handler touches the pen gate.

When the time runs out, the device will give a clear sound signal. It is recommended to also set a sound signal when there are 5 minutes left until the end of the time limit. Both 5 min. until Time and maximum Time limit sound signals must be possible to clearly hear for the judges and the handler.

- c. If the team does not manage to finish the exercises within the specified time of maximum:
 - a) 25 minutes in FCI-IHT-1;
 - b) 30 minutes in FCI-IHT-2;
 - c) 35 minutes in FCI-IHT-3;

or less when the judge decides (but the same for all teams and pre-informed) only the points of the finished exercises acquired within the time limit are counted, and the evaluation is Time. Such Team is part of the trial ranking and can even be on the podium if the points are high enough, but cannot receive titles CACT or CACITR title.

- d. When time runs out, at the signal by the timer device, the Team will stop its work immediately. A helper with helper dog will bring the sheep flock to the rest pen.
- e. Too fast progress when fulfilling the exercises does not reflect a good performance, so it is up to the handler to plan the time needed for the fulfilment of the exercises very carefully.

11. Timetable

- a. An appropriate timetable must be drafted, considering the number of participants in the different categories.
- b. A time and room must be provided for the number drawing and briefing, team leader meeting, judges meeting, trial committee meeting and veterinary control.

12. Insurance

- a. The organizer must have an insurance policy with sufficient cover for personnel, the trial supervisor, trial judges, helpers, and assistant dogs.
- b. Each competitor shall compensate the cost of any damage caused by his dog. Each competitor must have a public liability insurance policy for consequences resulting from being a dog owner. By registering for the FMBB WC IHT TS a competitor declares to have this insurance. Such declaration must be a part of the registration form.
- c. The owner of the dog is responsible for any damage or injury caused by him or his dog.

13. FMBB WC IHT TS committee - Purpose of the committee

- a. Assists in the organization of the FMBB World Championships FCI-IHT TS.
- b. Decides upon issues that may cause several interpretations regarding regulations.
- c. Briefs judges.
- d. Communicates with the next organizing committees and the FMBB Board.

14. Competitors of AKC or CKC

Based on the letter of understanding between FCI and AKC and between FCI and CKC the dogs of AKC or CKC can participate at FMBB WCH FCI-IHT TS. The following requirements must be fulfilled by applying teams to be allowed to participate at FCI-IHT TS trials of FMBB WCH FCI-IHT TS.

To participate at FCI level:	CKC dog needs to fulfil:
IHT1 TS	HSs + SDS title or TDS title as minimum
IHT2 TS	HIs + SDI title or TDI title as minimum
IHT3 TS	HAs + SDA title or TDA title as minimum

To participate at FCI level:	AKC dog needs to fulfil:
IHT1 TS	HSAs + HSDs title or HSC title as minimum
IHT2 TS	HIAs + HIDs title or HIC title as minimum
IHT3 TS	HXAs + HXDs title or HXC title as minimum

To fulfil the required level an AKC dog can complete CKC titles and vice versa as per following table of equivalents:

CKC	can be replaced by and vice versa	AKC
HSs	=	HSAs
HIs	=	HIAs
HAs	=	HXAs
SDS	=	HSDs
SDI	=	HIDs
SDA	=	HXDs
TDS	=	HSC
TDI	=	HIC
TDA	=	HXC