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Specifications Obedience

For the organization of the FMBB World Championships Obedience

1. General Provisions

- a. The WC Belgian Shepherd organizing country will uphold the following regulations. In cases of doubt or possible exceptions, always contact the FMBB Obedience Commission or the FMBB Board.
- b. The FMBB Obedience trials have to be held under the International Obedience Competition rules of the FCI.

2. Composition

The FMBB Obedience World Championship exists in three parts.

- The FMBB Obedience World Championships (class 3).
- The FMBB Obedience World Winner class 1.
- The FMBB Obedience World Winner class 2.

3. Competitors

- a. Competitors have to have the qualification for the class they are entering.
- b. Once a dog has participated in a competition or exam in a certain class, regardless of its performance, it is not eligible to compete in a lower class at FMBB.
- c. A handler can compete with the maximum number of two (2) dogs.
- d. A handler or a dog cannot compete in other disciplines at the World Championship (except exposition).
- e. The maximum number of competitors per country is 12 with a maximum of 6 competitors in class 3.

- f. 2 reserves can be registered for class 3. The reserves should be listed in the catalogue. If any of the registered participants cannot take part because of illness/accident, they may only be replaced by the teams registered as reserves for this class.
- g. 1 reserve can be registered for classes 1 and 2 respectively. The reserves should be listed in the catalogue. If any of the registered participants cannot take part because of illness/accident, they may only be replaced by the teams registered as reserves for that class (i.e. a reserve, registered for class 2 cannot replace a competitor in class 1 or vice versa).

4. Judges, stewards and helpers

- a. At least two judges with the qualification to judge internationally have to be invited. The Judge's List is proposed by the FMBB Obedience Commission. This with or without considering any proposals sent in by the organizer, then approved and invited by the FMBB board (see **point 9c** of the general implementation rules). Following the judge's acceptance of the assignment, the organizer arranges all necessary documentation.

At least one of the judges should be from another country than the organizing country.

- b. The Chief Judge is chosen by a vote among the invited judges. The name of the Chief Judge must be communicated to the FMBB board and FMBB Obedience Commission at least 3 weeks before the competition (i.e. 1 week after registrations close).
- c. Minimum one chief steward has to be invited, two stewards are recommended, but obligatory are one chief steward and one experienced helper. The ring stewards have to be experienced in performing international or qualification competitions. All commands have to be given in English.
- d. The Chief Steward is appointed by the organizer. The name of the Chief Steward must be communicated to the FMBB Obedience Commission at least 8 weeks before the competition. The Chief Steward alone is responsible for all communications with all the judges regarding terrain plans and equipment used.
- e. The Chief Steward must send all terrain and heelwork plans (qualifications and finals for all classes) to the judges 3 days after the close of registration for the event. The judges must agree on and submit requests for changes within 7 days after receiving the plans.
- f. The final approval regarding the order of the exercises, terrain and heelwork plans comes from the judges, as specified by the FCI Obedience rules. Once the judges approve the order and plans no further changes should be made.
- g. All judges and ring stewards must be able to speak English (the main language of FMBB). All other helpers have to be arranged by the organizer, in agreement with the Chief Steward.
- h. If the number of registered competitors exceeds the FCI allocation for judging per day for the 2 invited judges, additional judges (and a sufficient number of stewards and helpers) must be invited.

5. Competition field

- a. The competition ground has to be sand, grass or artificial grass if outside, an acceptable floor, sand or artificial grass, if it will be held indoors. The ground should be flat and in such condition that there will be no danger for handler or dog.
- b. The minimum size of the ring is written in the FCI rules. In addition there should be enough space to prepare the dog without disturbance by spectators or free running dogs
- c. The qualifications should take place in one ring. The exercises may be divided into 2 rings only if there are more than 25 competitors entered in one or more classes.
- d. The finals take place in 1 ring only with 2 judges judging simultaneously. This is obligatory for class 3, classes 1 and 2 final competition may be divided into 2 rings only in the case that the

number of competitors in the final run exceeds the FCI allocation for judging per day.

- e. The competition field has to be measured, prepared and marked exactly.

6. Equipment

- a. All equipment has to conform to FCI rules.
- b. Sufficient equipment for all classes has to be available. The wooden sticks for the scent discrimination exercise must be new for each competitor. Dumbbells provided by the organization should be new and have to be available in three sizes, however, and following FCI rules, competitors may use their own dumbbells if they choose to do so.
- c. The equipment has to be organized by the Chief Steward and has to be approved by the FMBB Obedience Commission and the judges.
- d. If a second ring is needed, enough equipment has to be available.

7. Performance of competition

- a. All starting numbers for the qualifications have to be drawn by lottery.

Competitors with two dogs are to be considered if both dogs are in the same class.

The starting order of the finals is determined by the reverse order of results achieved in the qualification round.

- b. The competition is to be held in the following way:

- Each class is held over two days.
- First day all competitors are doing one trial, the second day is held as a final with a maximum of 20 starters. If there are less than 20 starters in a class, all starters in this class are competing two times irregardless of the result achieved on the first trial day.
- The lower classes (1 and 2) are held on the same day, the highest class (3) on another day, so 4 days are needed for the Obedience competition.

- c. Individual competition

To find out a ranking, points out of both trials have to be added. The best 3 competitors in each class have to be awarded. In class 3 they are getting FMBB medals, the lower classes are getting awards from the organizer.

- d. Team competition

The total points from the best three in class 3 per country makes the result for the team competition.

- e. Final Competition

At least the final class 3 competition must be judged by two judges simultaneously, but preferably this should be the case for final competitions in all classes

8. Trials and training

- a. The plan of the ring, the heelwork and the order of exercises for the first day of completion have to be published 2 weeks before the competition at the organizers homepage and have to be sent at the same time by e-mail to the team leaders. It is highly recommended to also publish the used equipment.
- b. The positions for the qualifications in all classes should be announced during the team leader meeting.
- c. The order of the exercises, terrain plans, heelwork, and positions for the finals have to be published after the first day competition (Thursday evening for classes 1 and 2, Friday evening

for class 3).

- d. Training has to be organized for all competitors. 5 minutes per competitor are recommended. All trainings have to be held on Wednesday, before the competition of any class starts.
- e. The equipment used in the competition has to be prepared; also the ring has to be prepared for the class.
- f. The Chief Steward must ensure the terrain plans are communicated directly and only to all the invited judges. All the invited judges are also responsible for approving all terrain plans for the competition.

9. Time table (can be adjusted depending on the number of registered participants)

a. Wednesday

- Veterinary control
- Training for all classes
- Judges meeting
- Team leader meeting and start number drawing

b. Competition

- Thursday: Class 1 & Class 2
- Friday: Class 3
- Saturday: Final Class 1 and Class 2
- Sunday: Final Class 3

c. Office

A time and room has to be provided for the drawing and briefing, team leader meeting, judges meeting and Obedience committee meeting.

10. FMBB Obedience Commission - Purpose of the commission

- a. Assisting in the organization of the FMBB world championships Obedience.
- b. Decide upon issues that may cause several interpretations with regard to regulations.
- c. Approves necessary changes of the schedule (in cooperation with the organization if necessary)
- d. Brief judges.
- e. Communication with the next organizing committees and the FMBB Board.

EVENT ORGANIZER CHECK-LIST

ACTIVITY	DUE BY	DATE	DONE
Appoint Chief Steward and communicate the name and contact details to FMBB OB Commission	8 weeks before start of competition		
Decision of competition layout for qualifications – 1 ring or 2 rings (depending on the number of competitors)	At close of registrations		
Chief Steward sends all terrain plans (qualifications and finals) for approval to all the judges	3 days after close of registrations		
Name of Chief Judge is communicated to the organizer, FMBB OB Commission and FMBB board	3 weeks before the start of the competition		
Judges agree on and submit requests for changes or approve all terrain plans, order of exercises and heelwork	10 days after close of registrations		
Chief Steward publishes the equipment used, terrain plans, order of exercises and heelwork on the web page and sends to all team-leader by email	2 weeks before the first day of competition		
Positions for all classes for qualifications and finals agreed upon	At judges meeting on Wednesday before the competition		
Positions for all exercises for the qualifications published and displayed on the web page and message board	At the team-leader meeting on Wednesday before the competition		
Publish positions, order of the exercises, terrain plans and heelwork for finals in classes 1 and 2	Thursday evening after the end of competition		
Publish positions, order of the exercises, terrain plans and heelwork for finals in class 3	Friday evening after the end of competition		