

# **Minutes of the ordinary online general meeting of Dogdance International e.V. on Sunday, June 18, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:42 p.m**

Start of meeting: 10.00 a.m

There is an average of 63-70 voting members present online.

## **TOP 1 Welcome of the members**

Welcome to the General Assembly by the 1st Chairperson of the DDI Nina Neumann

## **TOP 2 Opening of the General Assembly**

### **2.1. Election of the chair of the meeting (10.00 a.m)**

Nina Neumann proposes herself as chairperson of the meeting. There are no further proposals

69 votes in the vote box

Yes: 69 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 0 votes

Nina Neumann has been elected chair of the meeting.

At this point it was noticed that the English translation for the votebox is missing. The Board apologizes and resolves this with oral translation during the meeting.

### **2.2. Presentation and approval of the concept of the virtual Annual General Meeting # Establishment of the proper invitation (10.22 a.m)**

The meeting takes place via the Zoom Meeting app. There is a separate voting app for voting, Votebox. Voting takes place anonymously from the Board elections. Requests to speak should be written in the chat or announced by hand signal. It will then be called one after the other. Due to the full agenda and the previous discussion rounds, we ask that requests to speak be kept to a minimum. This year, Jessica Lang and Katharina Henf will be translating; contributions are generally written in English and then presented in German, or written in German and presented in English.

According to the articles of association, the general meeting was duly invited. The invitations were published on the DDI e.V. website in good time and announced via the Facebook page. All members were also invited by email. There are no queries.

Voting on the meeting concept:

70 votes in the vote box

Yes: 67 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

The meeting concept was accepted.

### **2.3. Establishment of the quorum**

This meeting is quorate by accepting the meeting concept with 67 members entitled to vote.

### **2.4. Addition to the agenda (10.33 a.m)**

motion by Uta Opel, 3 Proposals by the Board (Mistake Copy and paste, not in Agenda, motion by Inka Burow, Approval of the agenda

Election result for the agenda and the additions to the agenda:

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 69 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 0 votes

The changed agenda was included.

## **TOP 3 Reports of the Executive Committee**

### **3.1. General report of the Executive Board on the past year**

Report Board of Directors

Finally we were able to dance again without restrictions and there was a full tournament calendar including the OEC in the Netherlands. The calendar for this year is also really impressive. At this point we would like to thank all tournament organisers. Thank you very much for your commitment and dedication.

In the meantime, tournaments have been added in France, Israel, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. We are happy about many great tournaments under the rules of the DDI and many new members in our big dogdance family. A few weeks ago we received an enquiry from the Ukraine, perhaps tournaments will also be possible there at some point. We would be very happy about that.

We have done a lot of bureaucratic work in the background, which was simply not possible during Corona. Now all the old problems have been dealt with and the DDI is „up to date“. The website has been slimmed down a bit.

We have tried to publish some info sheets about the individual classes and on scoring and have updated and revised the Orga Manual for tournament organisers. The regulations are now available in many languages. A big thank you to all the hardworking translators. You are doing a very valuable job for the DDI. Thank you very much.

For all organisers: Please enter your tournaments in the DDI calendar first, wait until they are activated and then promote them on social media and your website. Please email the rankings after the tournament as a PDF

to Sandra Roth or directly via the homepage under the tab „Tournaments - for organisers - Enter results. We do not accept other formats and will not publish them.

The Spread Shop has been well received by you, at many tournaments you can now recognise the DDI family, which is great especially at shows. The judges have also been redressed and are now instantly visible as judges. In return, each judge received a voucher for the Spread Shop. However, each sale generates a small income for the club, so the club benefits from each sale. Unfortunately we missed to get the approval of the members at the last general meeting. This has to happen for an expenditure of more than 2000 euros. We apologise for this and hope that this expenditure is okay for all members. Sandra will explain more about this in a moment. We are working on a generally valid rating table that can be used at every tournament and is available to every organiser. This is currently in the test phase.

There were two discussion rounds that were well received and where we discussed really constructive. We will keep this up. The next date will be announced early, probably in autumn.

We have continued to look for a main sponsor, unfortunately without success so far. Anyone with ideas or contacts is welcome to contact the Board or the country representatives. We are open to everything.

A not so nice topic are the membership fees. Many members transfer the membership fee on their own. Unfortunately, this is often forgotten, so that we have immense arrears in the association.

We will write to the members after the meeting and ask them to set up a Sepa direct debit mandate or to authorise payment via paypal. On the one hand this is much easier and clearer for the bookkeeping and processing by the treasurer, on the other hand it secures the existence of the association.

### **Acknowledgements**

A big thank to everyone in the big DDI family.

Thanks to all volunteers who do a great job, thanks to our judges and our judge trainers, thanks to all country representatives who are a great mouthpiece for all members, thanks to all organisers, helpers and of course thanks to every member of the DDI. You make the DDI what it is, a big colourful, international, warm family. Thanks a lot.

An extra big thank you goes to my colleagues on the board. Without you I would not have survived the first year as chairperson, your experience and internal knowledge is simply worth its weight in gold.

Many thanks to Silke, who will be leaving the board. Thank you very much for your commitment over the last years.

Also a big thank you to Jana and Axel who are retiring from voluntary work. You have done a great job. Thank you very much.

### **3.1. Report of the Treasurer**

Cash Report for the Financial Year 2022

Dear DDI Members,

At the General Meeting, a report on the finances of the Association is to be made annually to the members of the Association for the previous financial year.

This is the report for the financial year 2022.

As of 31.12.2022, the following **liquid funds** were available

Savings bank balance: € 25,136.10

Credit balance Paypal: € 153,97

In total, this results in a negative difference compared to the previous year of € 6.095,47.

This is made up as follows:

The total **income** for the year 2022 was **€ 9,666.98**, which is distributed as follows:

- Membership fees: € 4.490,00
- Licence fees: € 2.130,00
- for conducted judge workshops and judge trainings: € 2.255,00
- Sponsoring tournament: € 500,00
- Spread-Shirt-Shop: € 291,98

**Expenses** totalled € 15,762.45 in the following composition:

- software and internet costs: € 3,569.82 in total
  - zoom fees: € 2,711.76
  - Service maintenance homepage: € 428,40
  - Ongoing internet costs: € 280,86
  - Ongoing membership software: € 148,80
- Judges' training and further education: € 3,383.87
- Advertising costs: € 3.191,37
  - Vouchers Spread-Shirt-Shop for judges + honorary office: € 2.850,00
  - Remainder flyers, banners, roll-ups: € 341,37
- Costs for tournaments: forwarded sponsor money: € 2.900,00
- Costs for general meetings: € 1.564,14 (IT support for electr. voting, voting procedures)
- Licences: € 452,89
- Postage: € 299,55 (mailing of licence booklets)
- Legal and consulting fees: € 205,04 in total (notary fees)
- Account maintenance fees/refundable direct debit fees: € 195,77

This results in a loss of **€ 6.095,47** for the financial year 2022.

Berlin, 18.06.2023

Silke Janiszewski

### 3.2. Report of the cash auditors

Conclusion of the cash audit & statement for the general meeting

Dear Board, dear General Assembly

This year, for the first time, we, Heike Vetter and Katrin Heimsath, have taken on the task of auditing the accounts. Independently of each other, we have audited the accounts and the income statement of the DDI e. V. for the year 2022 in full and in detail. The board and the treasurer answered our questions promptly and comprehensibly. Both courses of the cash audit were documented and are available to the Board.

In this context, we would like to thank Jana Lorenz for her great efforts in keeping the timeconsuming bookkeeping clear, very well structured and easy to understand for the DDI e. V..

For the discharge of the Board by the General Assembly, we would like to ask the Board to explain the following related expenditure(s) and have them confirmed by the General Assembly, as according to §9 (2)b of our Statutes they require the approval of the MA due to their amount:

- - 23.11.2022: Subject vouchers for judges + honorary office in the amount of 2,725.00 € to Spreadshirt AG
- - 01.12.2022: Subject vouchers for judges + honorary office in the amount of 125,00 € to Spreadshirt AG

Many thanks and best regards  
Heike Vetter & Katrin Heimsath

### 3.3. Questions on the annual reports

Feedback from Sandra Schneider on the extraordinary expenses at Spreadshirt:  
These will not occur at this level in the future as some of the expenses were one off payments.

#### TOP 10.3. Board

##### Equipment for judges via Spreadshop (11.05 a.m)

As announced at the last general meeting, the board has decided to send out Spreadshirt vouchers for existing judges. The Spreadshirt shop for our judges went online in autumn 2022. Following this, all long-serving judges who had fully completed the new more elaborate judges' training received a € 50 voucher to stock up on the new judges' clothing. New judges who had completed their training or had completed their first further training received a € 25 voucher. All volunteers also received a € 25 voucher as a small thank you for their work. In the future, every judge will receive a € 25 voucher upon completion of a training course.

Overview of Spreadshirt Shop sales to date:

104 sales in the DDI shop	- income from this approx. € 400.
132 sales in the DDI-Judges Shop	- Non Profit Shop - no income
44 vouchers at € 25 each	- € 1100
35 vouchers at € 50 each	- € 1750
<b>Total expenditure vouchers:</b>	<b>€ 2850 minus income: € 2450</b>

[Info from Sandra Schneider](#)

These extraordinary expenses will no longer occur at this level in the future.

**Vote:**

**The previous expenditure and the further expenditure are correct in the sense of the members?**

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 63 votes

No: 1 votes

Abstain: 5 votes

The motion was adopted.

**3.4. Discharge of the Executive Board (11.10 a.m)**

Election to discharge the board:

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 67 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 2 votes

The Board is thus discharged

**TOP 4 Report of the Advisory Board****4.1. Report of the Licensing Office**

Report on license management for the year 2022.

I evaluated the period 01.01. - 31.12.2022.

In total we received 268 license orders.

Of these there are 50 blank copies that went to Israel.

Form the remaining 218 orders only 7 booklets were not sent out because they have not been paid yet.

The orders are divided into the following countries:

Denmark	= 1
Germany	= 50
France	= 27
Greece	= 1
Israel	= 50 Blankoexemplare
Italy	= 70
Luxembourg	= 1
Austria	= 30
Poland	= 2
Switzerland	= 20
Slovakia	= 1
Czech Republic	= 15

Kind regards,  
Jasmin

#### Info from Jasmin Cheema

In 2022 there were 82 license booklet orders from members,  
136 license booklet orders from non-members  
and 50 blanks for Israel

#### Request to speak by Debra Bénard

Debra asks why 50 blank copies went to Israel.

#### Statement of the board:

Since the DDi is being set up in Israel, members can be recruited more quickly if there are license booklets on site. High transfer costs to Europe also deter potential members.

Katharina Henf adds that the same exception rule was made for the Czech Republic at the time.

## **4.2. Report of the Membership Officer**

### Membership statistics

Country: Argentina	(Quantity: 1)	Country: Austria	(Quantity: 24)
Country: Belgium	(Quantity: 5)	Country: Poland	(Quantity: 4)
Country: Denmark	(Quantity: 4)	Country: Russian Federation	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Germany	(Quantity: 178)	Country: Switzerland	(Quantity: 102)
Country: France	(Quantity: 21)	Country: Slovakia	(Quantity: 3)
Country: Greece	(Quantity: 1)	Country: Czech Republic	(Quantity: 13)
Country: Italy	(Quantity: 74)	Country: Hungary	(Quantity: 3)
Country: Netherlands	(Quantity: 6)		

Overall members: 440

### Entries and exits

Country: Argentina	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Germany	(Quantity: 10)
Country: France	(Quantity: 5)
Country: Italy	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Austria	(Quantity: 3)
Country: Poland	(Quantity: 2)
Country: Switzerland	(Quantity: 7)
Country: Slovakia	(Quantity: 2)
Country: Czech Republic	(Quantity: 8)

New members since May 22, 2022: 39

Resignations since May 22, 2022: 12

### 4.3. Report of the judges' representatives

Summary Claudia Moser – Judges education

First of all I would like to thank the team in the background, which have really put a lot of time and effort put into the judges administration, making it more efficient and taking care of lots of To-Do's such as creating a judges certificate, organising the judges clothing and answering lots and lots of questions and e-mails.

Thank you to Sandra Schneider and Annette Söll for their work!

A further thank you goes to all the judges educators, that offered judges workshops and judges updates in the last year.

At this place I would also like to thank Jessy Lang who not only organised the monthly judges discussion rounds but also held the meetings and did the summaries for the other judges. I am very happy to know that these meetings were used by many judges (and aspirants) from lots of different countries to be able to exchange, discuss and update themselves! The monthly meetings continued and will continue throughout this year, the next dates are 20th of July, 20th of August and 19th of September.

A total of three judges education rounds were offered, one in German, one in English and one in French.

We are very happy to welcome judges aspirants from Israel and Poland for the first time and also had participants from Italy and Hungary too. There were already 2 DDI-competitions in Israel and one in Poland, where the aspirants were able to collect their shadow judgments.

The french education was held live and online and the first judges aspirants have already finished their shadow judging and are now official judges and we also had the first DDI- competitions in France.

Besides the judges education we also had a number of judges updates in the last year, in total there were 3 complete Online-Days in German and/or English as well as the same program split over several evenings again one time in German and once in English.

We also had Live Judges-Updates in several countries, which was always a full day of workshop, one in Switzerland, two in Germany, one in Austria and one in Italy.

In addition to that, the judges (and aspirants) were able to watch and study the Webinars on our Learning-Plattform Coachy.

I would like to thank all judges for their work at the competitions in the last year as well as the time they spent to keep working on their education and updates as well as the participation at the judges discussion rounds and debriefings after the competitions.

Thank you to the members of the judges board for their work on the board and in their countries, thank you to the judges coaches which supported the shadow judges in their education.

Thank you also to all other persons and judges, that helped and supported organisers, competitors and shadow judges throughout the year.

And last but not least, thank you Sonja for many hours discussions, talking through ideas and topics, finding solutions and helping me think.

Claudia Moser

#### **4.4. Report of the persons responsible for organization and coordination**

by the Executive Board in General report

#### **TOP 5 Acknowledgements**

by the Executive Board in General report

#### **3.1. Vote for secret ballot: (11.29 a.m)**

68 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 66 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 2 votes

The motion was adopted.

#### **TOP 6 Elections of the Executive Board**

You can choose from:

- 2nd Chair
- Vice-Chair
- KTreasurer

No volunteers or interested parties have reported so far. As requested by the meeting last year, the vacant posts were communicated via several channels. Of course, the board of directors thought about filling the offices and asked around internally. Nevertheless, everyone is of course free to make suggestions or to get in touch. Nobody reports.

Nina Neumann reports that Sandra Roth from the current board is still available as 2nd chairwoman. Sandra Roth apologized for the meeting due to illness.

#### **Voting: Board elections 2nd chair: Sandra Roth (11.32 a.m)**

68 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 67 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 1 votes

Sandra Roth was re-elected.

Sandra Schneider is also still available for vice-chair.

**Voting: Board elections vice-chair: Sandra Schneider (11.36 a.m)**

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 65 votes

No: 1 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

Sandra Schneider was re-elected.

Silke Janiszewski resigns from her position as treasurer. Here, too, the board has thought about it and found a volunteer. No one in the congregation is volunteering for this post. Nina Neumann reports that Jasmin Cheema would be willing to take on this office and asks whether she would accept the election if she were elected. Jasmine agrees.

**Voting: Board elections treasurer: Jasmin Cheema (11.38 a.m)**

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 67 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 2 votes

Jasmine Cheema was chosen.

**TOP 7 Election of the Advisory Board (Honorary Mant)**

**7.1. Advisory board election - Allocation of licences Jasmin Cheema (11.40 a.m)**

Jasmin Cheema stands for election again.

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 68 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 1 votes

Jasmine Cheema was chosen.

**7.2. Advisory board election - Membership Sandra Schneider (11.42 a.m)**

Sandra Schneider stands for election again.

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 67 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 2 votes

Sandra Schneider was chosen.

### **7.3. Advisory board election - Judges Claudia Moser & Sonja Scheurer (11.47 a.m)**

Claudia Moser is up for election again.

Claudia Moser notes that Sonja Scheurer is also standing for election to be trained. Sonja Scheurer will take over the judging in two years.

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 63 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 6 votes

Claudia Moser and Sonja Scheurer were elected.

### **7.4. Advisory board election - Public relations Sabine Bräuniger & Sarah Bernegger (11.50 a.m)**

Sabine Bräuniger is standing for election in cooperation with Sarah Bernegger.

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 65 votes

No: 1 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

Sabine Bräuniger and Sarah Bernegger were elected.

### **TOP 8 Election of the judges' panel**

will be postponed, as dependent on motion

## TOP 9 Proposals of the members

### **TOP 9.1 Agenda item Cristina Tirelli (Italy) Attacking Dog**

In one of the judges meeting we talked about a dog that during a competition jumped out of the ring to attack another dog that was in the warm-up area/was walking in the arena.

It has happened at least in two different competitions in 2 different Countries and, of course, 2 different dogs. Although, at least in one case, the physical damage was absent thanks to a good bite inhibition (in the mentioned occasions the dogs were a Rottweiler and a Malamute) the psychological damage can be far more serious, for the attacked dog and the handler.

As in our rules there's nothing about this kind of issue, it may be a good thing to decide what to do in this case, so we can all act in the same way.

Proposal:

I suggest to add in the 2024 rule that if a dog jumps out of the ring to attack another dog it has to be disqualified from the competition, (not just the class it's competing, so even if it's in fun classes), so it can no longer be in the ring for all the day/days

I would also add to write on the booklet the disqualification along with the cause, to take note of it, and if the same dog acts like this a second time, it can no longer be admitted in any other competitions.

The same rule can apply when

- a dog in the warm-up area jumps in the ring to attack the competing dog or jumps outside to attack a walking dog
- a dog attacks another dog in the ring during the training time

The rule does not apply when the incident happens outside of the competition arena/venue/field and does not involve the competing dog or the dog that is waiting to compete

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*As a matter of principle, dogs that attack other dogs have no business at a show.*

*Fear of marking in the licence booklet.*

*The definition of „aggressive behaviour“ is insufficient.*

*Who controls in the warm-up ring / preparation ring which dog attacks first and how is attack defined?*

### **Voting 1:**

**Should there be restrictions on aggressive dogs?** (11.55 a.m)

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 51 votes

No: 6 votes

Abstain: 12 votes

The motion was adopted.

### **Voting 1.2:**

**Dogs attacking other dogs out of the main ring will be excluded from the entire competition or disqualified.** (11.57 a.m)

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 55 votes

No: 9 votes

Abstain: 5 votes

The motion was adopted.

### **Voting 1.3.**

**Dogs attacking other dogs from the warm-up ring or during the ring walk will be disqualified from the entire competition.** (11.59 a.m)

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 44 votes

No: 15 votes

Abstain: 10 votes

The motion was adopted.

Statement by Claudia Moser:

A solution must be found as to who is responsible for supervision. From the judge's point of view, this cannot be controlled.

### **Voting 1.4**

**The disqualification and the reason for it will be entered in the licence booklet.** (12.01 p.m)

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 24 votes

No: 32 votes

Abstain: 13 votes

The motion was rejected

## **TOP 9.2 Agenda item Melissa Munoz (Italy)**

### **Age Dogs Class 3**

My proposal consists in modifying a part of the regulation, more precisely the part about the age a dog need to have for compete in class 3.

Now according to the regulation the dog, to be able to participate in class 3, needs be at least 3 years old. The idea was to reduce the age limit of the dog as regards the selection competition for the OEC that every country does every year before OEC.

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*Health aspect is addressed.*

*Opinions differed greatly. While the German members are mostly in favour of the 3 years, the members from the other countries are more in favour of the 18 months regulation. If changed, variant 3 would be the best compromise solution. At 18 months, the dog would have to progress from class 1 to 3 in 3 months (minimum age for class 1 is 15 months).*

#### **Voting 1:** (12.07 p.m)

Shall the regulations be changed with regard to the age of the dogs in the classes FS 3 and HTM3?

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 15 votes

No: 52 votes

Abstain: 2 votes

The motion was rejected

#### PROPOSAL 1

Since that to participate to the OEC and to the World Dogdance Championship the dog must be at least 18 months, the first proposal is to put as dog age limit to participate to OEC dogdance selection competition also 18 months, because I think is not fair that for the same competition there's is people who can do the OEC competition with an 18 months old dog, subscribing themes selves as individual, and instead people who need to wait 3 or maybe 4 years for do the OEC "selection" competition in their country.

#### **Voting 1.2**

**The age of the dogs for classes FS3 and HTM3 is 18 months on the day of the show.**

omitted

#### PROPOSAL 2

Since that to participate to the OEC and to the World Dogdance Championship the dog must be at least 18 months, the second proposal is to put as dog age limit, to participate to OEC dogdance selection competition, 2 years old, as I think that to need to have to wait 3 years is too much, since many dogs became 3 years during summer and for one or two months they need to wait to have 4 years to do the OEC Dogdance "selection" competition.

#### **Voting 1.3**

**The age of the dogs on the day of qualification for the OEC is 2 years.**

omitted

### PROPOSAL 3

Since that to participate to the OEC and to the World Dogdance Championship the dog must be at least 18 months old, the proposal was to let participate to the selection competition for the OEC all the dogs that have the necessary points to pass in class 3 and that in the time frame from the selection competition up to the European championship turn 3 years old, so maybe they are not 3 years old yet for the selection competition, but for the OEC they must have it.

#### **Voting 1.4.**

**Dogs, with sufficient advancement points for classes FS3 and HTM3, that turn 3 years old between qualification and OEC, may participate in the qualification.**

omitted

Changing the age limit was also suggested by Lusy Imbergerova.

#### **TOP 9.3 Agenda item Fruzsina Wilhelm (Germany)**

This proposal does not correspond to the statutes of the DDI ev and can therefore not be voted on as it stands. It is proposed to establish a working group under the moderation of Katharina Henf to rework the motion until the next GM.

**Proposal: Discontinue the handicap class from the DDI rules altogether.**

Explanation: The proposal for the deletion of the handicap classes has been an idea among some DDI members for a long time, but I feel that the time has come for the proposal to be sent to the general meeting.

The handicap class is often subject to much debate, the practice of bringing handicapped dogs varies very much from country to country as well (in some countries it is very popular, in others not done at all or very rarely).

There are however sometimes extreme examples of handicaps in the ring that spark up debate. Dogs barely able to move, having medical devices inserted in them and performing in the ring. For some, this is extremely hard to watch, and for judges it is difficult to give feedback on or to mark in official classes.

The practice of allowing handicapped dogs to competitions is rare in dog sports, it basically only exists in dog-dance.

Since the judges are not certified animal healthcare professionals, it is very personal to decide whether a dog is "too sick" to be in the ring, and it is in some cases difficult to tell if the dog is in pain or is uncomfortable. Also high drive working dogs will often not show pain or discomfort and keep on working.

In the case of extremely handicapped dogs in fun classes, it is also extremely difficult to give any useful feedback to the team, since the dog usually cannot perform much of a choreography. In fun classes it is also difficult to determine whether the dogs really wants to be there and work, since the handler has the reward with them, and few dogs refuse to work if the reward is directly there for them.

From an audience point of view, since in many European countries animal welfare regulations are taken increasingly seriously, such a class would require extensive explanation for each starter in the class, which is sometimes not possible to do. Even if explanation is provided, a video recording of a severely handicapped dog in performance could be posted online without explanation and it could deliver a very bad message about the sport in its entirety.

It is also very contradictory that healthy young dogs are not allowed to compete in the highest class before the age of 3, reasoning that it is too much pressure on a young dog, but handicapped and dogs weak of health can be taken to competitions indefinitely, without limitation.

The general message that dogs with illnesses can work too is positive, but there is a very thin line, that is hard to determine, until when it is acceptable to work a handicapped dog, and when it counts as animal cruelty.

(If there is too much resistance to the proposal, as an alternative, the proposal could be modified in a way that the senior/handicap class should be removed from the package rule so that organizers are not forced to announce these classes)

### Results from the discussion rounds

Separation of handicap/seniors difficult - seniors with handicap then start where? Class always small and few starters anyway, with separation even fewer starters per class.

### **Alternative proposal if motion is not passed:**

**Voting 1.1:** (12.20 p.m)

**The Seniors and Handicap class will be excluded from the package provision. It may be offered on a voluntary basis.**

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 12 votes

No: 45 votes

Abstain: 10 votes

The motion was rejected

Note Inka Burow

I want to add that dogs in the other classes should be considered also, because they might not be happy in the ring.

Note Fruzsina Wilhelm

I would just like to make an extra comment that at the moment there are laws in Germany that forbid dogs from entering sports event or shows if their face is shaved and their whiskers are removed (for example poodles), because it is considered animal cruelty, and I still don't understand how severely ill dogs are accepted in ddi. There definitely has to be a discussion about it, because there is something seriously off with how handicap starts are viewed.

Note Claudia Moser

From the judge's point of view, Claudia Moser advocates an adequate elaboration of the content in the working group, also with the professional involvement of veterinarians.

Maren Heinrich volunteered here.

### **TOP 9.4 Christine Greiner (Austria)**

#### **Reference: Barking in the Ring**

A distinction should be made between barking

The dog barks very often or even continuously (stress and demand) - deduction of points is understandable.

The dog barks out of joy at certain elements (e.g. at a jump); most herding dogs do this, it is also breed-specific.

I am convinced that the judges are able to distinguish the reason why the dog barks or makes a different sound during certain elements.

If he enjoys it so much, why shouldn't he make a sound now and then? It is natural.

### Results from the discussion rounds

Barking is stress. Current regulation avoids discussions because it is verifiable. Otherwise it becomes subjective again.

**Voting:** (12.25 p.m)

Points are not deducted for joyful barking, points are only deducted for vocalisations if they are stressful or demanding barks.

69 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 4 votes

No: 62 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

The motion was rejected

**TOP 9.5 Agenda item Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)  
Increase in fees for licence booklets**

Moved to 9.16 Motion to increase membership fees - Motions are interdependent and should be dealt with together

LUNCH BREAK 12.27 - 13.30 p.m

**TOP 9.6 Agenda item Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)  
Adjust starts of bitches in heat.**

Current regulation:

At fun tournaments bitches in heat may start at the end of the tournament.

- At official shows, bitches in heat may start in their official class at the end of the show if at the end of the show if the organisers can offer the class in question as the last class of the day.
- If there is no possibility to start officially as the last starter, the official the official start can be changed into a fun start.
- Special rule for title and qualification tournaments:
- In class HTM 3 and class FS 3 at title and qualification tournaments, bitches in heat may always start at the end of the class, even if the class is not the is not the last class of the day.
- If a bitch in heat is entered in each category, it will be decided by lot whether HTM 3 or Freestyle 3 will be held first.
- Bitches in heat will start at the title and qualification competitions with panties.
- If a competitor does not report that the bitch is in heat and still starts, the bitch can also be disqualification may also be pronounced at a later date until the end of the event. disqualification may be pronounced until the end of the event.
- The main judge shall give clear instructions to the starters with the bitch in heat as to where they should where they are allowed to be before the start, and which other rules, if any, have to be observed and what other rules, if any, must be observed to minimise distraction to the other dogs. distraction for the other dogs is kept to a minimum.
- Any requirements and conditions of the venue must be observed. In case of doubt, the participants can only start at title and qualification tournaments. and qualification tournaments insist on a start.

Reason:

**Red paragraph:** is difficult to implement. A show schedule has never been changed for a bitch in heat and a class placed at the end of the day - understandable, as often the announcement comes at short notice that a bitch is in heat and, depending on the class, many starters are affected, possibly even the entire starting field if the class slips from the morning to the evening. If there are more than 2 bitches in heat, there is really no chance at all. This means that bitches in heat are actually excluded from all official starts - without calling it exclusion. In addition, there is the lost entry fee, which is not refunded.

**Blue paragraph:** The fact that the main judge is to give instructions also does not result in a clear regulation. Depending on the main judge, this can mean that the bitch in heat is not allowed to enter the entire area on the day of the show until 5 minutes before the start, but with another main judge this is no problem and she is allowed to stay in a separate area. So you can be lucky or unlucky.

All in all, these are very severe restrictions for a sport and an association that is so committed to accessibility. Therefore, I move for clear and fair rules for bitches in heat that apply uniformly at all tournaments.

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*Unanimously that there must be a clear regulation. Official starts should also be possible, otherwise too many tournaments could be lost. Financial risk for tournament organisers pro and contra, balanced. Could also be an advantage as currently males do not come into contact with it but might have to deal with it at the qualifier. Bitches in heat can be present at shows or on walks around the hall. Respectful and considerate behaviour from both sides instead of a fixed allocation of places where the bitch in heat is allowed to be. Other sports also allow bitches in heat to compete.*

#### **Voting:**

**Shall the rule for starting bitches in heat be changed?** (13.33 p.m)

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 51 votes

No: 8 votes

Abstain: 8 votes

The motion was adopted.

#### **Motion 2A**

**If motion 2 is adopted:**

**Variation A** replaces previous text after colour marking:

- **At official tournaments bitches in heat may start at the end of their class.**
- **The bitches in heat start at the ~~title and qualification tournaments~~ with a fresh pair of panties.**
- The organiser shall immediately inform all starters that a bitch in heat is present and also inform which starter it concerns. He will also inform them where the bitch in heat will be in the hall and where the car with this bitch is parked.
- If a starter cancels due to a bitch in heat, it is his personal decision, no entry fee will be refunded and no other start, e.g. in Fun, has to be made available, but the organiser can offer this if he wishes. (Applies to starters with male dogs, as well as to starters who do not wish to start their bitch in heat).
- If the participation of bitches in heat is explicitly not allowed according to the hall regulations or the regulations of the venue, this must be published in the announcement. Then an entry of intact bitches is at own risk. In this case, the hall regulations must be proven and published with the announcement.

Black text passages remain.

Reason:

With this regulation the conditions would be the same for all starters. All following starters have the same condition - smell of the bitch in heat in the ring.

**Variante B** replaces previous text according to colour marking:

At official shows bitches in heat may NOT start in the official classes.

The official start must be changed to a fun start at the end of the entered day (even if no fun classes are offered on that day).

If not all registered starts can be carried out, the entry fee must be refunded from the starts that have to be cancelled.

If a competitor voluntarily withdraws from the tournament, his entry fee will not be refunded.

Green remains.

The organiser will immediately inform all starters that a bitch in heat is present and will also inform which starter it concerns. He will also inform them where the bitch in heat will be in the hall and where the car with this bitch is parked.

If the participation of bitches in heat is explicitly not allowed according to the hall regulations or the regulations of the venue, this must be published in the announcement. Then an entry of intact bitches is at own risk. In this case, the hall regulations must be proven and published with the announcement.

Black text passages remain.

Justification:

With this regulation it would at least be clearly regulated that an official start is not allowed at any time (exception see qualification tournaments) out of consideration for the other tournament participants. However, the owner of the bitch in heat would not suffer any financial loss. A residual risk remains with the organiser, who then has to refund a maximum of 2 entry fees per bitch in heat that is to be started. It would be a compromise for all sides.

**Voting** (13.39 P.m)

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Variante A: 41 votes

Variante B: 22 votes

Abstain: 4 votes

Variant A was accepted.

Conclusion to the application:

Most dog sports halls are scenically located, so bitches in heat could be present in the surrounding area at any time. Bitches in heat are not a problem at many other sports either, so there may still have been a bitch in heat training at that venue the night before. At exhibition shows, it is even more likely that there will be bitches in heat on the grounds. At outdoor it is not even possible to really clean the ring.... Of course there are male dogs that are really badly affected, but they are then also in everyday life and even if the bitch in heat was in the ring the day before or had the ring inspection in the morning. Bitches in heat also have an impairment, hormonally and additionally with panties, here every owner must weigh up whether and to what extent he wants to do this to his bitch. For this reason, a clear regulation would simply be fair, each dog owner can weigh up for himself what is possible - as actually always in this sport. One cannot compete outdoors, the other not at fairs, the next not on sandy ground or if the surfaces are too slippery. We always make the decision for the good of our dog - if the decision is left to us and that is not the case with the current regulation.

**TOP 9.7 Agenda item Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)**  
**Amendments to the Statutes, membership applications do not have to be voted on by the Executive Committee.**

§ 4 Acquisition of membership

(4) The Executive Committee decides on admission by resolution. The decision should be communicated to the applicant; it does not need to be justified. If the Executive Committee rejects the application for membership, the person concerned has the right to appeal to the General Assembly. The decision of the General Assembly is final.

Delete this passage without replacement. Unnecessary bureaucracy

**Voting:** (13.43 P.m)

**Membership applications do not have to be voted on by the board**

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 49 votes

No: 5 votes

Abstain: 13 votes

The motion was adopted.

**TOP 9.8 Agenda item Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)**  
**3 judges at the National Championships**

At all ~~title competitions~~ and qualifiers 4 judges are compulsory in the class 3 (HTM and FS) are compulsory.

Reason:

As the National Championships lose importance if they are not accompanied by a qualification, holding them financially with 4 judges is a big obstacle for the organisers. In some countries, the National Championships are not held at all, as there is a championship in the clubs, but this is distributed over several tournaments on the basis of a points system. Such a solution would also be conceivable in the DDI, in which case it would no longer be possible to hold it with 4 judges anyway.

**Voting:** (13.43 P.m)

**3 instead of 4 judges are needed at national championships.**

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 53 votes

No: 6 votes

Abstain: 8 votes

The motion was adopted.

### **TOP 9.9 Agenda item Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)**

#### **Guest judges must be confirmed by the committee - quality assurance of guest judges**

Justification:

Currently there are no requirements for guest judges, a guest judge can be invited from any association and without any qualification. Theoretically without any judge training or experience in judging dogdance tournaments. In order to guarantee the quality of the judges, all guest judges as well as judges for qualification tournaments should be confirmed by the judging committee. This way we can keep the possibility to invite judges from other countries and other federations, but avoid possible abuse of this regulation.

[Results from the discussion rounds](#)

*Opinions went to yes. But it can happen that you don't know guest judges.*

**Voting:** (13.47 P.m)

**Guest judges have to be approved by the judges' panel.**

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 58 votes

No: 7 votes

Abstain: 2 votes

The motion was adopted.

### **TOP 9.10 Agenda item Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)**

#### **Change music length LuckyDip**

Existing: LuckyDip: Maximum 3:30 minutes (The starters can determine the fade-out point themselves).

Variant A: New: LuckyDip: Maximum 4 minutes (The starters can determine the fade-out point themselves.)

Variant B: New: LuckyDip: No limit, but should not exceed 4 minutes  
(The starters can determine the point to fade out themselves).

Reason: this makes it easier for the organisers if they do not have to cut songs or pay attention to the song length. The starter decides anyway, often to finish the dance earlier. With variant B, a song length of e.g. 4.10 min, because it fades out slowly, would be possible without time-consuming cutting because of a few seconds.

**Voting:** (13.49 P.m)

**The song length in the Lucky Dip class should be changed.**

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 44 votes

No: 12 votes

Abstain: 11 votes

The motion was adopted.

**Voting 1.2** (13.52 P.m)

Variant A: Lucky Dip goes up to max 4 minutes (The starters can determine the point to fade out themselves).

Variant B: No limit, but should not exceed 4 minutes (Starters can set the point to fade out themselves).

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Variante A: 20 votes

Variante B: 36 votes

Abstain: 11 votes

Variant B was accepted.

## **TOP 9.11 Agenda item Claudia Moser (Switzerland)**

### **Motion 1a:**

**Deletion of the following sub-items in disqualification reason 6.3.3 Props:**

**„Not all props are carried into the ring at once.“**

Justification: The disqualification reason has led to discussions again and again at judges' workshops but also at tournaments.

The problem is that when setting up the props without a dog, props were sometimes set up, but when entering the ring with a dog (after ring release), other objects or costume parts were sometimes brought into the ring.

The definition of whether an object is now a prop or part of the costume cannot be conclusively clarified even after many detailed discussions.

For example, a hat can be both a part of the costume (never taken off or used), can be a part of the costume used for dance movements (human), but can also be a part of the costume used for tricks and interactions with the dog, among other things.

Depending on the use and also the type of object, the answer here varies depending on the judging team (e.g. is a pistol, a sword, a basket, a magic wand, etc. rather props ? = must be carried into the ring all at once or rather costume ? = can also be carried into the ring together with the dog afterwards).

Since disqualification in such a case is a very massive punishment for the starter, but at the same time no uniform definition that is generally valid for all judges can be found, I therefore recommend deleting this passage from the rules.

Results from the discussion rounds

Claudia will amend the motion by tomorrow according to the comments of the discussion group.

-90 seconds / sound check separately / for fun and official? Define deduction points for exceeding / who controls for Fun? DJ?

**Voting:** (13.56 P.m)

**The passage „not all props are carried into the ring at once“ is deleted.**

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 49 votes

No: 11 votes

Abstain: 7 votes

The motion was adopted.

**Motion 1b:**

**If motion 1a is passed.**

**Define a maximum set-up time for props.**

Justification: The original reason for the item „All props must be carried into the ring at once“ was to minimise the amount of props and set-up time required.

Therefore, in order to continue to achieve this goal for the smooth running of the tournament, I recommend that a maximum time be set for the set-up of props.

Proposal 1 minute

After the set-up, the ring should be left and the time will be stopped. The sound check takes place afterwards and does not count towards the set-up time.

Proposal 1 minute New proposal after discussion rounds 90 seconds

**Voting:** (13.59 P.m)

**All props must be set up within 90 seconds.**

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 61 votes

No: 4 votes

Abstain: 2 votes

The motion was adopted.

**Motion 1c:**

**The ring steward is responsible for the execution and control.**

Proposal: Ring steward sets timer, when timer rings starter must leave ring again.

Note Debra Bernard

Dogs could be disturbed by the bell, especially if the ring release is also given via a bell. The ring steward should perform the timing quietly.

Note Claudia Moser

However, the setup may only take place when the judges are watching the setup to see grounds for disqualification such as a lining bag in the ring.

**Voting:** (14.09 P.m)

**The ring steward is responsible for the implementation and control of the set-up time.**

67 votes from 70 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 53 votes

No: 8 votes

Abstain: 6 votes

The motion was adopted.

**Motion 1d:**

**Voting:** (14.14 P.m)

**The regulation for the structure of the props also applies to the fun classes**

65 votes from 68 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 50 votes

No: 9 votes

Abstain: 6 votes

The motion was adopted.

Note Sandra Schneider

At tournaments where there is no ring steward, the DJ can control.

**Motion 1f:**

**Voting:** (14.20 P.m)

**Setup timeout penalties**

**Variant a)**

1 point will be deducted from the "In-Ring Misconduct" penalty point for each second of time that is exceeded.

**Variant b)**

The panel of judges shall decide on the amount/type of sanction.

**Voting:**

64 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Variante A: 45 votes

Variante B: 15 votes

Abstain: 4 votes

Variant A was accepted.

## TOP 9.12 Agenda item Claudia Moser (Switzerland)

### Motion 2a:

#### Introduction of a point deduction for wrong share HTM/ FS.

Justification:

By definition, in an HTM class the dog should be in one of the 18 foot positions 75% or more of the time.

If this is not the case, it is currently included in the score for content (incorrect balance). However, this is not really obvious for the starters, as a low score in the area of content could also be understood as simply showing too little content.

In order to achieve a better overview for the starters, I therefore recommend adding a separate deduction point for too much freestyle in an HTM class, so that the team knows what they should adjust in their choreo.

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*The motion was partly welcomed, partly concerns were expressed that this could lead to displeasure and incomprehension among the starting teams. Thematically, it is already done this way. The basis is the same as for barking, here a complaint could also be made by video evidence. In this way, the deduction for the starters would be clearer, since up to now it has been included in the content if too much FS was shown.*

**Voting:** (14.31 P.m)

**Less than 75% HTM share will result in a point deduction.**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 52 votes

No: 8 votes

Abstain: 5 votes

The motion was adopted.

### Motion 2b:

**The amount of deduction points will be discussed and defined in the judges' panel if the motion is passed.**

**Voting:** (14.34 P.m)

**The judges' panel discusses and defines the amount of deduction points.**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 56 votes

No: 3 votes

Abstain: 6 votes

The motion was adopted.

## Top 9.13 Agenda item Claudia Moser (Switzerland)

### Motion 4a:

#### Restructuring of the judges' panel

The judges' trainers and the members of the judges' panel are partly identical, but in some cases people have only one of the two functions.

This leads to the fact that sometimes discussions are two-track and separate and important contents, questions and decisions either have to be conducted twice or the flow of information in one or the other direction does not work ideally.

For this reason, I request that the judges' panel be restructured as follows.

The judges' panel consists of 2 parts.

1. country representative = voting member
  1. 1 person per country with DDI judges
  2. elected every 2 years by the General Assembly
  3. new candidature or re-election is only possible at the AGM
2. discussion members
  1. depending on the number of judges per country, additional discussion members are allowed.
  2. discussion members apply at the committee or AGM?
  3. elected judge trainers are automatically admitted as discussion members. Do they count towards the max. crowd or can they be extra?

This structure allows questions, discussion points and findings from the judges' training to reach the panel directly, where they can be taken up and dealt with.

Conversely, a more direct flow of information to the individual countries and further to the judges in the respective country is better ensured and everyone has the same information.

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*Election date a few weeks later if the motion is passed tomorrow. Election by member poll.*

**Voting:** (14.38 P.m)

#### **Should the judges' panel be restructured?**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 47 votes

No: 1 votes

Abstain: 17 votes

The motion was adopted.

### Motion 4b:

#### Maximum number of judges per country in the judges' panel

Proposal:

1-10 active judges per country = 1 person

11-20 active judges per country = 2 persons

**Voting:** (14.41 P.m)

**Per country with 1-10 active judges = 1 person**

**Per country with 11-20 active judges = 2 persons**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 49 votes

No: 7 votes

Abstain: 9 votes

The motion was adopted.

#### [Info from Claudia Moser](#)

The current body will continue to exist until the election has been carried out in a timely manner. There is an information letter to all members so that they can deal with it in terms of content. Then there will be a member survey.

Katharina Henf has submitted her application for a place on the judging panel.

Additional: not intended as a motion...

Duties/ tasks of the judge in charge

- Organisation of bi-monthly discussion rounds
- Collecting discussion topics and creating an agenda
- Organisation of votes (covert)
- Communicate voting results to the committee and the DDI Board.
- Liaison between the DDI Board and the Committee

Duties of voting member:

- Participate in bi-monthly discussion rounds via Zoom
- Participate in all votes (early voting delegation in case of absence)
- Communication of decisions in own country → e.g. via country representative (starter & organiser) or judge trainer (judge)
- In rotation each person 1x responsible for the minutes of the discussion

Duties of judge trainers

- Translation of the webinars Text
- Translation of the webinars spoken
- Alternative: Organisation of a substitute for the translations
- Collecting questions & topics at judges' workshops
- Presenting questions & topics for discussion in the judges' panel
- Participate in bi-monthly discussion rounds via Zoom

Duties of discussion members

- Participation in 2-monthly discussion rounds (voluntary)
- Collecting topics at tournaments and from starters in their own country
- Presenting the topics at discussion rounds

## **TOP 9.14 Agenda item Inka Burow, Katrin Heimsath, Kirsten Vrancken (Germany)**

### **Approval of medically necessary aids for dogs with disabilities**

In the regulations below 3.1. In General, the paragraph „It is forbidden to dress up the dog. The dog may only wear a slightly decorated collar. The only exception to this rule is that the dog can wear a muzzle if the owner wishes / or it is a legal requirement“ is changed as follows:

„It is forbidden to dress up the dog. The dog may only wear a slightly decorated collar. The only exceptions to this rule are that the dog can wear a muzzle if the owner wishes or it is a legal requirement, and that exclusively in the seniors and handicap class, aids prescribed by a veterinarian, such as a wheelchair, are allowed.“

At the same time, under 5.2.1. General rules after the sentence „The competitors can give informations such as age and/or handicaps on a information sheet, which will be given to the judges prior to the start of the class. „ the following sentence will be added:

„For an aid that the dog wears/uses in the ring, a veterinary certificate must be submitted.“

Reason:

Dogdance is the only dog sport that really any dog can do. Because this dog sport is based on the idea that nothing is compulsory, but everything is freestyle. The DDI's statutes therefore contain under § 2 tasks, purpose and activities of the association in (2) The purpose of the statutes is realized in particular by: (...) d) the opportunity for handicapped dogs and people to participate in the competitive sport of dogdance (...). In this context, it is not understandable why a three-legged dog can participate in competitions, but a dog that is dependent on a wheelchair cannot.

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*Idea to pass on this proposal to the AG regarding handicap class at tournaments.*

*The proposal should be better specified. Currently too much leeway because dog health is not included.*

**Voting 1:** (14.58 P.m)

**A dog may still compete even if it is wearing aids prescribed by a veterinarian.**

63 votes from 66 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 38 votes

No: 15 votes

Abstain: 10 votes

The motion was adopted.

**Voting 2:** (15.05 P.m)

**The regulations are supplemented under 5.2.1 (additional sheet class seniors).**

**„For an aid worn/used by the dog in the ring, a veterinary certificate of necessity must be provided.“**

65 votes from 66 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 43 votes

No: 10 votes

Abstain: 12 votes

The motion was adopted.

### Statement by Claudia Moser

The working group headed by Katharina Henf is given the definition of the content and the time limit for a certificate.

Alternative proposal:

In the event that the application is rejected, we apply to allow aids at least in the fun class for senior dogs and dogs with disabilities according to the above requirements.

### **Voting 3:**

**Veterinary prescribed aids may be used in the Senior and Handicap FS and HTM fun classes.**

omitted

### **TOP 9.15 Agenda item Michaela Friedrich (Austria)**

#### **Proposal: Compulsory promotion to the next higher class**

Explanation: the regulations stipulate that promotion to the next higher official class is possible with 2 promotion points (150 points reached); when the 7th promotion point is reached, the team must move up to the next higher class.

I could observe at the tournaments that especially in class 1 many, and partly also very good starters take part, who then also stay in this class for a long time. In class 2, on the other hand, there are rather few teams competing. I think that a change in the regulations, namely an obligation to move up to the next higher class after 5 promotion points have already been achieved, would lead to a better and fairer distribution of the teams and the level, especially between classes 1 and 2!

Proposal

Promotion possibility in all official classes (1-3) with 2 promotion points, promotion obligation to the next higher class after reaching 5 promotion points at the latest.

Exception: As the minimum age of the dog for participation in class 3 on the day of the tournament is 3 years, the team with a dog that is too young remains in class 2, even after it has received the 5th promotion point, until the dog has reached the minimum age for class 3.

### Results from the discussion rounds

*Different opinions. The 7P still come from the percentage rule, with the 150P an advancement point has become much more valuable. Possibly country-dependent need. Frequent starters can quickly reach the 7 points, but need this time to prepare for the next higher class.*

**Voting:** (14.41 P.m)

**After reaching 5 promotion points instead of 7, the team must move up in classes 1-3 FS and HTM.**

65 votes from 66 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 38 votes

No: 24 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

The motion was adopted.

## TOP 9.5 Agenda item Sandra Schneider (Switzerland) Increase of fees for licence booklets

### Motion 1:

**Raise the fees for licence booklets from 15 € .**

Justification:

The association has been consistent with its membership fees for years. Every member of the association also has the possibility to get the licence booklets for free. It is a one-time payment and gives the opportunity to compete in all DDI tournaments. Alternatively, a membership can be taken out which is considerably cheaper and also actively supports the club. The income will cover the running costs, as well as the online meeting. In addition, we will also offer tournament sponsorship again for 2024.

### Results from the discussion rounds

*Revenue must be generated.*

*Supporting only the OEC team is unfair to the masses. It is better to support tournament organisers. Make a motion together with a motion to increase membership fees.*

### Arithmetic example by Jasmin Cheema

For a calculation example for the financial increases, I used the rule of three:

If the membership fee were increased to € 30, we would have additional income of around € 2245, at € 40 in the amount of € 4490.

Increasing the license fees to € 40 results in additional income of € 3550 and at € 45 from € 4260.

Of course it's a very rough estimate.

With an annual minus of € 6095 in 2022, the result would be:

Membership fee € 30 and license fee € 40 → shortfall of 300 €

Membership fee € 30 and license fee € 45 → overage of 410 €

Maybe that helps with orientation.

**Voting:** (15.42 P.m)

**Should the fees for licence booklets be increased?**

65 votes from 66 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 52 votes

No: 6 votes

Abstain: 7 votes

The motion was adopted.

Motion 1A - If Motion 1 is accepted:

Variant A: A gradual increase: annually by 10 € - until 2026 = maximum 45 € per licence.

Variant B: One-off increase from 2024 to 40 €.

**Voting:** (15.46 P.m)

**Gradual increase or one-time increase**

65 votes from 66 registrations in the vote box

Variante A: 17 votes

Variante B: 36 votes

Abstain: 12 votes

Variant B was chosen.

**Motion 1B - If Motion 1 is passed:**

**Voting:** (15.48 P.m)

**Sponsorship for the OEC teams**

Fixed amount, € 50 per person = Max € 250 for each team that can be sent to the OEC by the DDI. Sponsorship for team clothing / printing costs - DDI logo must be placed prominently on clothing to receive sponsorship.

Sponsorship for OEC Qualifiers via a fixed amount calculated by the Board based on the annual budget. For 2024 it would be a lump sum of € 200 as a start.

**Voting:**

**Should DDI teams participating in the OEC receive sponsorship up to € 250?**

63 votes from 66 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 19 votes

No: 31 votes

Abstain: 13 votes

The motion was rejected

**TOP 9.16 Agenda item Katrin Heimsath, Heike Vetter (Germany)**

**Proposal: Increase of the membership fee**

We hereby propose to increase the membership fee to an amount to be determined by the General Assembly.

Reason:

At the cash audit for the year 2022, the result of the income statement (EÜR) is negative. This means that in this year there were more expenses than income, specifically in the amount of € 6,095.47.

A negative EÜR result is not necessarily a cause for concern in the case of one-off investments or extraordinary expenses. The association's assets at the beginning of 2022 in the amount of € 31,385.54 temporarily gave this. The year-end balance was € 25,136.10.

The income of the DDI e. V. in 2022 would only have covered its costs if advertising costs (banners, flyers, logo articles, ...) and sponsoring expenses for tournaments had been completely waived.

- Under the premise that a minimum of advertising is also to be counted among the core tasks of the association, the income could not sufficiently cover the expenditure for the core tasks of the association.
- The assets for tournament sponsoring still originated from the Animonda sponsoring and were to be used for this purpose as agreed. Currently, however, sponsoring for tournaments is no longer possible.

The association is mainly financed by membership fees. These have not been increased in recent years, although costs have risen due to inflation and will continue to do so. Sponsors have ceased to exist. Without changes in the relationship between income and expenditure, the association's assets will be depleted in the medium term.

A thought example: If membership fees were doubled and advertising costs halved at the same time, the annual result would be roughly neutral. (Values 2022)

We therefore propose to increase the membership fee to either

a) 30,- € per year

or

b) 40,- € per year

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*Should follow on from the increase in licences in the subject matter; if possible, a calculation example will be worked out by tomorrow. Opinions differ as to whether both should be increased together (inflation and fairness for all if both are increased) or whether only one part should be increased because otherwise it would be too much. Deficit in the association's coffers - therefore increase necessary to maintain infrastructure. The association is growing and so are the costs.*

#### **Voting 1: (15.55 P.m)**

##### **Increase the membership fee**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 42 votes

No: 16 votes

Abstain: 7 votes

The motion was adopted.

#### **Voting 2: (15.56 P.m)**

##### **Increase of the membership fee to A 30 euro/year or B 40 Euro/year**

65 votes in the vote box

Variante A: 34 votes

Variante B: 21 votes

Abstain: 10 votes

Variant A was chosen.

## TOP 9.17 Agenda item Anastasia Beaumont (France)

### Proposal change starts per day

In paragraph 4.2 Rules for competitions it's written about maximal amount of starts per dog per day:

- Until the age of 15 months maximal 1 start per day
- From the age of 15 months maximal 2 starts per day

But if we prepare our dog for both HTM and FS it makes it impossible to practice both disciplines in Fun classes until the age of 15 months. And for adult dogs who compete in official classes in both categories this rule makes it impossible to encourage a dog into the fun open class or participate in Lucky Dip where treats are allowed. Fun classes are made for training and giving our dogs good experience, so why should we limit it so much?

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*Unanimous: far too much - can only be done by individual dogs, it would be harmful for the majority. Better to focus on HTM or FS per tournament for the benefit of the dog. Physical and mental overload of the dogs feared - not even allowed in agility where much shorter start times are the case.*

#### **Motion 1.1., Voting: (16.01 P.m)**

#### **Allow dogs until the age of 15 months to do a maximum of 2 starts per day**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 11 votes

No: 51 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

The motion was rejected

#### **Motion 1.2., Voting: (16.02 P.m)**

#### **Allow dogs from the age of 15 months to do a maximum of 4 starts per day (2 in official classes and 2 in fun classes)**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 8 votes

No: 55 votes

Abstain: 2 votes

The motion was rejected

### Proposal 2

#### **Allow wearing of special shoes?**

In many competitions slippery carpets are very often used and they are laid directly on a concrete or tiled floor. This makes it dangerous to perform for fast dogs that can slip and fall while running or jumping.

I think it's quite hard to write down requirements for carpets, but we could allow dogs to use special shoes to help them slip less.

In the US, for trick shows, the use of special shoes for dogs is very developed, which has a rubber sole and provides the dog with a better grip on the surface. I already tested them and it works really great, it gives dogs more confidence in performing on slippery surfaces. This could help many owners of fast dogs get rid of the fear of exposing their dogs to injury on slippery surfaces and give dogs a better experience.

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*This motion was only included in the original English agenda. For this reason, it could not be discussed in the German discussion group. In the English discussion group it was noted that the shoes could also be used as an excuse to hide injured paws - training the dog's speed and adapting it to the conditions was a suggestion.*

#### **Motion 2.1., Voting: (16.05 P.m)**

**Allow dogs to use special shoes in all classes.**

64 votes from 65 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 5 votes  
No: 55 votes  
Abstain: 4 votes

The motion was rejected

#### **Motion 2.2 (if the first is not approved), Voting: (16.07 P.m)**

**Allow dogs to use special shoes in fun classes as a test phase**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 12 votes  
No: 47 votes  
Abstain: 6 votes

The motion was rejected

#### **Top 9.18 Proposal (Board)**

##### **Transition period for „new“ countries in the DDI**

For countries using the DDI regulations for the first time, a transition period of 2 years from the first DDI tournament organised in the country applies.

During this period, for example, judges may be trained even though they do not have a one-year membership. Requests for further exceptions within these 2 years must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee.

#### **Voting: (16.09 P.m)**

**Should there a transition period for “new” countries about 2 years?**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 51 votes  
No: 7 votes  
Abstain: 7 votes

The motion was adopted.

## Editorial change

### TOP 9.19 Editorial change Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)

#### 6.2.1. Vocalisations (max. 20 points)

Points may be deducted for barking, whining, squeaking or other vocalisations may be deducted. Gasping for air is also included in this category.

**Addition:** 0.1 points per countable sound.

If not individually countable - time in relation to the length of the music (e.g. 1 minute of vocal utterance in 4 minutes of dance = 5 points deducted ).

Justification:

This is the current rule and is taught in the judges' training. However, it would be good for the starters if it is also listed in the rules in a comprehensible way.

### TOP 9.20 Editorial change Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)

#### 7.2 Starting classes offered: Package rules and themed tournaments

Addition to the package rule

- It is possible to hold a doubles tournament if all classes can be offered on both days.
- If a class has to be split due to size and is offered on different days, it is not allowed to start on both days for the same class (if no double tournament).
- In principle, it is not permitted to start twice in the same class at a single tournament and thus compete against oneself.

Reason:

This is the current rule, but it was not formulated so clearly. Since there were questions about this, there is probably a need for a detailed explanation.

## **TOP 9.21 Editorial change Verena Verones (Switzerland)**

Entry Class Junior, Trio, Quartett

Due to the fact that there are repeated enquiries from competitors in this regard, I would like to request the following change in the wording of point 5.2.4 in the DDI regulations:

Under point 5.2.4

Until now:

Entry Classes Junior, Trio & Quartet

Any team may enter the official Junior, Trio and Quartet classes at any time. register. No licence booklet is required for these classes.

NEW

Entry Classes Juniors, Trio & Quartett

Any team can register at any time in the official Junior, Trio and Quartet classes. No licence booklet is required for these classes. When starting in the official classes Juniors, Trio & Quartet, the team is free to start in parallel or alternately as often as desired in another official class (with the corresponding licence booklet).

## **TOP 9.22 Claudia Moser (Switzerland)**

### **Editorial change**

#### **Adjustment 6.3.2 Use of training aids in the official classes.**

The sentence: *„Rewarding the dog is not permitted at any time in the official classes once the dog has entered the ring“* (in 6.3.2) has a different meaning than the sentence *„Use of reward/motivation aids and training equipment is not permitted at any time in the show ring (during official classes)“* (see 5.2.1. General regulations official classes).

I therefore request that the wording of both points be amended as follows:

The carrying of rewards/ motivational aids as well as training utensils is not allowed in the ring at any time during official classes. This rule applies to:

- Set-up time of props
- Sound check in the ring
- Entering the ring with dog

Under rewards/ motivational aids/ training utensils run the following things:

- Food
- Food bag (whether full or empty)
- toys
- clickers
- targets
- Jackpots, etc.

All rewards/ motivational aids/ training utensils must be deposited and used outside the ring.

## **TOP 10 Miscellaneous**

### **TOP 10.1. Agenda item Uta Opel (Germany)**

I know that there has already been a lot of discussion about the increased number of points (150) for a promotion point. Nevertheless, I am trying to make the motion to lower the required number of points from 150 to 140. All too often participants go home disappointed, having achieved 147 or even 149 points, but just no promotion point.

The answer they get (I have not been affected yet) is : The judges have to judge differently. But that is not not the point...

Quality is important, but we should also make sure that not too many people turn away from the DDI disappointed.

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*Since promotion-oriented judging is not relevant to lower the points.*

*Ascent-oriented judging has not yet been understood as such by the starters, and we are still in a transition. In class 1, one would like to have less high requirements - but this does not depend on the number of points but on the way of judging.*

**Voting:** (16.17 P.m)

**Should the 150 point rule be corrected to 140 points?**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 11 votes

No: 52 votes

Abstain: 2 votes

The motion was rejected

### **TOP 10.2. Agenda item Board**

**Motion: Toys after a class 0 start**

It happens again and again that a toy is thrown into the ring from outside at the end of a Class 0 start.

According to our rules this is neither forbidden nor allowed.

In order to avoid discussions among the judges, I would like to put this to the vote.

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*Majority in favour, but general question of what consequences this will have in other places. In general, what should be allowed in class 0 as in fun and what should not be allowed must be revised. Editorial changes in deductions and disqualifications in the distinction between fun and official starts necessary.*

**Voting:** (16.20 P.m)

**Should it be allowed to throw a toy from outside into the ring at the end of class F50 and HTMO.**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 27 votes

No: 32 votes

Abstain: 6 votes

The motion was rejected

#### **TOP 10.4. Agenda item Board**

##### **Wearing of the judges' clothing**

As the spreadshop for the judges' clothing was very well accepted and almost all vouchers were redeemed, we think that the direction - uniform appearance at the judges' table - is the right way. Therefore, it would make sense to add the following point to the regulations:

8. judging / 8.1. principles / duties:

- The judges wear clothes from the DDI-Judges Shop, personalised with their name, at the judges' table.

Justification:

As the DDI subsidises this clothing, we see it as a sign of appreciation if it is worn. Furthermore, this way there will be no more discussions about „advertising“ on the judges' clothing, no matter if it is advertising for a club, an event, a dog school or other companies / associations etc.

**Voting:** (16.24 P.m)

**Include the wearing of judges' clothing in the regulations?**

65 votes in the vote box

Yes: 49 votes

No: 13 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

The motion was adopted.

## **TOP 10.5 Agenda item Inka Burow Head Judge 3 years experience**

Dear board,  
dear general meeting,

I would like to submit the following motion for discussion and voting.

### **Requirement to the head judge**

**In the regulations below 8.3.4. The head judge, after the first paragraph the following sentence will be added:**

**„The head judge should have at least three years experience as an official judge.“**

#### Results from the discussion rounds

*It should be more about experience than years. Possibly not feasible if no judge has been in office for more than 3 years. A judge who does not start could make more sense than one who has been in office longer but starts himself. In principle, however, it is positive that a better definition should take place here - but more criteria would make sense.*

Inka Burow verbally changes her motion to the following wording.

#### Info from Inka Burow

It is expressly a should request.

### **Requirement to the head judge**

**Voting:** (16.38 P.m)

**In the regulations below 8.3.4. The head judge, after the first paragraph the following sentence will be added:**

**„The head judge should have at least 2 years experiaence instead of 3 OR judged 10 DDI competi-  
ons as an official judge.“**

63 votes from 64 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 52 votes

No: 2 votes

Abstain: 9 votes

The motion was adopted.

## **TOP 11 Closing words of the Executive Board**

Nina Neumann thanks her for the good cooperation, the good meeting and for adhering to the time schedule. Many thanks also to Tim Hamann from the Votebox.

The meeting ends at 4:42:17 p.m