

## Class 0

The test phase of Class 0 has got off to a great start and from 01.01.2023 Class 0 will be included in the regulations as a permanent feature in both divisions. This was proposed and accepted at the general assembly in May 2022.

Here is a short summary again:

Class 0 is seen as the "entry class" into the official classes before FS1 and HTM1. It is ranked, you get promotion points from January 2023 on and you need a licence booklet, as for all official classes. The dog must be at least 15 months old.

A maximum of 7 starts are possible in class 0. After a maximum of 7 starts, or with 2 promotion points, one must move up, but can also move up voluntarily earlier (from 2023).

Until then, the rules of the test phase (3 starts) continue to apply.

The start is voluntary. A team can also immediately enter class 1.

### General rules

- Rewards (food, toys) are allowed in the ring at all times.
- The dog may be rewarded before, during and after the dance as often as the starters deem appropriate.
- The use of rewards should help keep the dog focused and consistently well concentrated and fluent.
- The dance will be judged as an official class (point system) and the use of rewards will be included in the areas of flow and teamwork.
- There is a ranking of this class.
- Music length: 1:30 – 2:30 min (like class 1)

Class 0 is intended to take the pressure of an official start off the competitor. By taking along food or toys, many competitors are more relaxed. Nevertheless, you get a good assessment of whether the performance is sufficient for a class 1 or 2. And also whether the handler is nervously and mentally able to do so. You are already more excited when you compete in an "official" class. It is hardly possible to simulate this in the fun class.

In the past, some competitors have seen class 0 as a fun class with ranking or used it as a fun routine when there were no more fun spots. This class is not really intended for that. Here teams can perfectly prepare for a start in class 1, see if their performance is sufficient and if their dog is able to work motivated and fluently, and possibly reward the dog. For example, if a trick has worked particularly well, or to strengthen the dog's focus once again, or simply to play

briefly after the final pose. It does not have to be rewarded, but it can be rewarded.

We are looking forward to see many dances in the classes FS0 and HTM0 and hope that these classes will continue to be so well received

