

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of DDI

Saturday, May 27th, 2017 in Lenzkirch-Saig - D



1. Welcome & Opening

Chairperson: Axel Weber (AW)
Minutes: Claudia Moser (CM)
Vote counter: Barbara Feldbauer

2. Determination of proper convocation

Invitations were dispatched sufficiently ahead of time, the AGM was convoked conforming to the statutes.

Quorum: 22 members entitled to vote are present

11. Miscellaneous: Collection of additional items for item Miscellaneous

- 11.a Carmen: Question: Maximal number of non-DDI judges per tournament
- 11.b Claudia: Inscription deadlines for class 3 starters at qualification tournaments
- 11.c Christine: Election of a new secretary
- 11.d Katharina: Event coordinator
- 11.e Claudia: Exams for judges
- 11.f Claudia: Interpretation of FCI regulations regarding world championship

3. Annual report of the president Axel Weber

a. The tournament in Leipzig will likely be a FCI world championship, efforts to establish a cooperation agreement with the VDH failed, since the VDH is not allowed to work with an "international" association.

DDI's offer of assistance to the organization of the WDS 2017 Leipzig was not confirmed by VDH in 2016, informations were not passed on.

b. Membership management program: problems with the software due to outsourcing of Lexware (D) to Alpfactory (CH). The producer of the program currently does not provide any help/updates. The program does not run as promised. Via Jana Lorenz we are currently looking for a new program. As soon as there are new developments, Axel Weber will analyze the situation directly with Sandra Schneider and Jana Lorenz.

c. Sandra Schneider informs about current membership numbers

D	183 members	I	37 members
CH	104 members	F	8 members
A	20 members	Others	15 Members
Total	367 members		as of May 2017

Annual report of the vice-president Christine Szakacs

Zusammen - Together... (Text is attached)

Annual report on judges' education

In 2016 and up to the AGM, various judges' formation and continuous education courses took place. Among others also in CH, D, I, HU, CZ. One plan is to develop the continuous education by means of webinars. Many judges have happily agreed to support this effort with their know-how. We are currently testing webinar software to produce and save webinars which will be available both live and for re-viewing. It is planned to produce the first webinars at the end of 2017, beginning of 2018. Some judges have already offered their cooperation.

Due to the fact that the responsibility for judges' training (fortunately) is distributed on more shoulders, it becomes necessary to think about how to conserve the high quality of both the training and judgements. Under the item Miscellaneous (11.e), CM will present thoughts on an exam for judges.

4. Cashier's report and financial audit

A letter by the cashier Jana Lorenz is read out to the assembly by Axel Weber (listed in annex).

The complete cash report is available and can be viewed by the members.

Report of financial audit

Judith Loy and Denise Nardelli

The letter is attached and is read out to the assembly by Axel Weber.

Carmen Schmid proposes to discharge the executive board.

yes	19
no	0
abstentions	3

5. Proposal: Validity of the DDI regulations to begin only when all translations are available for download

Submitted by: Petra Funk, Jessica Rolfini, Carmen Heritier, Carmen Schmid, Chiara Meccoli, Lusy Imbergerova

AW reads out the submitted proposal:

“To ensure that changes to the regulations can be applied commonly in all countries judging according to the DDI, I request that the regulations become valid only after they have been published for download on the official DDI website in multiple languages.”

CM summarizes the discussion of Friday evening which resulted in a modification of the proposal (see summary of the discussion in appendix).

Proposal 5a) Should the application be accepted as read out?

yes	0
no	22
abstentions	0

Proposal 5b) German and English are defined as official DDI languages .

yes	22
no	0
abstentions	0

Proposal 5c) As soon as the regulations and the assessment sheets for fun and official classes are available for download on the website in the official DDI languages , the regulations come into force.

Translations into other languages are the duty of the responsible persons for the respective countries. These have to become active on their own.

yes	22
no	0
abstentions	0

6. Proposal: Immediate change of regulations with respect to carrying the dog into and out of the ring

Submitted by: Claudia Moser

Competitors are allowed to carry the dog into the ring before the start of the choreography and to carry it out after the dance has been completed.

The executive board has amended this point, and it will be inserted into the regulations as soon as possible.

7. Proposal: Tournament registrations are binding

Submitted by Petra Funk

AW reads the proposal:

“Registration for a tournament is binding and the starting fee is due, even if someone does not show up on the competition day! The organizer may bill due starting fees retroactively to a starter in the event of non-appearance on the competition day.”

CM reads the arguments discussed on Friday (see summary of the discussion in appendix).

Interventions:

- Doris Mensch: Some tournament organizers already specify this in their general business conditions.
- Sandra Schneider: Implementing a debt enforcement may be difficult depending on the country.
- Carmen Schmid: Moral support for new/small organizers to let them know that they have the right to claim money.
- Petra Funk: This is a symbolic move, to urge starters towards a fair(er) behavior and to provide (new) tournament organizers with clear procedures, which they can read about in the organization manual.

The executive board agrees with the discussed sentence to the extent that it will

make the following amendments to the regulations and the organization manual.

Decision taken by the AGM:

Introduction into the regulations: (under General conditions)

Registration for tournaments is binding and the start fee is due, even if one does not appear on the competition day.

Introduction into the organization manual

The setting of a payment deadline by the organizer is justified.

- A short payment deadline is often useful, organizers should not wait until shortly before the tournament to claim unpaid starting fees.
- Retroactive invoicing is possible.
- The starter owes the starting fee even in case of non-appearance on the tournament day.
- Reimbursement of starting fees is at the discretion of the respective organizer.

The executive board adds the amendments to the regulations.

Katharina Henf will insert the change in the organization manual.

8. Starters of the fun classes are to be given the opportunity to say for which points they want a feedback

Submitted by Barbara Feldbauer

AW reads the proposal:

“I hereby request that the starters of the fun classes, upon request, have the opportunity to briefly inform the judges in advance writing on which topic they would like to get the oral assessment of the judges.”

CM reads the arguments discussed on Friday (see summary of the discussion in appendix).

Introduction into the regulations:

Possible fun classes: New - training class

Elaboration of a feedback request form for download in German and English

Anke Opwis: Starters can be informed during feedbacks about this new class and the possibility that they can request specific feedback from the judges.

Carmen Schmid: Announcement on the homepage, informations to the organizers

Claudia Moser: Inform all judges about this point, the head judges should then inform the organizers about this possible new class (including the feedback request form).

Claudia: Create a template for the feedback request form

Daniel: Translation of the feedback request form to English,

Executive board: Publish the German and English versions on homepage.

Introduce the possible fun class in the regulations

9. All dogs must be kept on leash at the tournament site Behavior in the ring during the award ceremony

Submitted by Britta Kalff

AW has summarized 2 proposals and reads them out:

1. "All dogs are to be lead on a leash, both at the tournament venue and in the direct surroundings. Any free release on external grounds should be done according to the situation and with mutual respect (prevent biting incidents on tournaments).
2. Behavior in the ring during the award ceremony. Handlers of multiple dogs should NOT leave a dog in the ring without a supervisor while they are collecting their certificates with ONE dog. Either ALL dogs are taken forward, or the waiting dogs get a sitter (Aggressive incidents by dogs left behind during award ceremonies)."

CM reads the arguments discussed on Friday (see summary of the discussion in appendix).

Text in regulations:

The regulations state: The dog handler is responsible for his dog at all times!
The dog owner is liable for his dog.

This excludes a liability of the organizer in the event of incidents!

Claudia Moser: Entry in the regulations not possible, but starters and spectators should be sensitized again to act with foresight in order to prevent unhappy incidents.

Christine Szakacs: Organizers have domestic authority, can therefore also set rules and could also include these in their general business conditions for the tournament.

Fair interactions and acting with foresight are prerequisites which, unfortunately, have not always been adopted in recent times.

Acting with foresight means:

- Linen duty on the tournament venue
- Everybody anticipates and prevents situations that can potentially escalate
- Muzzles for dogs that are not always socially compatible
- Linen duty at award ceremonies
- Holders of multiple dogs do not let dogs wait alone, while another is taken to collect its award
- Incompatible or stressed dogs have no place in the spectators' rows or at the award ceremony!

10.a Possibilities of sanctions against organizers who repeatedly organize tournaments that do not correspond to the announcement

Submitted by Petra Funk

- Petra Funk: Describes examples of events where the ring size was massively smaller than announced.
- Katharina Henf: The exhibition organizer (not tournament organizers) has changed ring size at short notice. This may be beyond the power of the tournament organizers and, depending on the event, may no longer be correctable (e.g. due to mandatory emergency exits or other mandatory conditions).
- Petra Funk: Even if there is a checklist for the head judge, a margin of discretion of the head judge should remain.
- Carmen Schmid: Not the goal of damaging the organizer, but to ensure the best and fairest conditions possible for the starters. One should be lenient for small deviations, but it may not go wrong for years. What responsibility do I assume as an organizer if starters are damaged by a poor preparation?
- Claudia Moser: On the morning before the event, the head judge should check the basic conditions and, in case of serious defects (e.g. ring much too small, ground dangerous, etc.), could not cancel the tournament, but abrogate the status of a DDI tournament. This way, the starters could dance, but would not receive entries in the license booklet.
- Doris Mensch: With Claudia's suggestion, the villain is the organizer, the sufferers are the starters.
- Monika Gehrig: The idea would be that the head judge can cancel a tournament at short notice in such a case.
- Sandra Schneider: In a first occurrence, the head judge has a duty to report to the Management Board, but only a warning (possibly with the cancellation of sponsoring contributions) would be issued to the organizers.
- Katharina Henf: Information to the starters. Judges can tolerate smaller deficiencies, but with note on checklist. Signed checklist goes to the executive board. Thus the board also has insight into any problems. The executive board could decide (depending on the severity of the deficiencies) whether sponsoring contributions are cancelled. In the case of a repetition, the board could decide on a sanction such as the abrogation of the DDI status for the tournament.
- Anna-Maria Lebon: Is the size of the preparation area determined??
- Sandra Schneider: Information about deficiencies should go to the judges, so that they can control the correct implementation in the following year.
- Christine Szakacs: Despite a few black sheep it should not be forgotten that we have many good organizers who are trying to provide perfect conditions for the starters.

Entry / amendment in the regulations

Duties of the organizers:

- The ring size corresponds to that described in the announcement
- The floor is as skid-resistant as possible
- A preparation area (-ring) for the starters is available
- Direct (interference-free) access of the preparation ring and ring is ensured
- A ring enclosure is available, ideally sight-proof

These points must be complied with and must be checked jointly by the organizer and the main judge on the morning of the first tournament day.

Entry / amendment in the organization manual

Duties of head judge:

On the morning before the start of the tournament, go through the checklist and enter any deficiency, have it signed by the organizer and countersign it. The signed checklist is submitted to the executive board of the DDI directly after the tournament by surface or electronic mail (scanned). In the case of very serious deficiencies, the main judge may delay the tournament start until the organizer has remedied the deficiencies as far as possible.

10.b Ranking lists for group dances

Submitted by Maria Horn

Claudia Moser: Such discussions were held in judges' workshops over several years. Points that speak against this are:

- Difficult comparability of the different groups, since the group size varies considerably (teams of 3 vs. teams of 10, ...)
- For a good evaluation of group dances, a different evaluation sheet would be necessary, which would rather be based on criteria similar to a quadrille. Such an evaluation sheet would first have to be developed.
- Another point that judges have repeatedly brought up in the discussion was that, especially in the case of larger groups, it is sometimes difficult to keep the oversight, and even unfair treatment of animals can occur, which may then not be noticed by all judges.

Katharina Henf: Would it be possible to reward groups in other ways, such as to let them do a show program at fairs?

Carmen Schmid: Could we provide the opportunity to present group dances in Stuttgart as a great supporting program in the ring / show ring / ring of honour?

Perhaps, at world championship (WC) and OEC Switzerland, we could have group dances as a show program.

Claudia Moser: Group contests as special tournaments would be another possibility that could be considered.

10.c Ranking of the head judge

Submitted by Petra Funk

Christine Szakacs: Trust vote to the judges that these always make fair and objective judgements, no matter who dances.

Katharina Henf: Selection of the head judge is currently mainly based on the criterion who does not start. This has the consequence that not always the most appropriate judges take over the head judge duty.

Based on the discussion, the executive board will remove the clause from the regulations according to which the main judge may not appear in the ranking.

10.d Discussion of possible DDI qualification rules

In his presentation, Daniel Schümperli describes several models, all of which have been calculated based on the ranking lists of 2016 available on the DDI website.

Model 1: Corresponds to a model previously proposed by Horst Gehrke
Points given according to rank: Winner receives as many points as there are contestants, last contestant receives one point. Larger competition, more points possible, smaller competition, fewer points. Points are added over 12 months.

Model 2: Adaptation of Horst Gehrke's model with additional points for places on podium
Points given according to rank as in model 1 with 1 additional point for rank 3, 2 additional points for rank 2 and 3 additional points for rank 1. Points are added over 12 months.

Problems with models 1 and 2: Many starters have equal points in the ranking, which renders the qualifications more difficult. Moreover, the models do not reflect the actual strengths of the current teams.

Model 3: The three highest evaluation points reached in the last 12 months are added, all other results are deleted. Results older than 12 months fall out of the ranking.

Problem: Starters with only 1 or 2 starts in the current year must be extrapolated, or they cannot participate in the qualification, which results in a distortion.

Model 3 reflects the strengths of the teams quite well, but only possible for teams that had at least 2-3 starts in the current year.

Model 4: Status quo - pure qualification tournaments

Model 5: Qualification tournaments with an entry score from a tournament in the last 12 months.

Calculated for the discussion: Points of the qualification tournament weighed as 60%, points of previous tournament weighed as 40%.

Advantage of model 5

Both constancy and performance to the point can be checked. Establishing a provisional ranking based on the entry score before the tournament can generate additional interest for the audience.

Disadvantage of this variant: who does not have a start in the previous year, can essentially not reach the qualification.

Open discussion

Petra Funk: Interesting discussion and models, but one should also ask and consider whether these models are useful for all countries or if the models could also vary from country to country.

Doris Mensch: The mode should then be maintained for several years.

Daniel: The models will only work if all tournament ranking lists appear on the DDI homepage (submitted by organizers, inserted by DDI).

Models 4 und 5 still require a qualification tournament; thus, a separation of a WC and OEC qualification would only be possible with 2 separate qualification tournaments. With the ranking systems, one could in principle make a cut at any time of the year, e.g. a cut in March for the OEC and a cut in July for the WC.

Sandra Schneider: The advantage of these models is that the pushing up of dogs before a qualifying tournament is reduced, if points from the previous year are included.

Barbara Feldbauer: The risk of drop results can also be that the incentive is set (wrongly) that one starts more often to get a better point score; and thus the dog could be overstrained.

The omission of qualification tournaments would surely result in a lack of excitement for starters and the public.

Carmen Schmid: How would it be if one would determine, e.g. on the basis of a ranking, who can participate in a qualification at all.

Petra Funk: In other sports, e.g. obedience, one must have reached a certain grade in the previous year in order to participate in a qualification.

Sandra Schneider: In Klasse 3 statt Aufstiegsunkte Qualifikationspunkte holen (im Laufenden Jahr?).

Daniel: Due to the elaboration of a new choreo, longer phases without starts are possible in dogdancing.

Sandra Schneider: Wie verhindert man, dass man sich Aufstiegsunkte an Turnieren mit kleinen Starterzahlen sammeln geht?

Upshot of the discussion: The models will be calculated again for 2017 for D, CH and possibly yet other countries, and at the AGM 2018 there will be another discussion about possible qualification modes.

10.e Verification of the evaluations by the head judge prior to entry into the license booklets

Submitted by Jacky Walford/Benini

Mistakes in the tournament were made in the computing office. The program or entries were faulty, but these mistakes were discovered too late (at the award ceremony, after the tournament). As a result, both the entries in the license booklet and ranking lists had to be changed afterwards.

Entry in the organization manual:

Before registering the results in the license books, the computing office shows each ranking list to a judge who has directed the respective class.

Entry in regulations → under head judge

The head judge makes sure that, for each class, one judge (who evaluated this class) goes to the computing office and checks the rankings for plausibility. This should be done before the results are entered in the license booklets and before the award ceremony.

The executive board makes the amendments to the regulations.
Katharina Henf will make the changes in the organization manual.

11.a How many non-DDI judges may be invited without losing the status of a DDI tournament?

Submitted by Carmen Schmid

Current regulations: At least one official (DDI) judge needs to be present.

Proposal for regulation change:

For each class evaluation, there may be at most one non-DDI judge.
The executive board may include this amendment in the regulations.

11.b Inscription for class 3 starters at qualification tournaments

Current text in regulations: When organizing a qualifying tournament, the organizer must accept all class 3 starters. For more than 20 starters, he must organize a preliminary round and divide the class. A final round will then be held.

New:

The organizer of a qualification can first open the registration for the starters of the respective country who wish to qualify for a championship.

For this purpose, he can set a fixed deadline (3-5 days). All inscribed qualification starters of the country receive a guaranteed starting place. If there are more than 20 starters, the class has to be divided, and a preliminary round must be carried out.

After the end of the registration period for the qualification starters of the country, the organizer can open the registration for remaining starting places in class 3.

11.c Election of a new secretary ad interim

Reiner would like to leave his post as secretary. According to the statutes, the office ends by the resignation from the office with a term of three months.

Katharina Henf is willing to take over the remaining 9 months until the AGM 2018 and the new elections.

The executive board elects Katharina Henf with a simple majority.

11.d Tournament date coordinator

Submitted by Katharina Henf

Problem of date collisions, when a tournament date has been determined, and another tournament takes place on the same day. and one actually "takes away" each other starters Thus, it is possible that one "takes away" starters from each other.

A coordinator could collect dates over a period of time and, in the case of date collisions, could speak with the organizers.

It would be a matter of the organizers exchanging informations and arranging the tournaments coordinately.

Carmen Schmid: Dates for qualifications and opens must be defined earlier so that organizers have enough time to plan. In addition, the executive board should decide which application for qualifying tournaments it approves. These would have to be communicated at an earlier stage than is now the case, so that the organizers can plan ahead.

Claudia Moser: The problem is that tournament dates are published when they are placed online. However, at this stage, they can usually not be changed anymore. A coordinator could indeed help to prevent overlaps.

Katharina Henf: One should introduce a date protection for important dates of the association DDI such as the AGM, qualification tournaments, etc.

Provisional result of the discussion

Application for/allocation of an OEC qualification for the following year: Dec 31

Application for/allocation of a country open for the following year: June 30

Carmen Schmid volunteers to become the date coordinator for one year. Communication for all countries must be guaranteed, i.e. all tournament organizers must know that they should report possible dates to the coordinator. Possibly a new form for HP to register tournaments. Insert in the organization manual!!!

Report of planned tournament to coordinator, deadlines and dates must be defined between Carmen Schmid and the board of directors and then published on the HP!

Wanted: Homepage-Admins: General Admin
Carmen would like to look into this

Dates and places for AGM 2018:
Black Forest suits many participants. New elections for the executive board.

11.e. Thoughts about an exam for judges

The distribution of the judges' education on more shoulders is a very nice and enjoyable development. However, by doing, so other ways have to be found to maintain the standard of judges over many countries, linguistic boundaries and persons.

Therefore, CM has been thinking about an exam for judges for some time.

The examination is to consist of a theoretical part (with knowledge of regulations and case studies) and a detailed practical part (with different classes HTM and FS, seniors, large and smaller class sizes).

All judges, the existing judges as well as the judges in formation, are to pass this test.

Existing judges would remain judges in the event of a failure in certain classes, but they would have to repeat the failed classes successfully before they could evaluate them again.

The judges in formation will receive the judge's status only after completely passing the test.

To generate the exam, it is necessary to view many diverse tournament videos and to select the classes, to evaluate the classes, define a standard, then to perform a test exam. In addition, an objective standard (ideally with an evaluation program) must be developed so that all tests can be evaluated using the same standard.

Optimistically estimated, the effort will certainly amount to several hundred hours.

Due to the great effort required for the first creation of such a judges' test, Claudia Moser would like to discuss with the members what they think about classifying the generation of the exam as an external work (similar to the creation of a homepage), even though the work would be done by a board member. It would be carried out on a fee basis after a budget has been submitted to and approved by the executive board.

Upshot of the discussion:

The work is outside the framework of a normal board or club member's activity. If the club can hand over the revision of the homepage to external hands, then the creation of the exam should be considered at and treated on a similar basis.

Claudia Moser thanks the members for their feedback and will present a more detailed list of the planned work and a budget to the board.

11.f Interpretation of FCI regulations regarding world championship

Dogs which are inscribed for participation must be "registered".

No further explanations of the regulations are offered by the FCI. It is not mentioned that the dog must be registered with the national breeders' association.

Suggestion: If a dog does not have FCI papers, the number of the license booklet can be indicated at the time of registration with reference to a registration with the DDI and without further explanation.

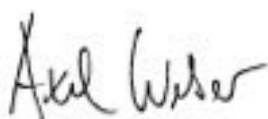
End of the meeting 19.15



Claudia Moser, minutes



Reiner Birkmeyer, secretary



Axel Weber, chairperson, president

List of participants AGM 2017 (22 members)

Axel Weber
Christine Szakacs
Sandra Schneider
Monika Gehrig
Johanna Tischler
Doris Mensch
Carmen Schmid
Petra Funk
Barbara Feldbauer
Anke Opwis
Brigitte Kaiser
Verena Verones
Sandra Berger
Karin Baumann
Katharina von Dach
Tamara Loosli
Anna-Maria Lebon
Regula Albisser-Strom
Therese Vivian Pulver
Claudia Moser
Katharina Henf
Thorsten Henf-Walter

Annual report 2016/17 of the vice-president Christine Szakacs

ZUSAMMEN - TOGETHER

We are better
We are safer / more secure
We are more successful

Trainer with trainer
Judge with judge
Tournament organizer with tournament organizer
Dogdancer with dogdancer
Executive board with all members
And all persons among and with each other
All persons benefit mutually from each other
With open relationships
While solving problems jointly
In dogdancing as well as in the human sphere.

One person excels at **this** - another person at **something else!**

A common exchange does a lot of good
Be open towards everyone.
Choose experienced persons as guidance, make your experiences known.

Face Book helps, personal contacts are valuable.

Concrete Options:

Suggestions made in judges' workshops - informations on what dogdancers should look for should not only be communicated to the judges but to anyone interested in these.

Suggestions of trainers - get help

Seminars - get to know each other and learn

Further education - attend Claudia's formation course for clicker trainers

Ask experienced tournament organizers for advice

Get further education wherever possible.

And, as always, our motto

Good humor: our dogs will be grateful to you, and to have contented happy dogs is most important.

Henry Ford once said:

Coming together is a BEGINNING

Keeping together is PROGRESS

Working together is SUCCESS

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Christine Szakacs

(Translation: Daniel Schümperli)