

**Dear members of Dogdance International e.V.,
Dear competitors with rules of Dogdance International e.V.,**

At the annual general meeting of Dogdance International e.V. on 21st of June 2020, our head of judges Claudia Moser submitted an application for the introduction of a new class 0, by this also representing the international judges board. The idea behind class 0 is a (voluntary) transition from the previous fun classes to the current official classes.

The most important innovation in this class reported shortly:

The handler is allowed to treat the dog like in fun classes, but the teams will be ranked like in official classes. Class 0 is therefore a unique new project for Dogdance International e.V. The assembly has decided on a test phase, which we will now present in detail:

Test-Phase Class 0

From August 2020, a new class 0 may be offered at all DDI e.V. competitions.

The new Class is part of the official classes and comes before FS 1 or HTM 1. This classification requires a license booklet for the competitors from DDI e.V., which can be requested via our website. (€ 15 per license booklet, however ALL license booklets are even free of charge for our MEMBERS).

Class 0 is offered as part of the official classes in both divisions (FS and HTM).

The official name is: **Freestyle 0 (FS 0)** and **Heelwork to Music 0 (HTM 0)**

A start in class 0 is voluntary: The team can start either in class 0 or directly in class 1.

The test phase runs until the end of 2020 (or until the general assembly in 2021).

General rules

- Rewards (food, toys) are allowed in the ring during the routine.
- The dog can be rewarded as often as the competitor feels right for the dog.
- The use of rewards should help the dog to stay focussed and maintain a good level of concentration and flow.
- The routine will be judged like an official class (points), the use of the rewards will be taken into account in Flow and Teamwork.
- There is a ranking for the class.
- Music length: 1.30 – 2.30 min (the same as in Class 1)

Entry in Class 0:

- Open to everyone.
- The dog must be 15 months of age on the day of the competition.
- The class is not mandatory, a competitor can choose to enter in Class 0 or go directly to Class 1.

- A **license booklet** of the right Division (FS or HTM) is necessary to enter this class.
- The license booklet needs to be valid for the Division they are entered (Freestyle or HTM).
- The license booklet is used to control the entry and the moving-up-rules.
- The results are entered in the license booklet.
- For future: If a competitor already competed in Class 1, he can not go back to Class 0.
 - In Test-Phase: Teams that have competed in Class 1 before have a one-time option to go back to Class 0 if they wish. Since we are just ringing in a test phase at the moment and we cannot guarantee that the members meeting of 2021 will decide to move it into the regulations, any ascent points from class 1 remain.
 - Since the organizers of competitions do not currently have to offer class 0, jumping between classes 1 and 0 can be allowed for competitors. Whenever an organizer does not offer class 0, the class 0 starter can start in class 1, but then under the conditions of regular class 1. Moving-Up-Points are still valid in class 1. The competitor cannot compete at the same competition in both class 1 and class 0 within a division. Only one official start within classes 0 to Sen / HC is allowed per division.

Moving out of Class 0:

- Maximum of 3 starts in that class.
- Starter can decide to move up before that.
- Judges can suggest to a team to move out of Class 0 faster if they feel, the team is ready for Class 1.

Organisers:

- The Class 0 has not to be offered by organisers of competitions. The Package rule is valid only for Classes 1, 2, 3 and Senior/ Handicap.
- The Class FS0 and HTM 0 can be judged by 2 or 3 judges.
- At the registration, the organiser must check the license booklets and make sure that the teams have not competed more than 3 times in Class 0.
- If the number of competitors in both Classes FS 0 and HTM 0 together is less than five, the organiser can combine the two classes into one class. Under Condition: There is no team registered for both Class HTM 0 and FS 0.
- To avoid contamination of the ring with food, FS 0 and HTM 0 should ideally placed with the Funclasses or after the official classes, unless the ring can be cleaned before the official classes.

We hope for a successful pilot project "Class 0" and will discuss our experiences at next annual general meeting of our association in 2021.

For the board and the applicants,

Katharina Henf
1st Chair of Dogdance International e.V.
www.dogdance.info