

Invitation to the General Assembly 2021

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Dear members,

we look forward to our second virtual general meeting with you.

Unfortunately, the pandemic leaves us no other choice, but since we had such good online experiences over the past year, we are convinced that we will be able to successfully hold our general meeting with you this year as well.

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The planned process is similar to last year:

Friday, June 4th, 2021, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. - discussion in German

Saturday, June 5th, 2021, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. - discussion in English

Sunday, June 6th, 2021, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Annual General Meeting (lunch break from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

The discussion rounds can be used to pre-discuss the individual agenda items of the annual general meeting. However, participation in the discussion rounds is **NOT** a prerequisite for participation in the annual meeting.

We are trying to provide a direct translation into English for the annual general meeting.

The meeting itself will be held in German.

Scheduled agenda:

Item 1 Greeting of the members

Item 2 Opening of the general assembly

- 2.1. Election of the chair of the meeting
- 2.2. Choice of moderation
- 2.3. Presentation and approval of the concept of the virtual annual general meeting
- 2.4. Establishing the proper invitation
- 2.5. Determination of quorum
- 2.6. Approval of the agenda

Item 3 Report of the board

- 3.1. General report of the board on the past calendar year,
- 3.2. Report of the treasurer
- 3.3. Report of the cash auditor(s)
- 3.4. Questions about the annual reports
- 3.5. Discharge of the board

Item 4 Report of the advisory board

- 4.1. Report from the licensing book issuing agency
- 4.2. Report of the representative of the membership system
- 4.3. Report of the judges representative

Item 5 Acknowledgments

Item 6 Board elections

6.1. Explanation and approval of the electoral periods of the board

6.2. Board elections

- 2nd chair
- Treasurer
- Assessor

Item 7 Election of the Advisory Board (honorary positions)

- for the issuing of licenses
- for public relations
- for the judiciary
- for membership
- for the organization and coordination of events

Item 8 Election of the cash auditors

Item 9 Discussion and voting on the future election periods of the Advisory Board (honorary positions) and cash auditors

Item 10 Regulations discussions

(Note: A list of exact discussion points will be provided after the acceptance period of the applications of the members, i.e. published up to 7 days before the meeting)

Item 11 Proposals made in accordance with the Articles of Association

Applications received can be found in the **appendix**.

Item 12 Miscellaneous

Information about dogdance in Russia (by Debra Benard)A Russian organization called the All-Russian Dog Sport Association (VSKO, their site is quite impressive but only in Russian! <https://vsko-russia.ru/>) is very interested in cooperating to the fullest with DDI, including by applying the DDI rules for holding competitions in Russia and using the DDI rules for qualifying events for the OEC.

This association is a member of the International Federation of Cynological Sports (ICFS) and has been accredited by the Russian Ministry of Sports.

One reason that the VSKO wishes to cooperate closely with DDI is to enable Russian competitors to take part in the OEC, a competition that is highly regarded by many of them.

They oppose the efforts of the Russian Kennel Club in Russia, and the FCI worldwide, to prevent competitors and judges from freely participating in non-FCI events, including the OEC.

In addition, they say that the FCI rules are unacceptable because of the restrictions they impose (presumably against non-pedigree dogs, although a workaround was found for the "EOC" this year).

Lastly, they declare that they are opposed to monopolistic practices in dog sports and favour the participation of competitors in any events they choose worldwide.

Item 13 Closing statement of the board

Requests for additions to the agenda must be made **one week (05/30/2021)** before the meeting be submitted in writing to the board so that the board can still put them on the agenda (Section 10 (3) of the Articles of Association).

We will work on the **Zoom Cloud Meetings** platform in combination with a very secure voting app.

We'll put together an information paper on how this works.

In addition, we need a registration to participate relatively early in the technical implementation so that all relevant data can be entered. Of course, as always, short-term participation will be possible, but the less data we have to change in a short time, the better.

We will send you the registration tool as soon as possible together with the technical requirements via email.

We look forward to a constructive exchange and a profitable meeting

Yours

Katharina Henf

1. Chairwoman of the Board

Appendix

Application 1 (by Claudia Moser): Topic selection of judges for qualifying tournaments & National Opens

Reason:

At the moment only the judge responsible for the approval of the judges is responsible and I think it would make sense to extend this decision to the entire judges panel, also because the members of the panel can often better assess the judiciary in their countries than the judge responsible who may not know all judges personally.

In addition, it is currently only stipulated in the regulations that the judges of the qualification tournament / the National Open are subject to approval. The aim of this regulation was to invite sufficiently experienced judges to be invited to larger and important tournaments, who on the one hand can cope with large classes and have the necessary experience to decide which teams can qualify for international tournaments. With the approval of the judges responsible / the judges panel it can also be guaranteed that the organizers cannot influence the outcome of the tournament with the judge selection.

However, since more and more judges are invited to a large tournament, variant 1 still cannot guarantee that the qualification classes HTM3 and FS3 will be judged by experienced judges, so I recommend accepting variant 2.

This would have the advantage that only some of the judges would be required to obtain a permit and at the same time it could be guaranteed that the qualifications are assessed by a balanced team of judges.

Version 1:

The judges for qualifying tournaments & National Opens are always subject to approval by the DDI. The planned judge selection is sent to the judge responsible (before booking). She/he presents the selection to the judges panel and the judges panel votes on the selection. The organizer will receive feedback within 14 days as to whether the judges have been approved and can then book them as usual.

Variant 2:

The judges for qualification tournaments & National Opens are always subject to approval by the DDI. The planned judge selection for the qualification classes HTM 3 and FS 3 is sent to the judge responsible. She/he presents the selection to the judges panel and the judges panel votes on the selection. The organizer will receive feedback within 14 days as to whether the judges have been approved and can then book them as usual.

Application 2 (by Claudia Moser): Criteria for the selection of judges for qualifying tournaments / National Opens

Reason:

So far there have been no criteria defined by the general assembly according to which the selection of judges for quality tournaments / national opens should be made.

As the person responsible for judges, I have so far checked the selection of judges according to the following criteria and would now like to put them up for discussion and election.

Suggestion:

In order to be invited as a judge for a qualification tournament / National Open (if variant 1 is accepted) / In order to be invited as a judge for classes HTM 3 and FS 3 at a qualification tournament / National Open, the judges should meet the following requirements:

- Active judge for at least 2 years
- Has already judged the classes HTM 3 and FS 3 several times
- Has already judged major tournaments / major classes
- The judges panel is as balanced as possible = judges come from different countries / regions
- Ideally, only 1 judge from your own country at the desk in Class 3

Application 3 (by Claudia Moser): Membership in the DDI before judge training (after discussion with GDS)

Reason:

Nowhere in the regulations does it explicitly state that a candidate must already be a member of the DDI in order to be able to begin training as a judge. So far it has only been stipulated that the judges will become free members after completing their training.

Version 1:

Before starting judge training, the person must already be a member of the DDI.

Variant 2:

Before starting judge training, the person must have been a member of the DDI for at least 1 year.

Application 4a: Definition of the application for national opens & qualification tournaments (addition to 7.2.)

Reason:

Organizers should find the things they need to consider in the regulations if they are interested in hosting a National Open or a qualifying tournament:

At the moment the topics can be found in different places (4.3. Tournament ring size / 10.1. Qualifications & championships)

Suggested addition to 7.2.

Organizers who want to host a qualification tournament or a National Open must send an application to the DDI board to host. The application must contain information about the tournament (venue, date) and information about the tournament ring (size, floor covering, expected level of distraction, e.g. trade fair, running audience, grandstands, etc.

If there are several applicants, the DDI Board will award the event to the organizer with the best prerequisites for such an event. In the case of title competitions and qualification tournaments, the applicant with the larger ring will be taken into account if the requirements are the same.

Application 4b (by Claudia Moser): follow-up motion

Reason:

The formulation 10.3. "In the case of title competitions and qualifying tournaments, the applicant with the larger ring will be considered under the same conditions" is not clearly formulated. Because what does that mean with the same conditions

Version 1:

If the application: definition for the application is accepted, the sentence "In title competitions and qualifying tournaments, if the requirements are the same, the applicant with the larger ring will be taken into account".

Variant 2:

If the application: definition for the application is accepted, the sentence “In title competitions and qualifying tournaments, if the requirements are the same, the applicant with the larger ring will be taken into account”.

What's new:

In addition to the appropriate requirements, the board also takes into account that the tournaments are held over the years in different regions / by different organizers in order to enable a balanced distribution in the respective country.

Application 5 (by Claudia Moser): Creation of an information sheet regarding the entry authorization for international (not DDI) tournaments such as OEC, Crufts, WM, ...

Reason:

The following question needs clarification and a clear definition:

Who is authorized to register the teams for the respective championships?

Depending on the event regulations, different rules apply here as to who is authorized to register teams and individual starters in international tournaments.

- Qualification organizer?
- DDI board
- National Dogdance Association (e.g. GDS)
- National FCI association (e.g. SKG)
- Team leader confirmed by the board

Since the individual events and in some cases the individual countries have different requirements, this repeatedly leads to questions, problems and different variants of the registration process.

Therefore, we consider it sensible that the DDI board creates an information sheet for each country and each major event (OEC, Crufts, WM), where it is defined who is entitled to carry out the qualification / selection and then who is entitled to register the teams / individual starters.

Application 6 (by Debra Benard): Proposal on distance work

After the section entitled “Props”, a new section, entitled “Distance work”, should be added.

To read:

- “1. In the freestyle component of heelwork to music routines (25%), distance work may be performed. This is the sole exception to the Definition Dogdance Heelwork to Music found on page (XXX) of these rules.
2. Distance work (“run-outs” or big circles around the ring; dog working at opposite sides of the ring from handler) does not constitute “Ring use” as it is judged under “Choreography. It may be taken into account, however, under “Difficulty”.

REASONS:

The first paragraph of this proposal simply includes in the rules something that has been stated in the webinars for judges. The purpose is to make sure all competitors have received this important information.

The second paragraph is a response to some recent developments and questions from competitors. Many competitors are trying to do moves where the dog is parallel to them, but at a great distance away (across the ring, for example).

But they are asking, “Is this considered use of the ring?”

From discussions among judges, it seems that it is not sufficient, and that the team itself needs to move around the ring. Otherwise, the whole point of “ring use”, namely to show a nice balance of movements within and around the ring, would be lost.

On the other hand, it would only be logical to increase the mark under “Difficulty” for such moves.