

# Official Dogdance Rules 2018

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## General rules

- Every dog with or without pedigree can take part in any Dogdance Competition held under the rules of the DDI.
- Every dog with or without pedigree can earn (national as well as international) DDI-titles in this sport.
- No membership in a club or organisation is required to organise or participate in a Dogdance Competition.
- Membership in the Club Dogdance International e.V. is optional.
- Every person can take part in Dogdance Competitions regardless of age or (dis-)abilities!
- The purpose of any Dogdance performance is to showcase the team's and especially the dog's mental and physical qualities in the most appropriate and positive style.
- Every dog and every person can form a Dogdance team and perform their routine together!
- The focus of the performance should be on the dog, and its qualities should be portrayed.
- Fair and kind handling of the dog is self-evident!
- The handler is responsible for his dog at all times.
- The health and well-being of the dog has to be preserved under all circumstances.
- The following punitive equipment (pinch, choke, electric collar) are not tolerated at the competition, nor on the venue of the event. Neither will be unfair treatment of the dog be accepted. Both will lead to sending off from the venue!
- The dog can be led into the ring on a lead, using a collar, harness or halter, but these need to be removed prior to the routine and be deposited outside the ring.
- Slightly decorated collars may be retained during the routine. Any other equipment or training aid has to be removed prior to the routine and deposited outside the ring.
- No further decoration of the dog is allowed.
- The person should be dressed appropriately; a costume can help to enhance the interpretation of the theme.
- The costume should never overshadow the dog or affect the dog's work.
- A dog may start with a muzzle as a necessary precaution if the handler wishes. Dogs subject to a muzzle order must start with muzzle.
- **Entries to competitions are binding and the starting fee is owed to the organizer, even if the team does not show up at the competition.**

# Definition Dogdance

Dogdance is separated in two independent divisions

- Dogdance Freestyle (FS)
- Dogdance Heelwork to music (HTM).

## Definition Dogdance Freestyle

In Freestyle a team can freely choose from all tricks and heelwork positions and create a choreography. In addition there will further be no restrictions and limitations of elements!

## Definition Dogdance Heelwork to Music

In heelwork the dog should be in one of 18 defined heelwork positions at least 75 % of the choreography.

- The dog always stays in the same position in relation to the handler, either standing or moving in any direction.
- The aim of a HTM presentation is a dog working close to the handler.
- The distance between dog and handler should be preferably small.
- Physical contact between dog and handler in heelwork positions is not required.
- A potentially high consistency in keeping heelwork positions is desirable.
- A heelwork position always should be recognizable as a heelwork position.

Transitions from one heelwork position to another or back into the same position are seen as Freestyle elements and therefore be counted into the 25% of FS elements in a HTM class. Crawling, limping, jumping, standing or walking on the hind legs always belong to the 25% of FS elements.

Offering HTM classes in Dogdance competitions stays voluntary.

A special **package rule** has to be obeyed for all official classes (see further below).

# Package rule for HTM & Freestyle

An organiser must offer at least one of the packages below if he is offering any official classes at his competition.

## **HTM Package**

HTM 1

HTM 2

HTM 3

HTM Seniors & Handicap

## **Freestyle Package**

FS 1

FS 2

FS 3

FS Seniors & Handicap

The Organiser chooses, which package (HTM package or Freestyle package) he wants to offer. He can also offer both packages at his competition (meaning all HTM-classes incl. HTM-Seniors/Handicaps as well as all FS-Classes incl. FS-Seniors/Handicaps).

The package has to be declared clearly when publishing the Competition on the DDI-website and the Headjudge checks it at the Competition.

## **Special Competitions**

Special competitions can be applied to the executive committee of DDI.

This gives organisers the opportunity to offer only individual classes, for example if the basic conditions for a competition don't allow to offer a full package.

An application for a special competition can be sent to the committee of the DDI prior to the announcement of the competition.

## Fun Classes (in general)

- Dogs from the age of 6 months on the day of competition can enter the fun classes.
- Certain moves (jumps, crawl, any move standing on hind legs, any backward move, and any other move that may harm the young dog's growth) are forbidden up to the age of 15 months!
- The use of motivation (food, toys, etc.) and training tools (clickers, targets, etc.) is allowed in all fun classes.
- Every team can enter fun classes as often as they wish.
- This also applies for any dog entered in official classes.
- A dog can be entered in a Fun class and an official class in the same competition.
- A maximum of 1 entry per day is allowed for dogs younger than 15 months.
- A maximum of 2 entries per day is allowed for all other dogs.
- (But always bear in mind, that already one entry per day can be a lot for a dog, so always do what's best for your dog!)
- There is no judging by points in the fun classes.
- The teams will not be compared with each other in the Fun classes!
- No rankings will be established in the fun classes. Every Team will be judged only by its individual level and abilities seen on the day.
- The judges will give some written and spoken feedback meant as constructive criticism.

### Possible Fun classes (FS)

<b>Beginner</b>	Only open for teams that enter their very first competition.
<b>Open</b>	Open to all teams of all levels.
<b>Seniors &amp; Handiacp</b>	For dogs over 8 and/or handlers over 60 years and For dogs and/or handlers with a physical disability.
<b>Trio</b>	1 handler with 2 dogs.
<b>Quartet</b>	2 handlers with 2 dogs.
<b>Groups</b>	More than 2 persons with more than 2 dogs.
<b>Lucky Dip</b>	The music for each team will be drawn during the registration. Afterwards the teams can prepare a routine and/or improvise to the given music.
<b>Training class</b>	By using a wish feedback sheet ( <a href="http://dogdance.info">dogdance.info</a> , Downloads, English), handlers can inform the judges which specific feedback they want to have.

### **Possible Fun classes (HTM)**

<b>Beginner</b>	Only open for teams that enter their very first competition.
<b>Open</b>	Open to all teams of all levels.
<b>Seniors &amp; Handicap</b>	For dogs over 8 and/or handlers over 60 years and for dogs and/or handlers with a physical handicap.
<b>Groups</b>	More than 2 persons with more than 2 dogs.
<b>Lucky Dip</b>	The music for each team will be drawn during the registration. Afterwards the teams can prepare a routine and/or improvise to the given music.
<b>Training class</b>	By using a wish feedback sheet ( <a href="http://dogdance.info">dogdance.info</a> , Downloads, English), handlers can inform the judges which specific feedback they want to have.

The organiser is free to offer further fun classes. The definition of those classes is up to the organiser, but need to be clearly stated in the invitation to the competition.

## Official classes (in general)

- The minimum age for a dog to be eligible for any official class is 15 months on the day of the competition.
- At no time in the official classes Motivators and Trainingtools such as food, toys, clicker, targets, Jackpots, etc.) allowed in the ring.
- All training and motivational aids can be left outside the ring and can be given to the dog after the routine when he has left the ring.
- The dog shall not re-enter the ring once he has left the ring after the routine!
- If the organiser offers a separate training and warm-up area all reinforcers and training aids can be used there.
- Entries in classes „Juniors“ and „Seniors“ are voluntary.
- Once a dog is entered in „Seniors & Handicap“ in one category (HTM or FS), he is no longer eligible for any other official class 1-3 in this division. Entries in Trio or Quartett are still possible!
- Juniors can also enter official classes 1-3. In these classes they will receive moving up points, to be inscribed in the official record booklet.
- A maximum of 2 entries per dog per day is allowed.  
(But bear in mind, that one entry per day can be quite a lot for a dog, so always do what's best for your dog!)
- **Handicaps for official classes Seniors and Handicap**  
An extra note describing the handicap of the dog must be filled in and attached to the judges evaluation sheet. If there is no handicap it must be mentioned likewise.
- The ranking goes according to the points each team received.
- If two handlers have reached the same total points, the Team with a higher score in Teamwork, will be placed first. If still equal, the points in “Flow”, then “Dynamism”, then “Execution” will be taken into account.
- There is open judging. After the competition the individual marks from each judge will be published (judges will be made anonymous i.e. judge 1-2-3).

### Possible official classes (FS)

**Class 1**

**Class 2**

**Class 3**

**Seniors & Handicap**

Dogs from the age of 8 and dogs with a handicap

**Trio**

1 handler with 2 dogs

**Quartet**

2 handlers with 2 dogs

**Juniors**

Junior handlers up to 16 years

### Possible official classes (HTM)

**Class 1**

**Class 2**

**Class 3**

**Seniors and Handicap**

Dogs from the age of 8 and dogs with a handicap

**Juniors**

Junior handlers up to 16 years

**Organisers please make note of the FS- and HTM-Package-Rule!**



# Marks

## **Artistic Impression** **max. 100 Points**

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### **Teamwork** **max. 25 Points**

- Charisma of the handler
- Charisma and motivation of the dog
- Working as a team

### **Dynamism** **max. 25 Points**

- Dancing expression
- Rhythmic variation, accentuation, conforming to tempo
- Musical Interpretation

### **Concept** **max. 25 Points**

- Choice of music
- Idea
- Realisation

### **Choreography** **max. 25 Points**

- Development & Structure
- Ringuse / Balance
- Positioning in the ring & alignment

## **Technical Merit** **max. 100 Points**

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### **Flow** **max. 25 Points**

- Constancy
- Timing
- Transitions

### **Execution** **max. 25 Points**

- Signaling
- Reaction to signals
- Execution

### **Content\*** **max. 25 Points**

- Moves (heelwork positions in HTM) & combinations
- Balance of tricks & moves
- Variations

\* Content is not judged in the class Seniors&Handicap until 2019

### **Difficulty\*** **max. 25 Points**

- Moves
- Combinations
- Interactions dog & handler

\* Difficulty is not judged in the class Seniors&Handicap until 2019

# Deductions

## Vocalisations (max. 20 points)

- A maximum of 20 points can be deducted for barking, whining, squeaking or other vocalisations.
- Snapping the air will also be considered in this category.

## Health of the dog not considered (max. 20 points)

- The health and well-being of the dog shall never be jeopardized. This is at any given moment the responsibility of the handler.
- There can be points deducted if there are visible physical impairments during the execution of a move (for example dog breaks of in the middle of a move, buckles in the legs, is hesitating to start certain moves, avoids further repetitions, etc.) or if the dog is showing problems (such as struggling to return to a fluent movement, irregular movements, dog does not move smoothly “ticking” or limping) after a strenuous element/move.
- Jumps that are not adapted to the floor (for example slippery carpet) and dog is landing badly, slides or falls.
- Dangerous props, dog is sliding or falling of, as the props are slippery or wobbly, ...
- In the class Seniors & Handicap the judges will take into account the Handicap of the dog which was handed to them prior to the competition. If any handicaps or problems in the movement that are related to the mentioned condition are visible, the judges will not deduct for them.
- But also in the class Seniors & Handicap any problem getting worse due to performed moves will lead to deductions.

## Improper use of costume and/or props (max. 20 points)

- There should be a relation between the choreography and the prop(s) and/or costume if not, the judges can deduct points.
- Every prop carried into the ring has to be used in an appropriate manner in the choreography
- It should be clearly visible that the handler is in control when dog engages with the props.
- Chewing on, playing with or destroying the prop will also lead to deductions.
- See also Props page 12.

## Music overtime or shortage

- One point will be deducted per second over- or undertime.

### **Misconduct in the ring (max. 20 points)**

The following misconducts can lead to deductions from the moment the team enters the ring until it leaves the ring:

- Verbal-aggressive behaviours: harsh, unfriendly and severe command giving.
- Mental pressure: applying pressure on the dog, physical intimidation or restricting the dogs movements using body language.
- Touching in a manipulative way: Pushing or moving the dog into a position, prevent him from freely moving, etc.
- Leaving and re-entering the ring before the start of the music or after the end of the routine by dog and or owner will lead to deductions. This is after the team has entered the ring the first time after the judges have given the ring clear signal. An exception is if the judges signal the team, that it can leave the ring (for example when there are problems with the music, etc.)

### **From entrance of the ring until the start of the music & from end of the routine until leaving the ring:**

A friendly interaction or friendly touching the dog is allowed as long as the dog clearly likes it.

Carrying the dog into the ring before the start and carrying the dog out of the ring after the end of the routine is allowed.

### **Active touching the dog during the routine (max. 20 points)**

The following rule only is valid from the start of the music until the end of the music!

Any active touching of the dog (initiated by the handler) during the routine will lead to deductions.

Active touching can be: Helping the dog to perform a move, holding the dog, securing the dog during moves, stroking or caressing the dog, manipulations, etc. This list is not conclusive!

# Disqualifications

Any disqualification must be by the unanimous decision of the judges. Disqualification is not impugnable! After a disqualification, it is at judges' discretion whether to allow the team to finish their routine as a training round or to ask them leave the ring immediately. Even if the routine can be finished as a training round, no food is allowed in the ring (toys are ok)!

## Leaving the ring

- Leaving the ring by the dog during the routine lead to a disqualification, whereas leaving and re-entering the ring by the dog before and after the routine only leads to point deductions (Misconduct in the ring) at the discretion of the judges.
- An exception is, if the judges signal the team that it can leave the ring again (for example when there are problems with the music).
- All four paws of the dog need to stay in the ring at any time. If the dog passes the line with one paw, he will be disqualified.
- This rule can be enforced by the ring steward using a line at the entrance and exit of the ring.
- A paw on the line will count as in the ring.
- In case of doubt the decision should be in favour of the team.
- The ring steward is responsible for surveillance of the line.

## Use of training aids in an official class

- A training aid can be (list not closed): Food, toys, clicker, targets, treat bags, etc.
- Rewarding the dog after entering the ring for the first time in an official class is never allowed.

## Props

- The props are not carried into the ring in one go.
- The dog pulls or carries a prop out of the ring.
- The dog interacts with the prop(s) after the end of routine (for example plays with it, does a trick with / on the prop, ...)

## Soiling in the ring

- If the dog soils in the ring, he will immediately be disqualified.

## Unfair treatment of the dog

- Unnecessary pressure, punishments or similar behaviours from the handler will not be tolerated!
- Too many manipulations of the dog (verbal, physical or mental).
- Excessive physical demands or jeopardizing the health of the dog.

## Help from outside

- After ring clearance by the steward only the next team is allowed to enter the ring.
- Any help from outside (no matter if it is unwanted or not) will lead to a disqualification.
- In case of a disturbance from outside the ring, the judges can authorize a rerun.

# Music Lengths

## Fun classes

Beginner:	Maximum	2:00
Open:	Maximum	4:00
Seniors & Handicap:	Maximum	2:30
Trio:	1:30 -	3:00
Quartet:	1:30 -	3:00
Groups:	1:30 -	4:00
Lucky Dip:	Maximum	3:30 (the handler can decide himself when the music should be stopped!)

## Official classes

Class 1:	1:30 -	2:30
Class 2:	2:15 -	3:15
Class 3:	3:00 -	4:00
Class Trio:	2:00 -	3:00
Class Quartet:	2:00 -	3:00
Seniors & Handicap	1:30 -	2:30
Juniors:	1:30 -	2:30

## Time faults in the official classes

- There is no tolerance in the above music lengths!
- The time displayed on the CD-Player is binding.
- One point will be deducted per second overtime or shortage.
- Lengths of music are verified by the DJ or any responsible person selected by the organiser, if possible in advance. Judges are to be informed if there are undercuts of the minimal length or exceedings of the maximum length.

# Rules to enter and move up between classes

## Freestyle and HTM 1 - 3

### Class entries

- Every new dog entered for the first time in an official class has to enter class 1.
- Handlers who compete in their division (Freestyle or HTM) already in class 3 without competing in the parallel division, may choose the entry class for this division.
- Exceptions will be made for handlers who have already competed under different rules and would now like to enter competitions held under the rules of Dogdance.info.
  - These teams can enter the class for which they feel eligible.
  - Their results will then be entered in the record booklet. From this moment forth the team can only move up in accordance to the rules for moving up from class to class.
- Entries in the official classes **Juniors**, **Trio (only FS)** and **Quartet (only FS)** are voluntary. For these classes no record booklet is required.
- Each dog can be entered in the class **Seniors and Handicap** according to the rules for this class.
- Once a dog is entered in one division (HTM or FS) in the class „Seniors & Handicap“, he is no longer eligible for any other official class 1–3 in this division!
- But it is possible, that the dog is already in FS Seniors & Handicap, but in the other division (HTM) still competes in one of the classes 1-3.

### Moving up

- Every team can collect moving-up points.
  - If a team receives its 2nd moving-up point, the team **can** move up into the next higher class.
  - If a team receives its 7th moving-up point, the team **has** to move up into the next higher class.
- Moving-up points will be given to all handlers receiving 85% or more points of the maximum points in their class.
- The points of the winner in each class is 100%

### Example

1. Place                      160 points = 100 %  
   136 points = 85%

Every team with 136 points or more will receive a moving-up point.  
Percentages will be rounded up to a tenth.

# Record booklet

## Who needs a record booklet

- To enter in Fun classes, no record booklet is needed!
- To be able to verify compliance with the rules for moving up in classes, each team must have a record booklet to be eligible to enter in an official class 1-3 and Seniors & Handicap.
- The record booklet is valid for one team composed of one handler and one dog.
- If two handlers compete with the same dog, they will need two separate record booklets and the dog can therefore enter two different classes with the two handlers.
- There is a record booklet for FS and new a record booklet for HTM (marked by a HTM sticker).
- As of now the results will not be recorded in the same booklet any more. (Already recorded scores may be transferred into the new HTM booklet at the next competition by a judge).

## Ordering a record booklet

- The record booklet must be ordered in good time (allow 3-4 weeks for order and postage) **before** the first entry in an official class. It can be ordered online using the form „Record booklet“ found on [www.dogdance.info](http://www.dogdance.info)
- The record booklet costs 15 Euros for the booklet and postage.
- Members of the DDI will receive all record booklets for their dogs for free!
- There will be no record booklets handed out at competitions (they always need to be ordered prior to a competition online).

## Start authorisation

- Without a record booklet on the day of the competition, no entry in an official class 1-3 and Seniors & Handicap is possible.
- Competitors arriving at a competition without a record booklet can only present their routine in a Funclass.
- Prerequisites for foreign participants in a national OEC/Crufts qualification:  
The participating team must be in possession of a valid DDI licence/record booklet. As a team, which has already started officially according to other regulations, can for the first start estimate its class individually according to DDI regulation, a start in a qualification tournament must not be this first start.
- Competitors have to make sure that they are eligible in the class they have entered in accordance with the rules of the DDI!

## Entries in the record booklets

- The organiser enters the achieved results, the percentage and moving-up points in the record booklet.
- The results of a competition will be cited in the record booklet only if the competition was held under the rules of the DDI!
- Starts in the classes Trio, Quartett and Juniors will not be recorded in the booklets.
- Only an official judge can sign the record booklets and validate the results!

# Props

## General

- Props may be carried into the ring by a helper
- Props have to be safe for both dog and handler.
- The use of props should enhance the routine and help the interpretation!
- Every prop carried into the ring has to be used in an appropriate manner in the choreography.
- It should be clearly visible that the handler is in control when the dog engages with the props.
- The props can be used for moves, for signalling, as a target, etc.
- But the use of a prop solely for luring or prompting moves will lead to points being deducted.
- Chewing on a prop, playing with it, destroying it, etc. will also lead to point deductions.
- The use of props should support and enhance the presentation and interpretation of the music!

## Set-Up

- There are only as many props allowed as the handler/helper can carry into the ring in one go by himself.
- To do so, the dog can be left outside the ring and be collected after the set-up of the props.
- The dog can also enter the ring with the handler at the same time and stay in the ring during the set-up.

## At the end of the routine

- The dog must not carry or pull a prop out of the ring. This could be seen as a (play)reward in the ring and would lead to a disqualification.
- After the routine, the dog is not allowed to interact in any way with the prop(s)! He should not touch it, do a move with or on it, play with it, etc. This would lead to a disqualification.
- At the end of the routine, dog and handler leave the ring without the props.
- The props will then be carried out of the ring by the ring-steward.



# Ring

## **Floor & Ring borders**

- The floor in the ring should be as dog friendly as possible and should be non-slip.
- Grass or sand floors should be as level as possible.
- The ring should be fenced clearly and if possible with non-see-through barriers.
- The ring should whenever possible be totally enclosed.
- Is this not possible, there has to be a line at the entrance and exit of the ring. The ring steward will verify, that the dog does not cross this line and exit the ring.
- The type of flooring has to be stated in the invitation to a competition.

## **Ring size**

- For official classes the aim is a ring 12 x 15 meters or larger.
- The minimum ring size for an official class is 8 x 10 meters.
- For International Championships (for example German Open) the ring size of at least 12 x 15 meters is necessary.
- For European or World Championships a ring size of 16 x20 meters or larger is necessary.
- In case of identical qualifications for Championships the organiser with the larger ring size will be preferred.
- For fun classes the ring can be smaller.
- The ring size must be stated in the invitation to the competition.

## **Other**

- The judges are seated on the long side of the ring.
- If possible there should be a space between the ring borders and the first row of spectators.
- There should be no dogs in the first row around the ring.
- There should be no food in the first row around the ring.

# Judges

## General

- The decisions of the judges are **final** and **cannot be challenged** by the competitors.
- The competitors accept that although the judges will judge with maximum care the decisions will always be subjective to a certain extent.
- The judges always follow the Code of Conduct for Judges.
- They study further (music, dance, training, health, ...)
- A kilometer allowance (30 cent / kilometer) as well as board and lodging are to be paid by the organiser.
- The judges will receive no other judging fees.
- A list of all official judges can be found on: [www.dogdance.info](http://www.dogdance.info)

## Judges accreditation

- To receive judges' accreditation the aspirant first takes part in at least one judges' workshop.
- Afterwards he needs to shadow judge at least 80 routines (a minimum of 50 in an official and 30 in a fun class). This needs to be done under the supervision of an official judge.
- The 80x shadow judging needs to be accomplished at 2 competitions minimum.
- To retain judges' status, each judge needs to attend a judges' workshop or a judges' update workshop at least every two years.
- It is also desirable to take part in judges' meetings and conventions as often as possible to ensure discussion and communication among judges.
- All judges are members of Dogdance International e. V. and free of membership fees during their active judging period. They represent the interests of DDI.
- Participation in the Dogdance-Convention is desirable!

## Further rules

- Only judges included in the list of official judges on [www.dogdance.info](http://www.dogdance.info) are allowed to sign and validate the entries in the record booklets.
- The choice of judges for title contests is made by the organiser and given to the person responsible for judges of Dogdance International e.V. for approval. Only after that the judges can be booked.
- If there is no consensus about the proposed judges, the person responsible for judges has the final say.
- The organiser of title contests pledges the judges and sets up according contracts with them. In order to guarantee a smooth schedule, the person responsible for judges supports the organiser by checking the proposals of judges in good time—meaning that answers regarding approval/disapproval of judge proposals are received within 14 days after request. Should there be no answer from the person responsible for judges, it is taken as tacit consent.

### **Number of judges per class**

- To judge fun classes at least 2 judges have to be present at the judges' table.
- Generally it is up to the organiser to plan with 2 or 3 judges for fun classes. For official classes at least 3 judges are required.
- For an official class there are always 3 judges necessary.
- Judges from other associations can be invited if they have enough judging experience and are thoroughly briefed before the competition.
- At least one official judge (see list of official judges on [www.dogdance.info](http://www.dogdance.info)) needs to be present.
- For Championships (for example German Open, European Championship, etc.) there are always four judges needed. This goes for the Qualification as well as the Finals.
- For Championship Qualifications the same judges may be appointed as for the Championship Finals.

### **Number of judges necessary per competition**

- One-day competition:
  - Max. 40 competitors → Minimum 2 judges
  - More than 40 competitors → Minimum 3 judges
- Competitions over two or more days
  - Max. 40 competitors / day → Minimum 2 judges
  - More than 40 competitors / day → Minimum 3 judges

### **Special rule for small competitions**

- One-day competitions – Only Funclasses:
  - Max. 40 competitors total  
→ The competition can be organised with two judges, in agreement with the committee of the DDI also with one official judge and one shadow judge.
- One-day competition – Fun and Official Classes
  - Max. 20 entries in the official classes and max. 40 entries in total  
→ The competition can be organised with 2 official judges.
- Competition over two or more days – Fun and Official Classes
  - Max. 20 entries in the official classes and max. 40 entries in total per day  
→ The competition can be organised with 2 official judges.
- More judges are always better, if in doubt, the organiser should get in touch with the head judge in time!

# Head judge

To help the organisers and provide a contact person on the day in case of problems.

The head judge is a contact person for:

- Judges
- Organisers
- Ring stewards
- Shadow judges
- Problems, questions, complaints

## **Selection and duties of the head judge**

- The head judge will be selected from among the judges booked for the competition.
- The organiser contacts all his booked judges at the latest 8 weeks before the competition.
- The judges will then decide among themselves which will take the post as head judge for that competition.
- The organiser can announce his head judge in the invitation and the website of the competition.
- The head judge will communicate all the decisions of the judges, not only to the handlers but also to the spectators and organisers.
- If the head judge is not present (for example due to a break, his own entry in the competition, etc.) he has to designate another judge as a replacement.
- **The head judge ensures a plausibility check in each class by a judge (who judged the respective class).**

## **Allocation of work to judges**

- The head judge allocates the work to judges during the competition.
- The head judge will make clear arrangements with the organiser regarding time schedules and allocation of work to judges at the latest 1 week before the competition.
- A break has to be arranged after a maximum of 20 routines. Otherwise the team of judges has to be rotated.
- If more than 20 routines are to be run consecutively, all judges have to agree.
- The head judge collects all requests for shadow judging up to 4 weeks before the competition.
- He then allocates the shadow judges among the judges.
- Enough time has to be scheduled not only for working with the shadow judges during the competition but also for a debriefing after the class.

## **Participation of the head judge in the competition**

- The head judge can enter official as well as fun classes.
- The head judge receives moving-up points like all participants, which are entered in her/his record booklet.

# Organisation of a competition

## **General**

- Organisers can find all necessary information in regard to organising a Dogdance competition in the manual for organisers which can be found in the download section on [www.dogdance.info](http://www.dogdance.info)
- If an organiser has questions he can ask the head judge or contact Dogdance International e.V. for further information.

## **Responsibilities of the organiser**

- The size of the ring has to be in accordance with the announcement.
- The floor is preferably non-slip.
- A preparation area/ring for the participating teams is available.
- Direct access from the preparation area/ring to the main ring is assured.
- The ring should be fenced clearly and if possible with non-see-through barriers.

## **Scheduling of handlers' activities**

- The handler proceeds into the preparation area before his entry.
- He will then be collected in the preparation area and led into the ring.
- The start number does not need to be presented to the judges.
- It can be handed to the steward before going into the ring.
- Handlers in the ring have to take their starting position as quickly as possible and without any hesitation.
- In a Fun class, at the end of the routine the dog can be rewarded directly in the ring.
- The judges will then give short verbal feedback directly after the routine.
- In an official class, at the end of the routine handler and dog should leave the ring directly.
- All props have to be left in the ring and will be taken out by the ring steward afterwards.
- The dog is not allowed to interact in any way with his props after the end of the routine (see Disqualifications).
- After the dog has left the ring at the end of the routine he is not allowed to re-enter
- It is appreciated by the organiser and the spectators if the handlers appear with their dog and the costume (or part of the costume/props) at the prize giving ceremony.

## Bitches in season

- For fun tournaments bitches in heat may start at the end of a tournament.
- For official tournaments bitches in heat may start at the end of a tournament in the official classes out of concurrence, except the organizers finds another possibility, and they receive an oral feedback.
- Special regulation for title and qualification tournaments:
  - In Qualifications and Opens, in FS as well as in HTM, bitches in heat are allowed as last starter of class 3. If there is a bitch in heat in every division, it will be decided by casting lots which division (FS or HTM) takes place first.
  - In any Qualification or Title-Competition bitches in season will perform their routine at the end of the class wearing a panty.
- If a handler does not inform that his bitch is in heat and starts all the same, he may receive a disqualification for the whole tournament even retroactive.
- The head judge gives clear instructions to the handler with the bitch in heat about where to stay before the start and about other rules that have to be complied with in order to not disturb the other dogs too much.

## Bitches before and after whelping

Bitches expected to give birth within four weeks and bitches that have given birth less than eight weeks before the competition date must be excluded from DDI competitions.