



Dogdance International e.V.

1. Vorsitzende des Vorstandes

www.dogdance.info

Invitation to the annual general members meeting 2023

Dogdance International e.V. • 1. Vorsitzende
Nina Neumann • Marienstr. 36 • 41844 Wegberg

Nina Neumann
Marienstr. 36
41844 Wegberg
Deutschland

Dear members,

Email n.neumann@dogdance.info

We are looking forward to our fourth virtual general members' meeting with you. Since we have made such good experiences in the last years, we are convinced that we will again successfully hold our general meeting with you online via ZOOM Cloud Meetings.

The planned schedule is similar to last year:

Friday, June 16, 2023, 6 p.m. to approx. 8 p.m. Discussion round in English

Saturday, June 17, 2023, 4 p.m. to approx. 8 p.m. Discussion round in German

Sunday, 18.06.2023, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Annual General Meeting (12.30 p.m. - 1.30 p.m. lunch break)

The discussion evenings should be used for preliminary discussion of the individual agenda items of the annual general meeting. Participation in the discussion rounds is NOT a prerequisite for attending the General Meeting, but is highly recommended, as no major discussions about the applications will be allowed this year. The discussion rounds are to be used for this, the general meeting is used to vote on the points.

Like last year we are trying to provide direct translation into English for the General Meeting, the meeting itself will be held in German.

Applications for additions to the agenda can be submitted by writing to the board up to one week (**June 11, 2023**) before the meeting, so that the board can still put them on the agenda (§ 10 Para. 3 of the articles of association).

Kontoinhaber: Dogdance International e.V.

Steuernummer: 20290/83676

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Planned agenda:

Agenda item 1 Welcome of the members

Agenda item 2 Opening of the General Assembly

Election of the chair of the meeting

Presentation and approval of the concept of the virtual Annual General Meeting Establishment of the proper invitation

Establishment of the quorum

Approval of the agenda

Nina Neumann
Marienstr. 36
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Agenda item 3 Reports of the Executive Committee

General report of the Executive Board on the past year

Report of the Treasurer

Report of the cash auditors

Questions on the annual reports

Discharge of the Executive Board

Agenda item 4 Report of the Advisory Board

Report of the Licensing Office

Report of the Membership Officer

Report of the judges' representatives

Report of the persons responsible for organization and coordination (by the Executive Board)

Agenda item 5 Acknowledgements

Agenda item 6 Elections of the Executive Board

- 2nd Chair

- Vice-Chair

- Treasurer

Agenda item 7 Election of the Advisory Board (Honorary Mant)

- Allocation of licences

- Membership

- Judges

- Public relations

Agenda item 8 Election of the judges' panel

Agenda item 9 Proposals of the members (attached)

Agenda item 10 Miscellaneous

Agenda item 11 Closing words of the Executive Board

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For the technical realisation we need a relatively early registration for participation, so that all relevant data can be entered. Of course, as always, participation at short notice will also be possible, but the less data we have to change in a short time, the better.

We look forward to a constructive exchange and a profitable meeting.

Nina Neumann

1st Chairperson of the Board

Agenda item 9.1 Christina Tirelli (Italy)
Attacking Dog

In one of the judges meeting we talked about a dog that during a competition jumped out of the ring to attack another dog that was in the warm-up area/was walking in the arena.

It has happened at least in two different competitions in 2 different Countries and, of course, 2 different dogs. Although, at least in one case, the physical damage was absent thanks to a good bite inhibition (in the mentioned occasions the dogs were a Rottweiler and a Malamute) the psychological damage can be far more serious, for the attacked dog and the handler.

As in our rules there's nothing about this kind of issue, it may be a good thing to decide what to do in this case, so we can all act in the same way.

Proposal:

I suggest to add in the 2024 rule that if a dog jumps out of the ring to attack another dog it has to be disqualified from the competition, (not just the class it's competing, so even if it's in fun classes), so it can no longer be in the ring for all the day/days

I would also add to write on the booklet the disqualification along with the cause, to take note of it, and if the same dog acts like this a second time, it can no longer be admitted in any other competitions.

The same rule can apply when

- a dog in the warm-up area jumps in the ring to attack the competing dog or jumps outside to attack a walking dog
- a dog attacks another dog in the ring during the training time

The rule does not apply when the incident happens outside of the competition arena/venue/field and does not involve the competing dog or the dog that is waiting to compete

Vote 1:

Should there be restrictions on aggressive dogs?

Yes / No / Abstain

Vote 1.2:

Dogs attacking other dogs out of the main ring will be excluded from the entire competition or disqualified.

Yes / No / Abstain

Vote 1.3:

Dogs attacking other dogs from the warm-up ring or during the ring walk will be disqualified from the entire competition.

Yes / No / Abstain

Vote 1.4:

The disqualification and the reason for it will be entered in the licence booklet.

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.2 Melissa Munoz (Lusy Imbergerova) (Italy)
Age Dogs Class 3

My proposal consists in modifying a part of the regulation, more precisely the part about the age a dog need to have for compete in class 3.

Now according to the regulation the dog, to be able to participate in class 3, needs be at least 3 years old.

The idea was to reduce the age limit of the dog as regards the selection competition for the OEC that every country does every year before OEC.

Vote 1:

Shall the regulations be changed with regard to the age of the dogs in the classes FS 3 and HTM3?

Yes / No / Abstain

PROPOSAL 1

Since that to participate to the OEC and to the World Dogdance Championship the dog must be at least 18 months, the first proposal is to put as dog age limit to participate to OEC dogdance selection competition also 18 months, because I think is not fair that for the same competition there's is people who can do the OEC competition with an 18 months old dog, subscribing themes selves as individual, and instead people who need to wait 3 or maybe 4 years for do the OEC "selection" competition in their country.

Voting 1.2

The age of the dogs for classes FS3 and HTM3 is 18 months on the day of the show.

Yes / No / Abstain

PROPOSAL 2

Since that to participate to the OEC and to the World Dogdance Championship the dog must be at least 18 months, the second proposal is to put as dog age limit, to participate to OEC dogdance selection competition, 2 years old, as I think that to need to have to wait 3 years is too much, since many dogs became 3 years during summer and for one or two months they need to wait to have 4 years to do the OEC Dogdance "selection" competition.

Voting 1.3

The age of the dogs on the day of qualification for the OEC is 2 years.

Yes / No / Abstain

PROPOSAL 3

Since that to participate to the OEC and to the World Dogdance Championship the dog must be at least 18 months old, the proposal was to let participate to the selection competition for the OEC all the dogs that have the necessary points to pass in class 3 and that in the time frame from the selection competition up to the European championship turn 3 years old, so maybe they are not 3 years old yet for the selection competition, but for the OEC they must have it.

Voting 1.4.

Dogs, with sufficient advancement points for classes FS3 and HTM3, that turn 3 years old between qualification and OEC, may participate in the qualification.

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.3 Fruzzi Wilhelm (Germany)
Discontinue Handicap Dogs

This proposal does not correspond to the statutes of the DDI ev and can therefore not be voted on as it stands.

It is proposed to establish a working group under the moderation of Katharina Henf to rework the motion until the next GM.

Proposal: Discontinue the handicap class from the DDI rules altogether.

Explanation: The proposal for the deletion of the handicap classes has been an idea among some DDI members for a long time, but I feel that the time has come for the proposal to be sent to the general meeting.

The handicap class is often subject to much debate, the practice of bringing handicapped dogs varies very much from country to country as well (in some countries it is very popular, in others not done at all or very rarely).

There are however sometimes extreme examples of handicaps in the ring that spark up debate. Dogs barely able to move, having medical devices inserted in them and performing in the ring. For some, this is extremely hard to watch, and for judges it is difficult to give feedback on or to mark in official classes.

The practice of allowing handicapped dogs to competitions is rare in dog sports, it basically only exists in dogdance.

Since the judges are not certified animal healthcare professionals, it is very personal to decide whether a dog is "too sick" to be in the ring, and it is in some cases difficult to tell if the dog is in pain or is uncomfortable. Also high drive working dogs will often not show pain or discomfort and keep on working.

In the case of extremely handicapped dogs in fun classes, it is also extremely difficult to give any useful feedback to the team, since the dog usually cannot perform much of a choreography. In fun classes it is also difficult to determine whether the dogs really wants to be there and work, since the handler has the reward with them, and few dogs refuse to work if the reward is directly there for them.

From an audience point of view, since in many European countries animal welfare regulations are taken increasingly seriously, such a class would require extensive explanation for each starter in the class, which is sometimes not possible to do. Even if explanation is provided, a video recording of a severely handicapped dog in performance could be posted online without explanation and it could deliver a very bad message about the sport in its entirety.

It is also very contradictory that healthy young dogs are not allowed to compete in the highest class before the age of 3, reasoning that it is too much pressure on a young dog, but handicapped and dogs weak of health can be taken to competitions indefinitely, without limitation.

The general message that dogs with illnesses can work too is positive, but there is a very thin line, that is hard to determine, until when it is acceptable to work a handicapped dog, and when it counts as animal cruelty.

(If there is too much resistance to the proposal, as an alternative, the proposal could be modified in a way that the senior/handicap class should be removed from the package rule so that organizers are not forced to announce these classes)

Alternative proposal if motion is not passed:

Vote:

The Seniors and Handicap class will be excluded from the package provision. It may be offered on a voluntary basis.

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.4 Christine Greiner (Austria)

Reference: Barking in the Ring

A distinction should be made between barking

The dog barks very often or even continuously (stress and demand) - deduction of points is understandable.

The dog barks out of joy at certain elements (e.g. at a jump); most herding dogs do this, it is also breed-specific. I am convinced that the judges are able to distinguish the reason why the dog barks or makes a different sound during certain elements.

If he enjoys it so much, why shouldn't he make a sound now and then? It is natural.

Voting:

Points are not deducted for joyful barking, points are only deducted for vocalisations if they are stressful or demanding barks.

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.5 Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)

Increase of fees for licence booklets

Motion 1:

Raise the fees for licence booklets from 15€.

Justification:

The association has been consistent with its membership fees for years. Every member of the association also has the possibility to get the licence booklets for free. It is a one-time payment and gives the opportunity to compete in all DDI tournaments. Alternatively, a membership can be taken out which is considerably cheaper and also actively supports the club. The income will cover the running costs, as well as the online meeting. In addition, we will also offer tournament sponsorship again for 2024.

Vote:

Should the fees for licence booklets be increased?

Yes / No / Abstain

Motion 1A - If Motion 1 is accepted:

Variant A: A gradual increase: annually by 10€ - until 2026 = maximum 45€ per licence.

Variant B: One-off increase from 2024 to 40€.

Vote:

A / B

Motion 1B - If Motion 1 is passed:

Sponsorship for the OEC teams

Fixed amount, 50€ per person = Max 250€ for each team that can be sent to the OEC by the DDI. Sponsorship for team clothing / printing costs - DDI logo must be placed prominently on clothing to receive sponsorship. Sponsorship for OEC Qualifiers via a fixed amount calculated by the Board based on the annual budget. For 2024 it would be a lump sum of 200€ as a start.

Vote:

Should DDI teams participating in the OEC receive sponsorship up to 250 euro?

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.6 Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)
Adjust starts of bitches in heat.

Current regulation:

At fun tournaments bitches in heat may start at the end of the tournament.

- At official shows, bitches in heat may start in their official class at the end of the show if at the end of the show if the organisers can offer the class in question as the last class of the day. class as the last class of the day.
- If there is no possibility to start officially as the last starter, the official the official start can be changed into a fun start.
- Special rule for title and qualification tournaments:
 - In class HTM 3 and class FS 3 at title and qualification tournaments, bitches in heat may always start bitches in heat may always start at the end of the class, even if the class is not the is not the last class of the day.
 - If a bitch in heat is entered in each category, it will be decided by lot whether HTM HTM 3 or Freestyle 3 will be held first.
 - Bitches in heat will start at the title and qualification competitions with panties.
 - If a competitor does not report that the bitch is in heat and still starts, the bitch can also be disqualification may also be pronounced at a later date until the end of the event. disqualification may be pronounced until the end of the event.
 - The main judge shall give clear instructions to the starters with the bitch in heat as to where they should where they are allowed to be before the start, and which other rules, if any, have to be observed and what other rules, if any, must be observed to minimise distraction to the other dogs. distraction for the other dogs is kept to a minimum.
 - Any requirements and conditions of the venue must be observed. of the venue. In case of doubt, the participants can only start at title and qualification tournaments. and qualification tournaments insist on a start.

Reason:

Red paragraph: is difficult to implement. A show schedule has never been changed for a bitch in heat and a class placed at the end of the day - understandable, as often the announcement comes at short notice that a bitch is in heat and, depending on the class, many starters are affected, possibly even the entire starting field if the class slips from the morning to the evening. If there are more than 2 bitches in heat, there is really no chance at all. This means that bitches in heat are actually excluded from all official starts - without calling it exclusion. In addition, there is the lost entry fee, which is not refunded.

Blue paragraph: The fact that the main judge is to give instructions also does not result in a clear regulation. Depending on the main judge, this can mean that the bitch in heat is not allowed to enter the entire area on the day of the show until 5 minutes before the start, but with another main judge this is no problem and she is allowed to stay in a separate area. So you can be lucky or unlucky.

All in all, these are very severe restrictions for a sport and an association that is so committed to accessibility. Therefore, I move for clear and fair rules for bitches in heat that apply uniformly at all tournaments.

Vote:

Shall the rule for starting bitches in heat be changed?

Yes / No / Abstain

Motion 2A

If motion 2 is adopted:

Variation A replaces previous text after colour marking:

-At official tournaments bitches in heat may start at the end of their class.

-The bitches in heat start at the title and qualification tournaments with a fresh pair of panties.

-The organiser shall immediately inform all starters that a bitch in heat is present and also inform which starter it concerns. He will also inform them where the bitch in heat will be in the hall and where the car with this bitch is parked.

-If a starter cancels due to a bitch in heat, it is his personal decision, no entry fee will be refunded and no other start, e.g. in Fun, has to be made available, but the organiser can offer this if he wishes. (Applies to starters with male dogs, as well as to starters who do not wish to start their bitch in heat).

- If the participation of bitches in heat is explicitly not allowed according to the hall regulations or the regulations of the venue, this must be published in the announcement. Then an entry of intact bitches is at own risk. In this case, the hall regulations must be proven and published with the announcement.

Black text passages remain.

Reason:

With this regulation the conditions would be the same for all starters. All following starters have the same condition - smell of the bitch in heat in the ring.

Variant B replaces previous text according to colour marking:

- At official shows bitches in heat may NOT start in the official classes.

- The official start must be changed to a fun start at the end of the entered day (even if no fun classes are offered on that day).

- If not all registered starts can be carried out, the entry fee must be refunded from the starts that have to be cancelled.

- If a competitor voluntarily withdraws from the tournament, his entry fee will not be refunded.

Green remains.

The organiser will immediately inform all starters that a bitch in heat is present and will also inform which starter it concerns. He will also inform them where the bitch in heat will be in the hall and where the car with this bitch is parked.

- If the participation of bitches in heat is explicitly not allowed according to the hall regulations or the regulations of the venue, this must be published in the announcement. Then an entry of intact bitches is at own risk. In this case, the hall regulations must be proven and published with the announcement.

Black text passages remain.

Justification:

With this regulation it would at least be clearly regulated that an official start is not allowed at any time (exception see qualification tournaments) out of consideration for the other tournament participants. However, the owner of the bitch in heat would not suffer any financial loss. A residual risk remains with the organiser, who then has to refund a maximum of 2 entry fees per bitch in heat that is to be started. It would be a compromise for all sides.

Vote

A / B

Conclusion to the application:

Most dog sports halls are scenically located, so bitches in heat could be present in the surrounding area at any time. Bitches in heat are not a problem at many other sports either, so there may still have been a bitch in heat training at that venue the night before. At exhibition shows, it is even more likely that there will be bitches in heat on the grounds. At outdoor it is not even possible to really clean the ring.... Of course there are male dogs that are really badly affected, but they are then also in everyday life and even if the bitch in heat was in the ring the day before or had the ring inspection in the morning. Bitches in heat also have an impairment, hormonally and additionally with panties, here every owner must weigh up whether and to what extent he wants to do this to his bitch. For this reason, a clear regulation would simply be fair, each dog owner can weigh up for himself what is possible - as actually always in this sport. One cannot compete outdoors, the other not at fairs, the next not on sandy ground or if the surfaces are too slippery. We always make the decision for the good of our dog - if the decision is left to us and that is not the case with the current regulation.

Agenda item 9.7 Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)

Amendments to the Statutes, membership applications do not have to be voted on by the Executive Committee.

§ 4 Acquisition of membership

(4) The Executive Committee decides on admission by resolution.

The decision should be communicated to the applicant; it does not need to be justified.

justification. If the Executive Committee rejects the application for membership, the person concerned has the right to appeal to the General Assembly.

appeal to the General Assembly. The decision of the General Assembly is final.

Delete this passage without replacement. Unnecessary bureaucracy

Voting:

Membership applications do not have to be voted on by the board

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.8 Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)

3 judges at the National Championships

At all ~~title competitions and~~ qualifiers 4 judges are compulsory in the class 3 (HTM and FS) are compulsory.

Reason:

As the National Championships lose importance if they are not accompanied by a qualification, holding them financially with 4 judges is a big obstacle for the organisers. In some countries, the National Championships are not held at all, as there is a championship in the clubs, but this is distributed over several tournaments on the basis of a points system. Such a solution would also be conceivable in the DDI, in which case it would no longer be possible to hold it with 4 judges anyway.

Vote:

3 instead of 4 judges are needed at national championships.

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.9 Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)

Guest judges must be confirmed by the committee - quality assurance of guest judges

Justification:

Currently there are no requirements for guest judges, a guest judge can be invited from any association and without any qualification. Theoretically without any judge training or experience in judging dogdance tournaments. In order to guarantee the quality of the judges, all guest judges as well as judges for qualification tournaments should be confirmed by the judging committee. This way we can keep the possibility to invite judges from other countries and other federations, but avoid possible abuse of this regulation.

Vote

Guest judges have to be approved by the judges' panel.

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.10 Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)

Change music length LuckyDip

Existing: LuckyDip: Maximum 3:30 minutes (The starters can determine the fade-out point themselves).

Variant A: New: LuckyDip: Maximum 4 minutes (The starters can determine the fade-out point themselves.)

Variant B: New: LuckyDip: No limit, but should not exceed 4 minutes (The starters can determine the point to fade out themselves).

Reason: this makes it easier for the organisers if they do not have to cut songs or pay attention to the song length. The starter decides anyway, often to finish the dance earlier. With variant B, a song length of e.g. 4.10 min, because it fades out slowly, would be possible without time-consuming cutting because of a few seconds.

Vote

The song length in the Lucky Dip class should be changed.

Yes / No / Abstain

Vote 1.2

Variant A: Lucky Dip goes up to max 4 minutes (The starters can determine the point to fade out themselves).

Variant B: No limit, but should not exceed 4 minutes (Starters can set the point to fade out themselves).

A / B

Agenda item 9.11 Claudia Moser (Switzerland)

Motion 1a:

Deletion of the following sub-items in disqualification reason 6.3.3 Props:

"Not all props are carried into the ring at once."

Justification: The disqualification reason has led to discussions again and again at judges' workshops but also at tournaments.

The problem is that when setting up the props without a dog, props were sometimes set up, but when entering the ring with a dog (after ring release), other objects or costume parts were sometimes brought into the ring. The definition of whether an object is now a prop or part of the costume cannot be conclusively clarified even after many detailed discussions.

For example, a hat can be both a part of the costume (never taken off or used), can be a part of the costume used for dance movements (human), but can also be a part of the costume used for tricks and interactions with the dog, among other things.

Depending on the use and also the type of object, the answer here varies depending on the judging team (e.g. is a pistol, a sword, a basket, a magic wand, etc. rather props ? = must be carried into the ring all at once or rather costume ? = can also be carried into the ring together with the dog afterwards).

Since disqualification in such a case is a very massive punishment for the starter, but at the same time no uniform definition that is generally valid for all judges can be found, I therefore recommend deleting this passage from the rules.

Vote:

The passage "not all props are carried into the ring at once" is deleted.

Yes / No / Abstain

Motion 1b:

If motion 1a is passed.

Define a maximum set-up time for props.

Justification: The original reason for the item "All props must be carried into the ring at once" was to minimise the amount of props and set-up time required.

Therefore, in order to continue to achieve this goal for the smooth running of the tournament, I recommend that a maximum time be set for the set-up of props.

Proposal 1 minute

Vote:

All props must be set up within 1 minute.

Yes / No / Abstain

Motion 1c: The ring steward is responsible for the execution and control.

Proposal: Ring steward sets timer, when timer rings starter must leave ring again.

Vote:

The ring steward is responsible for the implementation and control of the 1 minute set-up time.

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.12 Claudia Moser (Switzerland)

Motion 2a:

Introduction of a point deduction for wrong share HTM/ FS.

Justification:

By definition, in an HTM class the dog should be in one of the 18 foot positions 75% or more of the time.

If this is not the case, it is currently included in the score for content (incorrect balance). However, this is not really obvious for the starters, as a low score in the area of content could also be understood as simply showing too little content.

In order to achieve a better overview for the starters, I therefore recommend adding a separate deduction point for too much freestyle in an HTM class, so that the team knows what they should adjust in their choreo.

Vote:

Less than 75% HTM share will result in a point deduction.

Yes / No / Abstain

Motion 2b:

The amount of deduction points will be discussed and defined in the judges' panel if the motion is passed.

Vote:

The judges' panel discusses and defines the amount of deduction points.

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.13 Claudia Moser (Switzerland)

Motion 4a:

Restructuring of the judges' panel

The judges' trainers and the members of the judges' panel are partly identical, but in some cases people have only one of the two functions.

This leads to the fact that sometimes discussions are two-track and separate and important contents, questions and decisions either have to be conducted twice or the flow of information in one or the other direction does not work ideally.

For this reason, I request that the judges' panel be restructured as follows.

The judges' panel consists of 2 parts.

1. country representative = voting member

1. 1 person per country with DDI judges

2. elected every 2 years by the General Assembly

3. new candidature or re-election is only possible at the AGM

2. discussion members

1. depending on the number of judges per country, additional discussion members are allowed.

2. discussion members apply at the committee or AGM?

3. elected judge trainers are automatically admitted as discussion members. Do they count towards the max. crowd or can they be extra?

This structure allows questions, discussion points and findings from the judges' training to reach the panel directly, where they can be taken up and dealt with.

Conversely, a more direct flow of information to the individual countries and further to the judges in the respective country is better ensured and everyone has the same information.

Voting:

Should the judges' panel be restructured?

Yes / No / Abstain

Motion 4b:**Maximum number of judges per country in the judges' panel**

Proposal:

1-10 active judges per country = 1 person

11-20 active judges per country = 2 persons

Vote

Per country with 1-10 active judges = 1 person

Per country with 11-20 active judges = 2 persons

Yes / No / Abstain

Additional: not intended as a motion...

Duties/ tasks of the judge in charge

- Organisation of bi-monthly discussion rounds
- Collecting discussion topics and creating an agenda
- Organisation of votes (covert)
- Communicate voting results to the committee and the DDI Board.
- Liaison between the DDI Board and the Committee

Duties of voting member:

- Participate in bi-monthly discussion rounds via Zoom
- Participate in all votes (early voting delegation in case of absence)
- Communication of decisions in own country → e.g. via country representative (starter & organiser) or judge trainer (judge)
- In rotation each person 1x responsible for the minutes of the discussion

Duties of judge trainers

- Translation of the webinars Text
- Translation of the webinars spoken
- Alternative: Organisation of a substitute for the translations
- Collecting questions & topics at judges' workshops
- Presenting questions & topics for discussion in the judges' panel
- Participate in bi-monthly discussion rounds via Zoom

Duties of discussion members

- Participation in 2-monthly discussion rounds (voluntary)
- Collecting topics at tournaments and from starters in their own country
- Presenting the topics at discussion rounds

TOP 9.14 Inka Burow, Katrin Heimsath, Kirsten Vrancken (Germany)**Approval of medically necessary aids for dogs with disabilities**

In the regulations below 3.1. In General, the paragraph "It is forbidden to dress up the dog. The dog may only wear a slightly decorated collar. The only exception to this rule is that the dog can wear a muzzle if the owner wishes / or it is a legal requirement" is changed as follows:

"It is forbidden to dress up the dog. The dog may only wear a slightly decorated collar. The only exceptions to this rule are that the dog can wear a muzzle if the owner wishes or it is a legal requirement, and that exclusively in the seniors and handicap class, aids prescribed by a veterinarian, such as a wheelchair, are allowed."

At the same time, under 5.2.1. General rules after the sentence "The competitors can give informations such as age and/or handicaps on a information sheet, which will be given to the judges prior to the start of the class. " the following sentence will be added:

"For an aid that the dog wears/uses in the ring, a veterinary certificate must be submitted."

Reason:

Dogdance is the only dog sport that really any dog can do. Because this dog sport is based on the idea that nothing is compulsory, but everything is freestyle. The DDI's statutes therefore contain under § 2 tasks, purpose and activities of the association in (2) The purpose of the statutes is realized in particular by: (...) d) the opportunity for handicapped dogs and people to participate in the competitive sport of dogdance (...). In this context, it is not understandable why a three-legged dog can participate in competitions, but a dog that is dependent on a wheelchair cannot.

Voting:

A dog may still compete even if it is wearing aids prescribed by a veterinarian.

Yes / No / Abstain

Voting:

The regulations are supplemented under 5.2.1 (additional sheet class seniors).

"For an aid worn/used by the dog in the ring, a veterinary certificate of necessity must be provided."

Yes / No / Abstain

Alternative proposal:

In the event that the application is rejected, we apply to allow aids at least in the fun class for senior dogs and dogs with disabilities according to the above requirements.

Voting:

Veterinary prescribed aids may be used in the Senior and Handicap FS and HTM fun classes.

Yes / No / Abstain

TOP 9.15 Michaela Friedrich (Austria)

Proposal

Compulsory promotion to the next higher class

Explanation: the regulations stipulate that promotion to the next higher official class is possible with 2 promotion points (150 points reached); when the 7th promotion point is reached, the team must move up to the next higher class.

I could observe at the tournaments that especially in class 1 many, and partly also very good starters take part, who then also stay in this class for a long time. In class 2, on the other hand, there are rather few teams competing. I think that a change in the regulations, namely an obligation to move up to the next higher class after 5 promotion points have already been achieved, would lead to a better and fairer distribution of the teams and the level, especially between classes 1 and 2!

Proposal

Promotion possibility in all official classes (1-3) with 2 promotion points, promotion obligation to the next higher class after reaching 5 promotion points at the latest.

Exception: As the minimum age of the dog for participation in class 3 on the day of the tournament is 3 years, the team with a dog that is too young remains in class 2, even after it has received the 5th promotion point, until the dog has reached the minimum age for class 3.

Voting:

After reaching 5 promotion points instead of 7, the team must move up in classes 1-3 FS and HTM.

Yes / No / Abstain

TOP 9.16 Katrin Heimsath, Heike Vetter (Germany)

Proposal

Increase of the membership fee

We hereby propose to increase the membership fee to an amount to be determined by the General Assembly.

Reason:

At the cash audit for the year 2022, the result of the income statement (EÜR) is negative. This means that in this year there were more expenses than income, specifically in the amount of 6,095.47 €.

A negative EÜR result is not necessarily a cause for concern in the case of one-off investments or extraordinary expenses. The association's assets at the beginning of 2022 in the amount of € 31,385.54 temporarily gave this. The year-end balance was € 25,136.10.

The income of the DDI e. V. in 2022 would only have covered its costs if advertising costs (banners, flyers, logo articles, ...) and sponsoring expenses for tournaments had been completely waived.

- Under the premise that a minimum of advertising is also to be counted among the core tasks of the association, the income could not sufficiently cover the expenditure for the core tasks of the association.
- The assets for tournament sponsoring still originated from the Animonda sponsoring and were to be used for this purpose as agreed. Currently, however, sponsoring for tournaments is no longer possible.

The association is mainly financed by membership fees. These have not been increased in recent years, although costs have risen due to inflation and will continue to do so. Sponsors have ceased to exist. Without changes in the relationship between income and expenditure, the association's assets will be depleted in the medium term.

A thought example: If membership fees were doubled and advertising costs halved at the same time, the annual result would be roughly neutral. (Values 2022)

We therefore propose to increase the membership fee to either

a) 30,- € per year

or

b) 40,- € per year

per year.

Voting 1:

Increase the membership fee

Yes / No / Abstain

Voting 2:

Increase of the membership fee to A 30 euro/year or B 40 Euro/year

A / B

TOP 9.17 Anastasia Beaumont (France)

Proposal

change starts per day

In paragraph 4.2 Rules for competitions it's written about maximal amount of starts per dog per day:

- Until the age of 15 months → maximal 1 start per day
- From the age of 15 months → maximal 2 starts per day

But if we prepare our dog for both HTM and FS it makes it impossible to practice both disciplines in Fun classes until the age of 15 months. And for adult dogs who compete in official classes in both categories this rule makes it impossible to encourage a dog into the fun open class or participate in Lucky Dip where treats are allowed. Fun classes are made for training and giving our dogs good experience, so why should we limit it so much?

Voting 1:

Allow dogs until the age of 15 months to do a maximum of 2 starts per day

Yes / No / Abstain

Voting 2:

Allow dogs from the age of 15 months to do a maximum of 4 starts per day (2 in official classes and 2 in fun classes)

Yes / No / Abstain

Proposal 2.

In many competitions slippery carpets are very often used and they are laid directly on a concrete or tiled floor. This makes it dangerous to perform for fast dogs that can slip and fall while running or jumping. I think it's quite hard to write down requirements for carpets, but we could allow dogs to use special shoes to help them slip less.

In the US, for trick shows, the use of special shoes for dogs is very developed, which has a rubber sole and provides the dog with a better grip on the surface. I already tested them and it works really great, it gives dogs more confidence in performing on slippery surfaces. This could help many owners of fast dogs get rid of the fear of exposing their dogs to injury on slippery surfaces and give dogs a better experience.

Voting 1.

Allow dogs to use special shoes in all classes.

Yes / No / Abstain

Voting 2 (if the first is not approved)

Allow dogs to use special shoes in fun classes as a test phase

Yes / No / Abstain

TOP 9.18 Proposal (Board)

Transition period for "new" countries in the DDI

For countries using the DDI regulations for the first time, a transition period of 2 years from the first DDI tournament organised in the country applies.

During this period, for example, judges may be trained even though they do not have a one-year membership. Requests for further exceptions within these 2 years must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee.

Voting:

Should there a transition period for "new" countries about 2 years?

Yes / No / Abstain

Agenda item 9.19 Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)

Editorial change

6.2.1. Vocalisations (max. 20 points)

Points may be deducted for barking, whining, squeaking or other vocalisations. may be deducted. Gasping for air is also included in this category.

Addition: 0.1 points per countable sound.

If not individually countable - time in relation to the length of the music (e.g. 1 minute of vocal utterance in 4 minutes of dance = 5 points deducted).

Justification:

This is the current rule and is taught in the judges' training. However, it would be good for the starters if it is also listed in the rules in a comprehensible way.

Agenda item 9.20 Sandra Schneider (Switzerland)

Editorial change

7.2 Starting classes offered: Package rules and themed tournaments

Addition to the package rule

- It is possible to hold a doubles tournament if all classes can be offered on both days.
- If a class has to be split due to size and is offered on different days, it is not allowed to start on both days for the same class (if no double tournament).
- In principle, it is not permitted to start twice in the same class at a single tournament and thus compete against oneself.

Reason:

This is the current rule, but it was not formulated so clearly. Since there were questions about this, there is probably a need for a detailed explanation.

Agenda item 9.21 Verena Verones (Switzerland)

Editorial change

Entry Class Junior, Trio, Quartett

Due to the fact that there are repeated enquiries from competitors in this regard, I would like to request the following change in the wording of point 5.2.4 in the DDI regulations:

Under point 5.2.4

Until now:

Entry Classes Junior, Trio & Quartet

Any team may enter the official Junior, Trio and Quartet classes at any time.
register. No licence booklet is required for these classes.

NEW

Entry Classes Juniors, Trio & Quartett

Any team can register at any time in the official Junior, Trio and Quartet classes. No licence booklet is required for these classes. When starting in the official classes Juniors, Trio & Quartet, the team is free to start in parallel or alternately as often as desired in another official class (with the corresponding licence booklet).

Agenda item 9.22 Claudia Moser (Switzerland)

Editorial change

Adjustment 6.3.2 Use of training aids in the official classes.

The sentence: "Rewarding the dog is not permitted at any time in the official classes once the dog has entered the ring" (in 6.3.2) has a different meaning than the sentence "Use of reward/motivation aids and training equipment is not permitted at any time in the show ring (during official classes)" (see 5.2.1. General regulations official classes).

I therefore request that the wording of both points be amended as follows:

The carrying of rewards/ motivational aids as well as training utensils is not allowed in the ring at any time during official classes. This rule applies to:

- Set-up time of props
- Sound check in the ring
- Entering the ring with dog

Under rewards/ motivational aids/ training utensils run the following things:

- Food
- Food bag (whether full or empty)
- toys
- clickers
- targets
- Jackpots, etc.

All rewards/ motivational aids/ training utensils must be deposited and used outside the ring.