

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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**REGULATIONS FOR FCI INTERNATIONAL
GROOMING COMPETITIONS**



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1. PREFACE

The purpose of these rules is to encourage the groomers to further develop and extend their skills by participating in grooming competitions.

2. OBJECTIVES OF GROOMING

The objectives of grooming are:

- to maintain a dog's health and cleanliness.
- to prevent illness by maintaining the healthy condition of skin and coat.
- to be able to enhance on the structural and anatomical strength of the dog.

3. WELFARE AND HEALTH OF DOGS

The welfare and health of dogs must be of utmost importance and priority at all grooming competitions.

Consequently, the organizers must provide a physically and mentally beneficial environment for dogs (for example, ensuring water is available at all times, dog not to be standing for too long, etc.)

4. FCI GROOMING GENERAL RULES

4.1 Classification of Categories

Five (5) categories are offered in the competition. There are three (3) levels offered within each category.

Category 1 Hand-stripping	Category 2 Spaniels and Setters	Category 3 Poodles	Category 4 Other Pedigree Dogs Scissoring	Category 5 Pet
Level A - Advanced				
Level B - Intermediate				
Level C - Apprentice				

4.1.1 FCI Recognised Breeds, Admitted to Compete

Category 1

Small Category

- Cairn Terrier (4)
- Border Terrier (10)
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier (168)
- Jack Russell Terrier (345)
- Miniature Schnauzer (183)
- Norwich Terrier (72)
- Norfolk Terrier (272)
- Sealyham Terrier (74)
- Scottish Terrier (73)
- West Highland White Terrier (85)

Medium Category

- Irish Terrier (139)
- Lakeland Terrier (70)
- Standard Schnauzer (182)
- Welsh Terrier (78)
- Wire Fox Terrier (169)

Large Category

- Airedale Terrier (7)
- Giant Schnauzer (181)

Category 2

- American Cocker Spaniel (167)
- English Cocker Spaniel (5)
- English Springer Spaniel (125)
- Irish Setter (120)
- English Setter (2)
- Gordon Setter (6)

Category 3

- Poodle – 4 sizes: Standard, Medium, Miniature and Toy (172)

Small Category

- Toy Poodle
- Miniature Poodle

Medium Category

- Medium Poodle

Large Category

Standard Poodle

Category 4

- Bichon Frisé (215)
- Bedlington Terrier (9)
- Kerry Blue Terrier (3)
- Black Russian Terrier (327)
- Bouvier des Flandres (191)
- Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier (40)

Category 5

For all FCI-recognised breeds that are to be groomed. In this category, the candidate may enter with breeds that usually require stripping or scissoring. Salon-clip styling is very much dependent on the creativity of the contestant. There are no restrictive styles. Colouring is not allowed. Artistic clips amplifying the beauty of the dog form the basis of judging. If accessories are being used, they must not harm the dog's health and they cannot be permanent.

4.2 Classification of Levels

4.2.1 Level C – Apprentice

Apprentice refers to candidates who have less than six-month experience. Dog show experience can also be taken into consideration. The participant will be allowed to compete in this class for the whole year both in his home country and internationally.

From the second year onwards, the participant must move on to the Intermediate Class on the condition that a qualification has been obtained in the Apprentice Class.

Participants who have qualified for Level B (Intermediate Class) by achieving a high qualification (85 points and above) are exempted from the required time frame of 12 months to compete at the next level.

Clippers are allowed to be used by Level C participants for Category 5 only. Curved scissors may be used.

For confirmation of entry into a category, participants must provide proof of certificates from an FCI recognised NCO grooming competition and be in good standing with their domestic NCO.

4.2.2 Level B – Intermediate

Intermediate Class is for those participants who have achieved a qualification at Level C. The clips attempted must be show clips or clips that are required as stipulated in the FCI breed standards.

From the second year onwards, the participant should move on to the Advanced Class on the condition that a qualification has been obtained in the Intermediate class.

Clippers are only allowed to be used for face, feet and ears and in Category 3 of Poodle in Continental clip.

For confirmation of entry into a category, participants must provide proof of certificates from an FCI recognised NCO grooming competition and be in good standing with their domestic NCO.

4.2.3 Level A – Advanced

Advanced Class refers to participants who have achieved a qualification in both Apprentice Level C and Intermediate Level B, or those who have attained a qualification in Level A in any category. Participants for Level A must have achieved a qualification in Level B 12 months prior. Those who have achieved a high qualification in Level B are exempted from the 12-month time frame. Participants are also encouraged to have attended at least 3 seminars organized by their own NCO or any other FCI Member/Contract Partner

Clippers are only allowed to be used for face, feet, ears and in Category 3 of Poodle in Continental clip.

For confirmation of entry into a category, participants must provide proof of certificates from an FCI recognised NCO grooming competition and be in good standing with their domestic NCO.

4.2.4 Master Groomer Classification

For Master Groomer, the participant must have achieved a qualification in Level A in 3 categories. The participant will then get the title of “Silver Master Groomer”.

The participants who achieved a qualification in Level A in 4 categories will get the title of “Gold Master Groomer”.

The participants who have achieved a qualification in Level A in all 5 categories will get the ultimate title of “Platinum Master Groomer”.

4.3 Progress across categories

After the attainment of Level A for a particular category, the participant can move on to compete in any other category, at Level A.

The qualification for each Level is 70 points.

4.4 Seminars

FCI NCO's are encouraged to conduct seminars in at least 3 different categories. The purpose of the seminars is to allow continual education of the participants. Before advancing to the Advanced Level of another category, the participant must have attended at least 3 different seminars.

5. EXAMINER'S GUIDE

5.1 Score Sheet

A minimum of one and up to four judges will make up the judges' panel depending on each NCO. In each category, there is a minimum of 3 awards (1st, 2nd and 3rd) given per Level for participants achieving the minimum qualification (70 points). Each NCO can award more places (for participants achieving the minimum qualification of 70 points) as they deem necessary, with a maximum number of 10% of the entries.

Pictures of the dogs will be taken before and after the competition.

The average scores from the judges for the winners of each category will be taken into consideration to decide for the overall BIS winner.

Suitability of chosen style to the dog	10 points
The difficulty degree of the clip	10 points
Ability to camouflage defects and enhance beauty	10 points
Up to date with today's modern grooming styles	5 points
Respect for today's breed standard	15 points
The quality of scissoring, shaving and or stripping. The details of the groomer's work	20 points
Balance, symmetry, and smoothness	20 points
Presentation of the dog to the judge	10 points

5.2 Notes for Participants about Score Sheets

Suitability of chosen style to the dog <i>Dependent on the balance of the dog, the chosen style should cover up the flaws and amplify the good points</i>	10 points
The difficulty degree of the clip <i>For example: Descending order of difficulty in Category 3 are ①Saddle Clip, ②Second Puppy Clip (Scandinavian Clip), ③Continental Clip, ④Puppy Clip, ⑤Terrier Clip / German Clip and ⑥Modern Clip.</i>	10 points
Ability to camouflage defects and enhance beauty <i>For example, if the dog has a dip in the topline, the person who is stripping is able to cover up the fault then extra points are allocated.</i>	10 points
Up to date with today's modern grooming styles <i>For example, the style for grooming miniature schnauzers differs from those that are 10 years ago as dogs improve in conformation, "bell bottom" furnishings on the legs are no longer seen as fashionable.</i>	5 points

Respect for today's breed standard <i>Breed standards changes and FCI has made several changes taking into account the health and the welfare of the dog as utmost importance. So groomers need to know the breed characteristics of the breed that they are grooming and are expected to amplify them.</i>	15 points
The quality of scissoring, shaving and or stripping. The details of the groomer's work <i>Points are awarded for the skills and technique in the usage of scissors, clippers or stripping knives and the results on the coat with these tools and skills. The more detailed the work on the coat, the more points.</i>	20 points
Balance, symmetry, and smoothness <i>For example, length of legs must be balanced with the depth of the body, length of body must be balanced with the height according to the breed standard.</i>	20 points
Presentation of the dog to the judge <i>The health of the dog, muscle condition, condition of the coat, whiteness, etc</i>	10 points

5.3 Qualification Requirement

The qualification for each level is 70 points.

5.3.1 Tied Mark

In the situation of a tied score the judges will confer and decide who should be the winner. In case the judges are unable to come to an agreement then 2 places for that level will be awarded.

5.4 General Guide for each Level

For Level C, the qualifications would be to be able to do a maintenance clip, i.e. length of coat on the body not to be exceeding 5cm after trim. Coat on the legs and the face should not restrict movement or sight.

For Category 3 Poodles, only Lamb Clip is allowed for Level C. The basic guiding principle for a Level C groomer is the ability to groom dogs to a maintenance level.

For Level B, the qualification would be the ability to do a maintenance clip on the body but with different variations of styles on the head. Emphasis should be on creating an appealing expression after grooming.

For Level A, participants should be able to do artistic grooming on the head, body and legs. No colouring is allowed. If accessories are used, they must not harm the dog's health and they cannot be permanent, i.e. must be removable.

6. LICENSES OF GROOMING JUDGES

Awarding of Grooming Licenses to Judges shall be solely the responsibility of FCI recognised NCO's; they should be responsible to train and examine their judges before awarding them licenses to be called Grooming Judges.

7. ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

7.1 Application for FCI International Grooming Competitions

All applications for FCI Grooming competitions must be submitted to the FCI Head Office no later than 3 months before the date of the event. All event dates will be posted on the FCI website. There is no limit to the number of FCI International Grooming competitions that can be organised by an FCI NCO.

7.2 Entries

All participants must fill out the relevant entry forms and pay the entry fee. The entry fee is to be decided by the FCI NCO organising the competition.

A marked catalogue shall be submitted to the FCI within 3 months after the conclusion of the competition.

7.3 “Best in Level” and “Best Groomer in Show” Competitions

The organising NCO may also choose to offer prizes for the Top participant across each Level and then across each category as follows:

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	
Level A Winner	Level A Winner	Level A Winner	Level A Winner	Level A Winner	Overall Level A Winner
Level B Winner	Level B Winner	Level B Winner	Level B Winner	Level B Winner	Overall Level B Winner
Level C Winner	Level C Winner	Level C Winner	Level C Winner	Level C Winner	Overall Level C Winner

The 3 Overall Level Winners go on to compete for Best Groomer in Show. The judge’s decision shall be deemed final.

8. GENERAL INFORMATION

In principle, the use of hairspray is not allowed. However, in the country where the use of hairspray is customarily allowed, its minimal use is allowed.

The use of powder/chalk and volumiser is breed-specific and not allowed for just any breed. Breeds that require it are West Highland White Terrier, Fox Terrier (Wire), Welsh Terrier & Schnauzers (all sizes). Use of those items should be done before the start of the competition.

Any products that change the colour, nature and texture of the coat will not be allowed.

Participants must be older than 18 years old. Those under 18 require parental consent.

Model dogs must not be groomed for 45 days or more prior to the date of the competition except for the Rolled Coated Stripping breeds.

There will be a compulsory 10-minute break for dogs and/or contestants to rest in the middle of the competition.

Model dogs for Poodle Puppy Clip must be under 15 months old.

The contestants must provide their own model dogs and their own grooming tools and table. The contestants must ensure that their dogs are duly vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination if required by the organiser.

A grooming arm is allowed in countries where the law permits it. However, the safety and welfare of dogs is of utmost importance. If a dog is found to be short of breath on the table due to the use of a grooming arm, points must be deducted.

Points will be deducted if the groomer is found to be untidy with his equipment.

Contestants need to be in the ring 30 minutes before the start of the competition for prejudging.

Dummy dogs are permitted in Level C only if the organizing NCO allows it.

9. TIMING

Category 1	Small Category	Medium Category	Large Category
Hand-stripping	2 hrs	2 hrs 30 min	3 hrs

Category 2	
All Setters, American Cockers, English Cockers, Springers	2 hrs 30 min

Category 3	Small Category	Medium Category	Large Category
	1 hr 45 min	2 hrs 15 min	2 hrs 45 min

Category 4	
Bichon Frisé, Bedlington	2 hrs
Kerry Blue Terrier, Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Black Russian Terrier, Bouvier des Flandres	2 hrs 30 min

Category 5	Small Breeds	Medium & Large Breeds
With Clippers (Level C only)	2 hrs	2 hrs
Without Clippers (All Levels)	2 hrs	2 hrs

Candidates unsure which size category their dogs fall under must clarify this before the start of the competition and be certified by the judges or show official.

The participating dog in Category 3 is allowed to be clipped in the area of its face, feet, belly and anus before the start of the competition.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

From time to time, some changes to these rules may be necessary. Amendments of these Rules and Regulations shall be decided solely by the FCI Grooming Commission and General Committee as and when deemed necessary.

These regulations were approved by the FCI General Committee in Zurich, February 2020.