

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)

Place Albert 1^{er}, 13, B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique), tel : +32.71.59.12.38, internet: <https://www.fci.be>

FCI GUIDELINES FOR GROOMING JUDGES



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1. INTRODUCTION

These “FCI Guidelines for Grooming Judges” are meant to help FCI Grooming Judges in FCI member countries to come to the same understanding/interpretation of the FCI Grooming related regulations.

The FCI Grooming Judges must fully understand the objectives of the grooming defined in the Regulations for FCI International Grooming Competitions, and always bear in mind that the welfare and health of dogs must be of utmost importance.

2. CRITERION FOR JUDGING

The FCI Grooming Judges must judge while taking the following criterion into account.

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

A. Criterion for judging by category

➤ **Category 1 (Hand-stripping)**

- The participant should fully understand the breed standard of the breed he is grooming. Also, the participant should recognize the differences between the breed standard and the dog and trying to close the gap between them.
- What about the coat texture? Can the body be protected with its coat texture?
- The grooming should express the characteristic and function of the breed well.
- The participant should be hand-stripping the dog’s hair in the painless way. Also, the participant should be using his equipment properly.
- The participant should be hand-stripping the dog’s hair along the coat.
- The dog’s skin should reflect good technique.
- The participant should not clip any parts other than the part(s) defined for each breed.
- The participant should choose an appropriate blade for the clipper.
- The participant should not use scissors more than necessary. (Excessive use of scissors would be subject to the deduction.)
- Furnishing and/or feathering should be blending in nicely.
- Judge should be able to see the distinct changes before and after the grooming.

- Judge should examine the work according to wire coat protocol.

➤ **Category 2 (Spaniel and Setters)**

- The participant should fully understand the breed standard of the breed he is grooming. Also, the participant should recognize the differences between the breed standard and the dog and trying to close the gap between them.
- The aesthetic element is important, but does it fit to the function of the breed?
- The participant should use his equipment smoothly as well as properly. Also, the participant should use his equipment along the coat and treat the dog appropriately.
- The technique applied should match with the coat texture of the dog. Also, the under coat should be properly taken care of.
- The grooming should be blending in without losing the touch of natural feeling.
- The quality of clipping and the blade used should match well.
- The participant should not clip any parts other than the part(s) defined.
- The head expression should be suitable for the breed.

➤ **Category 3 (Poodles)**

- The participant should fully understand the breed standard of the Poodle. Also, the participant should recognize the differences between the breed standard and the dog and trying to draw forth the ideal expression.
- How is the level of shampooing and drying?
- The style of the clipping should be in accordance with the defined one. Also, the clipping should be appropriate for the dog. Only sanitary clipping of pads and genitals, nail trimmed and ears cleaned are accepted prior to the competition as they are part of safety and health of dogs.
- What about the quality of the clipping? Do you see any unshaven, clipper marks or clipper burn is observed?
- How are the handling techniques of tools and equipment? Make sure that scissors are not left unattended in a dangerous place.
- The participant should handle the dog with care and compassion. Also, the stack should be in a comfortable and proper position.
- The final work should be beautiful, not showing the trace of scissors marks, with symmetry, and good balance. It should be formed with an awareness of the movement.
- The top knot should be made appropriately presenting the good head expression. Make sure that a hair extension is not used. Cannot be prebanded including bubble visor (swell) on top of eyes prior to the competition.
- If the hairspray is used, make sure it is not used excessively. Excessive use of the hairspray would be subject to the deduction.
- The dog should be elegantly styled.

➤ **Category 4 (Other Pedigree Dogs Scissoring)**

- The participant should fully understand the breed standard of the breed he is grooming. Also, the participant should recognize the differences between the breed standard and the dog and trying to draw forth the ideal expression.
- The participant should shampoo and dry the dog in a suitable way for the breed.
- How are the balance, symmetry, beauty and smoothness of surface?
- The participant should express the characteristic of the breed well.

➤ **Category 5 (Pet)**

- Although there is no limitation in style and method, make sure that there is not a single element which could harm the health of the dog.
- If the accessory is used, make sure that it is not danger to the dog (e.g. sharp-pointed bobby pin).
- How are the handling techniques of equipment? The participant should use them appropriately without presenting any sign of danger.
- How are the creativity, artistic quality, balance, and favourability rating?

B. Criterion for judging by level

➤ **Level C**

- The participant should pay due attention to the safety and should also properly handle the dog as well as equipment while performing the basic grooming in the right way.
- Has a competitor finished grooming in time?

➤ **Level B**

- Level B requires better handling techniques of equipment than for Level C groomer.
- The participant in Level B should have better level of understanding of the breed than Level C groomer.
- The participant in Level B should have better understanding and expressiveness of the dog than Level C groomer.
- In grooming process of scissoring breeds, the participant should be able to distinguish between the rough cut-off and chipping, and the competitor must show proper knowledge of execution.

➤ **Level A**

- The participant in Level A should have better understanding and expressiveness of the dog than Level C and Level B groomers.
- The participant should be able to groom the dog to reach the level of showing at the dog shows.
- The participant in Level A should serve as a role model for handling of equipment.

NB: For the FCI Grooming World Championship, judges should follow judging criterion set for Level A or Master Level for each category.

These Guidelines were approved by the FCI General Committee in Madrid, November 22-23, 2022. They are valid upon publication.