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FCI REGULATIONS for awarding the CACIT at FCI International Sledge Dog Racing Tests

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*In memory of Mr Franco Mannato,
former President of the FCI Commission for Sledge Dogs*

PREAMBLE

The 5 sledge dog breeds belong to FCI group 5 “Spitz and Primitive, sec. 1 Nordic Sledge Dog”, as of yet, not subject to a working trial according to the FCI breeds nomenclature

By heritage these dogs are meant for the northern hemisphere and have been **worked as sledge dogs** in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Siberia. Through thousands of years these dogs have been developed by the ‘form follows function’ concept. They were used as means of transportation by the indigenous tribes, and some breeds later on as racing sledge dogs, running distances like the 600+ km All Alaskan Sweepstakes.

In order to test the ability and quality of the dog as a sledge dog, it should be tested on the following specific characteristics:

Endurance and stamina : does the dog have endurance to work for long stretches at time?

Polar characteristics : is the dog able to withstand the work of pulling a sledge in northern conditions of snow and sub-zero temperatures ?

These are qualities that apply to all the five polar sledge dog breeds Alaskan Malamute, Canadian Eskimo dog, Greenland dog, Samoyed and Siberian Husky

Speed : does the dog have speed to cover the distance of the trail in good time, a specific quality of Siberian Husky ?

Power : does the dog have the strength to pull a load, a specific quality of Alaskan Malamute, Canadian Eskimo dog and Greenland dog ?

The CACIT is meant to reward those dogs who perform well with the above specific characteristics.

This document provides international regulations for:

- The awarding of CACIT and how the races must be organized.
- The general provisions to make a dog eligible to become International Working Champion.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. As some FCI members are already awarding national working certificates to the dogs of the 5 sledge dog breeds through sledge dog races, these races could easily be acknowledged as CACIT races, proposed by the FCI members and approved by FCI.
2. While these races are preferably organised on **snow**, the commission is of the opinion that in countries where such races cannot be organised or when exceptionally a lack of snow does not allow for such organisations in winter, it is possible to organise a CACIT race on a dryland race. A CACIT dryland race should only be held in a cold period with low temperatures and humidity, with a maximum air temperature recommendation of 15°C **AND respecting the animal welfare** (this might imply racing during night time.)
3. The primary purpose of CACIT races for sledge dogs is to test the **endurance, pulling power, speed qualities** and **polar characteristics** of dogs intended for breeding purposes and to a certain extent the obedience and co-operation qualities. The secondary purpose is to develop interest in the sledge dog activity, encourage the dog’s working ability and activate dogs and their owners.

FCI Regulations for awarding the CACIT at FCI International Sledge Dog Racing Tests

4. Dogs participating in a race shall be at least 18 months old in order to qualify for the CACIT.
5. Dogs participating in the CACIT tests have to be registered with FCI recognised pedigree (three complete generations) in a FCI national canine organisation (NCO) or in a FCI recognised registry. Only Greenland dogs can participate with less than full pedigree (3-generations) if the dog is a direct import from Greenland or (one of) its parents is/are imports from Greenland.
6. The dogs need to be vaccinated and ID-marked according to national rules.
7. Dogs with a torn ear or tail can participate on the team in the race, but cannot qualify for the CACIT unless they have a veterinary certificate explaining the cause of the injury.
8. Neutered males can participate as member of the team in the race, but cannot qualify for the CACIT.
9. Dogs that are NOT allowed to participate in a CACIT sledge dog racing test are:
 - A. Sick dogs, or injured dogs
 - B. Blind dogs
 - C. Pregnant bitches thirty (30) days before delivery and ten weeks after delivery.
 - D. Dogs that have been given medication against FCI international guidelines about dog doping.

2. CACIT SLEDGE DOG RACING TEST

10. A CACIT test is held at sledge dog races over minimum two days in the following disciplines: sprint, middle distance/stage and/or long distance in team style or pulka style (see annex)
11. The test concerns dogs exclusively and has nothing to do with the classification of drivers which is done in the frame of races. The race must be organised by the NCO through breed club(s), either as an independent race or in cooperation with a race organisation. The list of results of the test should include the full name of the dogs.
12. The dog's result must be traceable from the breed club, the NCO and the FCI.
13. An international FCI licensed judge approved by the FCI member of his/her country of legal residence must be present and judge the CACIT test.
14. On the race, the driver must conform to the race rules and organisers prescriptions. Any fraud of the rule will be sanctioned according to the rules of the organizing NCO/breed club. In case something happens that is not covered by any rule, the decision of the judge will be final as far as the CACIT test is concerned.
15. The team in which the dog is competing for the CACIT can only be composed of one of the five FCI sledge dog breeds : Alaskan Malamute, Canadian Eskimo dog, Greenland dog, Samoyed or Siberian Husky, with official FCI recognized pedigrees (see paragraph 5 of the general requirements).

16. In case a dog in the team does not correspond to the standard, the judge is allowed to disqualify the dog from the CACIT test, but not from the race itself.

Dog examination must be done before the start of the first heat and latest at the vet check, allowing the driver to substitute a dog which is judged to be out of standard.

If a dog has got a "Good" or higher level result at a dog show, it is authorised to participate. The owner must always bring proper documentation for verification purpose.

17. The judge must check on the finish line – before the team goes to the stake out – the identification number of the dog(s). He/she may be helped in this task by a secretary/steward.
18. The entry form of the dog(s) and fee for the race and CACIT test must be in line with the conditions requested by the breed club in co-operation with the organiser of the race and within the requested deadlines.
19. Each NCO will propose the races on which the CACIT test will be organized for the five sledge dog breeds according to the international race calendar.
The races are proposed to the FCI sled dog commission which is responsible for the calendar. Races have to be proposed to the commission at least two weeks before the summer meeting of the commission in order to be considered for the following racing season.
20. Mushers entering their dog(s) at the CACIT test must make the appropriate entry using the application form issued by the relevant breed club together with the payment of the fee and within the deadlines fixed by the breed club.

These entries are totally independent from the entry at the race (Merit fee). When checking at the secretariat dog owners give the organisers the work form of the dogs that will take part in the CACIT test.

21. Only teams consisting of dogs of the same breed qualify for the CACIT (see annex)
22. In order to qualify for the CACIT, a dog must have run the total distance and all heats. A dog which is dropped out of the test or comes to the finish line in the basket cannot get a CACIT.

3. AWARDING CACIT AND RCACIT

23. Only the dog(s) that run and finish the CACIT test in a team that finishes **first** in its class, breed or group is/are entitled to get the CACIT.
24. Only the dog(s) that run and finish the CACIT test in a team that finishes **second** in its class, breed or group within 110% of the winner's time, is/are entitled to the Reserve CACIT.
25. The CACIT is proposed by an international judge. It is confirmed by the FCI.
26. The RCACIT can only be turned into a CACIT when the CACIT has been awarded to a team in which ALL dogs are already International Working Champions. As soon as one dog in the winning team gets its CACIT confirmed, the RCACIT cannot be turned into a CACIT.

4. INTERNATIONAL WORKING CHAMPION (CIT) (Champion International de Travail)

In order to become FCI international working champion a dog must have earned:

- A. Three (3) CACIT in races organised under the responsibility of two different NCO*, of which minimum two (2) should be earned on a race on snow, and minimum one (1) on a middle distance race or a long distance race.

or alternatively,

Two (2) CACIT on two (2) long distance races, organized under responsibility of two different NCO.

Two (2) RCACITs count as one (1) CACIT.

* *Although Russia has one NCO, it is acknowledged that Russia is divided into separate regions according to FCI. The CACIT awards should be gained in two different Russian regions.*

- B. At least the qualification "Very Good" in an international show, earned either before or after the CACIT race, at the minimum age of 15 months.

To receive the confirmation of the CIT, the owner of the dog(s) shall submit via his/her NCO an application to the Head Office of the FCI. The application shall include the relevant documents.

5. PROTEST

Any protest -by a participant- regarding a CACIT test must be filed in writing according to the national rules where the CACIT test takes place.

6. DEFINITION AND ABBREVIATION LIST

CACIT: Certificat d'Aptitude au Championnat International de Travail.

In English: International Working Championship Certificate

RCACIT: Reserve-CACIT

CIT: Champion International de Travail (International Working Champion)

National judge: person authorized by his/her NCO to judge the race.

FCI licensed judge: a national judge acknowledged by his/her NCO and by the FCI to judge the CACIT test.

FCI recognised pedigree: official document showing at least three generations of the dog's ancestry.

A pedigree is either issued by a FCI NCO or by an FCI recognised registry.

AM: Alaskan Malamute

CED: Canadian Eskimo Dog

GRL: Greenland Dog

SAM: Samoyed

SH: Siberian Husky

Group 1: Consisting of the breed Siberian Husky, fastest and most popular breed in terms of population and entries at races of the 5 sledge dog breeds.

Group 2: Consisting of the breeds AM, CED, GRL and SAM. These breeds have been used differently historically than the SH and have different built and weight. These breeds can compete against each other when there are not enough teams per breed in the class and are therefore grouped together.

Style: races are run in Pulka style and/or Team style.

Pulka: small sledge with short runners that the dog has to pull while the driver is skiing behind the pulka. This style is also known as nordisk/nordic style. Pulka style is only run on snow.

Team: the pool of dogs that is used in front of the sledge or cart. The driver runs or stands on a sledge or a cart behind the dogs. This style is also known as sledge style or nome style.

Since the start of dryland racing, the name was changed into team style.

Discipline: says something about the distance or the surface run on.

Dryland: is run on bare ground instead of snow, over relatively short distances per heat, per day (between 10 and 35 km). Instead of a sledge, a 3 or 4-wheel cart is being used.

Sprint (Sp): is run on snow over relatively short distance per heat, per day, (between 10 and 35 km). This discipline is a test for speed and -to lesser extent- pulling power

Middle Distance (MD): is run on snow on distances between 35 and 250 km per heat, per day. This discipline is a test for speed and stamina and -to lesser extent- pulling power.

Long distance (LD): is run over more than 250 km per heat, being run 'non-stop' except for the mandatory rest as set by the organizer, i.e. running day and night.

Long distance is a test for speed, stamina, endurance, pulling power as well as polar characteristics as these races are organized on snow only and the dogs have to work for long stretches at a time and have to sleep under the open sky as they were used originally.

Mandatory survival equipment needs to be carried in the sled, which allows to test the pulling power

Class: defines the number of dogs that is being used in front of the sledge or cart

1-4 dogs in case of pulka: the driver can start with 1 dog or up to 4 dogs maximum.

No dog is to be dropped during the race.

2-dog class: shall consist of not more and not less than 2 dogs.

4-dog class: shall consist of not more than 4 dogs and not less than 3 dogs.

6-dog class: shall consist of not more than 6 dogs and not less than 4 dogs.

8-dog class: shall consist of not more than 8 dogs and not less than 5 dogs.

Open/Unlimited: shall consist of not less than 9 dogs in the first heat and not less than 6 in any subsequent heat.

The above regulations and attached annex were approved by the FCI General Committee in November 2018 and July 2019

ANNEX
Valid until 1/2024

The CACIT is awarded :

- Per breed of the 5 sledge dog breeds:

Group 1: Siberian Husky

Group 2: Alaskan Malamute, Canadian Eskimo dog, Greenland dog, Samoyed.

- Per class/group with a minimum of three (3) starting teams in the CACIT test.

Note: all classes are optional

- Pulka style (1-4 dogs and only on snow)

- Team style:

2-dogs;*

4-dogs;

6-dogs;

8-dogs;

Open (> 8 dogs).

**2-dog team class is subject to scrutiny. The commission is divided and considers this class a beginners/recruit class. Some countries suggest to offer this class on the race but with no CACIT. This class is not in the best interest of the Siberian Husky as the SH is historically being used in large teams and unlike the AM and GRL, it is not meant to be a powerful dog. Two-dog class encourages breeding of oversized and more powerful dogs which is not in the interest of the breed.*

The commission is also of the opinion that the weight, condition and ability of the human athlete/musher is of greater impact in this class than in any of the others. However, as this class is one of the most popular classes in the middle European countries and many owners of the breeds of group 2 (AM, GRL, CED, SAM) have only a few dogs, it is decided to (optionally) award the CACIT in this class for a transitional 3-year period starting 1st January 2021 until 1st January 2024.

If a minimum of three (3) starting teams per breed is not reached in a class of Alaskan Malamute, Canadian Eskimo dog, Greenland dog or Samoyed, the class can be put together with the class of (one or more of) the other breeds in group 2 in order to reach the minimum number of teams. Only the first team of the group will win the CACIT.

CACIT is awarded per discipline: Sprint, Middle Distance, Long Distance (and Dryland for those countries without snow).

In order to take place, a race must include a minimum of three (3) starting teams per class, per breed or group and a minimum of two (2) finishing teams in dryland, sprint and mid-distance and minimum one (1) finishing team in long distance, provided that the team is finishing within the maximum time limit as set by the organizer.

Mandatory minimum distances per class, per heat : all classes are optional, but when offered, the distances should at least be the minimum according to the rules as shown in table below.

Class	Dryland*	Sprint Snow **	Mid distance/stage***	Long distance ****
Pulka (1-3/4 dogs)	----	>15 km	>40 km	>250 km
<i>Team 2 dogs</i>	>10 km	>12 km	>25 km	
Team 4 dogs	>10 km	>12 km	>35 km	
Team 6 dogs	>12 km	>15 km	>40 km	>250 km
Team 8 dogs	>15 km	>20 km	>40 km	>250 km
Team Open/Unlimited	>20 km	>25 km	>40 km	>250 km

* **A CACIT test on dryland** should only be organized as substitute for a snow test for countries without snow. A dryland race is only organized in a cold winter period with low temperatures, allowing for longer minimum distances than a dryland race in fall, given that the temperature is lower in winter months. Maximum air temperature recommendation is 15°C. There shall be a thermometer and hygrometer in the starting area. They shall be easily visible, placed in the shade at 50 cm. above ground level.

The minimum and maximum temperature and humidity shall be noted during the entire race.

Equipment for Dryland: instead of a sled, a 4-wheel cart is used for all classes of min. 4 dogs.

In 2-dog class a 3 or 4-wheel cart is required. Bikes or scooters are not allowed.

** **Sprint on snow:** none of the 5 sledge dog breeds are meant as sprint dogs, hence the minimum distance is put to 12 km per heat for small team classes.

These breeds are meant to cover big distances and endurance should be their main characteristic.

This can only be tested over longer distances. However, due to limited space in many countries, a sprint test is probably the only possible way for some NCO to organize a CACIT sledge dog test.

*** **Middle Distance race:** in order to reach the recommended minimum trail distance it is allowed to run the same trail over two (2) laps.

Stage race (without pool system) with a start and finish per heat/per day is considered middle distance race. 'Non-stop' race of less than 250 km is considered mid distance race.

**** **Long Distance test** is a race of more than 250 km being run 'non-stop' except for the mandatory rest as set by the organizer. Long distance races should always be held on snow.

Weight regulations in kg for Pulka style (= on snow), all breeds					
Team size	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2	Group 1
	Al. Malamute	Can. Eskimo	Greenl. dog	Samoyed	Siberian Husky
1-dog team	30	30	30	20	20
2-dog team	50	50	50	35	35
3-dog team	65	65	65	45	45
4-dog team	75	75	75	55	55
If one or more bitches are in the team, the weight is reduced by 5 kg in total.					