

Official Dogdance-Rules

General Rules

- Every dog with and without pedigree can take part in any Dogdance-Competition and achieve granted status (champion, etc).
- Every person can take part in Dogdance-Competitions regardless of age or (dis-)abilities!
- There is no membership in a club or organisation required!
- The purpose of any dog dance performance is to showcase the team's and especially the dog's mental and physical qualities the most appropriate and positive style..
- Every dog and every person can do form a Dogdance team and perform their routine together!
- The focus of the performance should be on the dog and it's qualities should be portrayed.
- The use of slightly decorated collars is allowed, harnesses and any sort of halters (Halti, Gentle Leader or similar) and other decorations or training aids have to be removed prior to the routine.
- The dog can be led into the ring on a lead and collar, harness or halter, but they need to be removed prior to the start of the routine.
- There is no further decoration of the dog allowed!
- The person should be dressed adequately; a costume can help to enhance the interpretation of the theme.
- The following punitive equipment (Pinch, Choke, Electric collars) are not tolerated at the competition, neither will unfair treatment of the dog accepted.
- Prior to the official Classes there are no primary reinforcers (food, toys, etc) allowed in the competition ring, in during the training times secondary reinforcers and training tools (Clicker, Targets, etc) can be taken into the competition ring. The primary reinforcers (rewards) need to be left and given to the dog outside the competition ring at all times!
- If the organiser provides a separate training and warm-up area all reinforcers (primary and secondary) can be used in that area.
- Prior and in all fun classes the use of any training aid and reinforcers is allowed.
- The achieved results in any of the classes (official and fun) will be recorded on a page of achievement. This booklet of achievements should be handed to the organiser in the morning together with the music. The organiser will provide new handlers with those booklets.

Organiser

- The organiser should if possible declare the flooring in the invitation.
- The organiser can but does not have to offer all classes (official and fun).
- The fun classes should be held after the official classes if possible to prevent distractions through food in the ring. If this is not possible the ring should be cleaned prior to the start of the official classes.
- If there are more than 16 entries in one class, the class should be split into two and the two classes should be marked as two separate classes.
- The splitting of a class should be done by the date the entry form is received.
- A Ringsteward has to make sure that everything in and around the ring goes according to plan. He sends the teams into the ring and makes sure that the competitors and spectators comply to the rules.
- The ideal number of judges for each class is three.
- If there are less than 30 routines there can be only two judges.
- If there are more than 45 routines it would be ideal to have a reserve-judge so the judges can rotate after each class. If this is not possible the organiser needs to make sure that there are enough breaks between the classes.
- The points achieved in any of the official classes should be averaged and handed to the competitors after the competition.
- The written notes for the participants of the fun classes should be handed out to the competitors too.
- The results of the competitors have to be stated into the booklet of achievements.
- The organiser should provide new booklets of achievement for new competitors.

Ring:

- The floor in the ring should be as dog friendly as possible and should be non-slip.
- The ring should be clearly fenced and if possible opaque.
- 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

- 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.
- To judge a Dogdance Competition at least two of the following criteria need to be met by the judge:
 - Participation at a competition with his own dog (at least class 2)
 - Participation at a judges workshop
 - At least one time shadow judging
- Judges that have been judging so far can continue judging without further criteria.
- If there are more than 20 active judges per country the judges criteria should be discussed again.

Classes:

At each competition there can be run Official and/ or Fun Classes

Official Classes

- The official classes will be judged by the following criteria in these rules.
- The Competitors will be judged by points.
- The minimum age for a dog to be eligible for any official class is 12 month on the day of the competition.
- At no time in the official classes are primary or secondary reinforcers (food, toys, clickers, targets, etc) allowed in the ring.
- Those training aids can be left outside the ring and can be given to the dog after the dog has left the ring routine again and only outside the ring!
- The dog shall not carry a prop out of the ring as it could be seen as a reward which would lead to disqualification.
- The organiser can offer classes Trio and Quartet either as an official or as a fun class or both.
- If the numbers of participants in the classes are getting bigger in the future the initiation of a Level 4 could be discussed.

Class 1 (used to be called Beginners, S-Class)

Class 2 (used to be called Novice, M-Class)

Class 3 (used to be called Advanced, L-Class)

Class Trio (1 Person with 2 dogs)

Class Quartet (2 Persons with 2 dogs)

Class Juniors (Teenagers up to the age of 16)

Rules to enter and move up between classes

- These rules are valid until the next convention May 2007 when they will be reviewed and discussed if changes would be required.
- The rules to enter and move up a class apply to the dog.
- Any dog entered prior to the first of June 2006 in a Dogdance-Competition can stay in the class he had been entered but from there on he has to comply with the rules of moving up.

Entries of classes

- Every new dog entered for the first time in an official class has to enter in class 1.

Moving up

- If a team receives once more than 150 points, **can** move up into the next higher class.
- If a team gets placed three times in the first three in his class, the team **has** to move up into the next higher class.

Fun classes

- There is no judging by points in the fun classes. But the judges will give some written feedback meant as constructive criticism.
- The organiser can but does not need to offer all fun classes.
- The list of fun classes is not finished the organiser can invent further fun classes.
- 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.
- Dogs from the age of 6 month on the day of competition can enter in the fun classes, although certain moves (jumps, crawl, any move standing on hind legs and any backward move) are forbidden up to the age of nine months.

Prebeginners	(for dogs entered the first time at a competition)
Seniors	(for dogs older than 8 years and / or handlers over 60 years)
Trio	(1 handlers with 2 dogs)
Quartet	(2 handlers with 2 dogs)
Groups	(more than 2 handlers with more than 2 dogs)
Lucky Dip	(The music will be drawn in the morning and the team has to improvise to it)
Fun Class	(everything goes)
Free Choice	(The organiser can invent further fun classes)

Music Lengths:

Official classes

Class 1:	1:15	-	2:00
Class 2:	1:45	-	2:30
Class 3:	2:15	-	3:30
Class Trio:	1:30	-	3:00
Class Quartet:	1:30	-	3:00
Class Juniors:	1:15	-	2:15

Fun classes

Prebeginners:	Maximum	2:00
Fun class:	Music length is not specified (max. 3:30)	
Seniors:	Maximum	2:30
Trio:	1:30	- 3:00
Quartet:	1:30	- 3:00
Groups:	1:30	- 4:00
Lucky Dip:	Music length is not specified (max. 3:30)	

Marks

Artistic Impression

(max. 100 Points)

Choreography

max. 30 Points

- Development of the routine, structure, etc.
- Transitions of moves and sequences
- Ring use and layout of the routine

Dynamism

max. 30 Points

- Animation & Motivation in relation to the concept
- Harmony of movements, timing and interaction
- Interaction Dog-Handler

Concept

max. 20 Points

- Expressions of emotions, theme, a story, etc
- Creativity in the realisation

Rhythm

max. 20 Points

- Dancing in the rhythm in relation to the music style and song
- Rhythmic variations of movements and tempi

Technical Merit

(max. 100 Points)

Execution

max. 30 Points

- Accuracy of movements in relation to breed, size, etc of the dog
- Signalling (*desired*: hardly noticeable - integrated in the dance; *undesired* loud commands, lure moves, etc)
- Attitude & Attention

Flow

max. 30 Points

- Visual harmony of movements, positions and speed
- Use of transitions
- Consistency of execution

Content

max. 20 Points

- Number of moves / combinations / variations
- Balance & Symmetry of directions, positions, etc

Difficulty

max. 20 Points

- Difficulty of execution, difficulty of moves
- Difficulty of signalling & interactions between dog and handler

Deductions

Barking

- A maximum of 20 points in total can be deducted for excessive barking.

Physical manipulation and aggressive commands

- Up to 60 points in total can be deducted for physical manipulation or aggressive command giving.
- 4 Points will be deducted for each incident!

Improper use of costumes and/ or props

(Explanation: Props and costume need to be in relation to the concept of the routine and the music and should be used to enhance the presentation. They should not only be used to lure and/or create moves)

- Up to 30 points in total can be deducted for improper use of costume/props

Disqualifications

A disqualification needs to be an unanimous decision of all judges. The disqualification is not impugnable!

Leaving the ring

- The routine can be finished as a training round (however no food in the ring in an official class) to the length of the music.

Use of training aids in an official class

A training aid can be (list not closed):

Primary reinforcers: Food, toys, etc.

Secondary reinforcers: Clicker

Training aids: Targetsticks, Targets, etc.

Soiling in the ring

Unfair treatment of the dog

- Unnecessary pressure, punishments or similar behaviours from the handler will not be tolerated! What falls into this category is at the discretion of the perception of the judges.