**DOGS QUEENSLAND**

**DANCES WITH DOGS RULES SUBMISSIONS**

**OLD RULE**

**DEFINITIONS**

**ADDITIONAL RULE:**

Under “Heelwork to Music”

(e) Dog between handler’s legs: 9 – facing forwards

10 – facing backwards

**Rationale:** Additional positions proposed, akin to those acceptable in HTM in Europe. These positions are already accepted in many other countries. These give additional options to handlers to provide variations in their routines.

**OLD RULE**

The dog must:

(a) move parallel to the handler in one of the nominated heelwork positions;

(b) keep the same distance in relation to the handler in all positions;

(c) move in the same direction as the handler;

(d) move at the same pace as the handler.

**ADDITIONAL RULE:**

Any component of a routine where a dog is not on at least 3 legs or is in in a static sit, drop or stand position or the dog is transitioning from one heelwork position to another is regarded as a non-heelwork position. Crawling in a heelwork position is acceptable as a heelwork move.

**Rationale:** This minor change is designed to provide clarification regarding potential variations of types of posture/stance.

**OLD RULE**

**TITLES**

4.2.2The Member Body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

(a) ‘FS.S’/ ‘HTM.S’ signifying Freestyle Starter/Heelwork to Music Starter in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Starter class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

(b) ‘FS.N’/ ‘HTM.N’ signifying Freestyle Novice/Heelwork to Music Novice in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

(c) ‘FS.I’/ ‘HTM.I’ signifying Freestyle Intermediate/Heelwork to Music Intermediate in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Intermediate class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

(d) ‘FS.A’/ ‘HTM.A’ signifying Freestyle Advanced/Heelwork to Music Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

(e) ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in

connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or

HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains a further seven (7) Qualifying

Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of

160 points or more, under at least three (3) different Judging Panels.

Those additional seven (7) Qualifying Certificates must include at least three (3) different pieces of music, which may include music used for the Advanced title. Evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the Championship title.

In the case of dogs which have attained Qualifying Certificates towards the Championship title prior to 1 January 2014, those Qualifying Certificates may be counted in accordance with the rules effective to 31 December 2013. Qualifying Scores achieved after 1 January 2014 must satisfy the requirements of this Rule.

**NEW RULE**

(e) ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains a further five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points or more, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

Those additional five (5) Qualifying Certificates must include at least two (2) different pieces of music, which may include music used for the Advanced title. ~~Evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the Championship title.~~

~~In the case of dogs which have attained Qualifying Certificates towards the Championship title prior to 1 January 2014, those Qualifying Certificates may be counted in accordance with the rules effective to 31 December 2013. Qualifying Scores achieved after 1 January 2014 must satisfy the requirements of this Rule.~~

(f) ‘FS.Gr.Ch’/’HTM.Gr.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Grand Champion/Heelwork to Music Grand Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.Ch or HTM.Ch title respectively and thereafter gains a further five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points or more, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

Those additional five (5) Qualifying Certificates must include at least two (2) different pieces of music other than any used for their Advanced or Championship title.

**Rationale**: It is proposed that a Grand Champion title be introduced in each division, in line with other disciplines e.g. Obedience, Track & Search. To ensure a Grand Champion title is achievable in a dog’s working life the requirement for the Champion title is shortened. Removal of the sentence regarding supplying evidence of the different pieces of music is removed as it places an unnecessary burden on both the handler and the Member Body. The details of the music used is already in the marked catalogues. The last paragraph in (e) is removed as it is no longer applicable.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES:**

4.2.3 The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Dances with Dogs title in each division awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** | **Champion** | **Grand Champion** |
| **Title** | FS.S  HTM.S | FS.N  HTM.N | FS.I  HTM.I | FS.A  HTM.A | FS.Ch  HTM.Ch | FS.Gr.Ch  HTM.Gr.Ch |
| **Number of certificates** | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 (subsequent to Advanced title) with aggregate scores of 160 points or more and including at least 2 different pieces of music | 5 (subsequent to Champion title) with aggregate scores of 160 points or more and including at least 2 different pieces of music not used for Advanced or Champion titles |
| **Minimum number of Judging Panels** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

4.2.4 **Application for title**

Applications for all titles must be submitted on the appropriate form, accompanied by the prescribed fee. In the case of applications for Champion and/or Grand Champion titles, evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the relevant title.

Upon approval by the Member Body, a title certificate authorising the use of the letters concerned will be issued to the applicant.

**OLD RULE**

**11.0 JUDGES AND JUDGING**

**11.1 Composition of Judging Panels**

11.1.1 Each class in a titling Dances with Dogs competition will be judged by a Judging Panel comprised of three licensed Judges.

**NEW RULE**

11.1.1 Each class in a titling Dances with Dogs competition will be judged by a Judging Panel comprised of three licensed Judges.

11.1.2 In the case of competitions conducted at locations more than 100 km from the CBD of the relevant capital city, the Judging Panel may be comprised of two (2) licensed Judges.

{Renumber subsequent sub-rule.}

**Rationale:**

At present a DWD judging panel consists of 3 judges. In most states there is only a relatively small pool of licensed DWD Judges.

Member Bodies have been conscious of the fact that DWD by its nature – and particularly given the requirement for 3 judges – has basically been confined to metropolitan areas. This has disadvantaged those handlers who live in more regional areas.

With the introduction of Tricks this has sparked an interest by new handlers in DWD. Regional Clubs to assist in off-setting costs will frequently run multi-sport events and contract judges who can judge more than one discipline. This, again, reflects negatively on the requirement for 3 judges.

Having 3 DWD judges has always been seen as a way of balancing the otherwise sometimes subjective aspects of DWD judging. In order to open the possibility of DWD being offered in locations outside city metropolitan areas, this proposal suggests that, for any club located more than 100 km from the relevant capital city, the number on the judging panel could be reduced to 2 judges.

At present, teams can achieve a qualifying score by gaining at least 45 points under 2 judges, even if the third judge’s score is below 45. In this proposal, teams covered by this geographic variation would still need to qualify under 2 judges in order to obtain a qualifying certificate.

The situation in which total/aggregate scores are relevant is in relation to Championship titles. In this case it is proposed that the ‘third score’ be calculated as the average of the other two scores.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE**

**4.0 TITLES**

**4.1 Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must gain the following from at least two (2) ~~of the three~~ judges:

(a) a score of at least ten (10) points in each of the three (3) judging categories; and

(b) a total score of at least forty-five (45) points.

**4.2 Dances with Dogs titles**

4.2.1All dogs eligible to be entered in a Dances with Dogs competition in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Rule 4.2.2 below.

4.2.2The Member Body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

…….

1. ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains a further seven (7) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points1 or more, under at least three (3) different Judging Panels.

….

1. In the case of competitions conducted with a Judging Panel of two (2) licensed Judges under Rule 11.1.2, the average of the scores awarded by the two (2) judges will be added to the scores of those two (2) judges to calculate the aggregate score.

**OLD RULE**

**6.5**  **Welfare of Dogs**

6.5.1 All handlers whose dogs are entered at a Member Body sanctioned event shall take all

reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog are met, and shall not put their dog’s

health or welfare at risk by an action, default, omission or otherwise.

**New Addition as part of 6.5**

6.5.2 Listed below are those areas of which the handler must be aware when performing a routine. Where any of these areas are not adhered to the judging panel will order the performance to stop and the Handler to exit the ring.

1. The routine emphasizes the qualities of the dog (breed, personality, physical abilities, mental abilities, etc.). The handler has considered the dog’s body structure and temperament while choosing the moves. The dog’s physical and mental characteristics are portrayed positively in the routine.
2. Health and safety of the dog. When putting together a routine, the handler has considered the capabilities of the dog and does not demand of it anything that would cause it harm or discomfort. The dog is physically and mentally able to easily perform all the moves asked. None of the moves are repeated excessively or performed for substantial periods at a time. The handler has taken into consideration the surface of the ring and the speed of the dog when choreographing their routine. The dog must appear stable and in control of its body when performing any moves.
3. Props are stable and without any obvious danger so that the moves can be performed safely.
4. The handler’s costume and the handler’s movement is also safe for the dog. The dog does not show sign of excessive stress or significant signs of physical exertion. It is important that the judging panel be able to differentiate between when the dog is over-excited and happy from when the dog is over-excited and stressed and begins to struggle in their confident performance.
5. Partnership. If the dog struggles in anyway during the routine, the handler must offer support without delay. Companionship is reflected in the atmosphere of the team working together; there is nothing harsh or forceful about the handling; and the team displays mutual respect towards one another. In the case of injury; if the dog is injured during the routine, the nominated head judge can stop the routine. The judging panel may discuss on how to proceed in each individual case.

Rationale:

In today’s world the general public perception of any dog sport is paramount to the continuing acceptance and high regard of our activities. To encompass such rules as above will help in assuring that our sport is accepted as being both responsible and respectful of our dogs. These rules are similar to rules already in the FCI Dog Dancing Rules.

**NEW RULE**

6.5.3 Judges will scrutinise closely and penalise heavily any move (or component) which is inappropriate or potentially unsafe, having regard to the dog’s size, structure and conformation. The following are examples of types of tricks which are likely to be unsuitable for the vast majority of dogs (based on Great Britain Kennel Club rules for Freestyle competitions):

* the dog balanced on handler’s shoulders while the handler is standing;
* the dog being carried on the handler’s back and being asked to jump off at head height;
* forward or backward roll/somersault (eg where the dog turns head over heels in the air or on the ground and lands or finishes on their feet);
* other moves which may be viewed as potentially harmful or injurious to the dog.

Rationale:

Handler clarification on what moves would be unacceptable and a description on a penalty for using dangerous moves.

**NEW RULE**

10.7 Carrying the dog into and out of the ring.

While entering and/or leaving the ring, the handler may carry the dog in his or her arms. The

dog is still required to be on lead as per the rules. Carrying the dog in a prop is not

permitted. Before starting the routine, the dog has to be put on the ground, lead removed, and take the starting position voluntarily. When ending the routine and, whether the ending position is the dog on or the dog off the ground in some form then, before carrying the dog out of the ring, it must be on the ground and the lead attached.

Rationale:

There is becoming quite a higher percentage of small breed dogs in our sport. Many handlers find it faster, easier and safer to carry their dog in and, especially, out of the ring. While this should be acceptable it should also be shown that these dogs are under control.

**Consequential:**

**Current 10.7 changed to 10.8**

**NEW RULE**

**11.4 Penalties**

11.4.5 A dog disconnecting from the handler may incur a penalty of up to 4 points. This applies from entry to exit of the ring.

RATIONALE:

This clarifies what penalty should be applied for a dog disconnecting from the handler.

**OLD RULE**

**11.5. Disqualification**

11.5.1 The following shall result in disqualification of the dog and handler and their immediate removal from the ring:

(a) a dog fouling/eliminating at any point between entering and exiting the ring;

(b) the dog and/or handler leaving the ring at any time during their routine; if a dog or handler accidentally steps outside the ring during a routine they will not be penalised;

(c) harsh or punitive treatment of the dog in the competition ring;

(d) excessive physical manipulation of the dog in the competition ring.

**NEW RULE**

11.5.1 The following shall result in disqualification of the dog and handler and their immediate removal from the ring:

(a) a dog fouling/eliminating at any point between entering and exiting the ring;

(b) the dog and/or handler leaving the ring at any time during their routine; if a dog or handler accidentally steps outside the ring during a routine they will not be penalised;

(c) harsh or punitive treatment of the dog in the competition ring;

(d) ~~excessive~~ physical manipulation of the dog in the competition ring.

**Rationale:** Handlers should not touch or physically manage their dog at any time during a routine other than when it is a clearly choreographed action appropriate to the music and the routine.

**OLD RULE**

(e) any violation of the rules relating to dog attire or adornment, including artificial colouring;

(f) costume, music, or routine offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation;

(g) (i) using a real or replica weapon3 of any kind;

(ii) using any prop in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person, or other violence or aggression;

(iii) using live or recorded weaponry or explosive sounds4

(h) use of, or having on the person of the handler, during a performance, any food or training toy of any kind;

(i) use of any human or animal prop;

(j) continuous barking;

(k) a routine which significantly contravenes the time specified in rule 9.1.3.

**NEW RULE**

(e) any violation of the rules relating to dog attire or adornment, including artificial colouring;

(f) costume, music, or routine offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation;

(~~g~~) ~~(i) using a real or replica weapon of any kind;~~

~~(ii)~~  (g) using any prop, action or recorded sound in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person, ~~or other violence or aggression.~~

~~(iii) using live or recorded weaponry or explosive sounds;~~

(h) use of, or having on the person of the handler, during a performance, any food or training toy of any kind;

(i) use of any human or animal prop;

(j) continuous barking;

(k) a routine which significantly contravenes the time specified in rule 9.1.3.

**Rationale:** Clarification and simplification on what is acceptable. In today’s Society perception of any type of ‘harm’ to the dog or any person must be discouraged.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:**

Delete footnotes 3 and 4.

**OLD RULE**

11.5.2 If a competitor is disqualified, the score sheet must be marked “Disqualified (D/Q)”.

**NEW RULE**

11.5.2 If a competitor is disqualified, no scores will be allocated and the score sheet must be marked “Disqualified (D/Q)”.

**Rationale:** Editorial clarification.

**OLD RULE**

**11.6 Marks and placings**

11.6.2 The aggregate score (the sum of all Judges’ marking) will determine placings. Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores for placings.

**NEW RULE**

11.6.2 The aggregate score (the sum of all Judges’ marking) will determine placings. Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores for placings.

  Competitors that are disqualified are not eligible for a place.

**RATIONALE**

For clarification. Dogs which have been disqualified should not be eligible for a place.

**OLD RULE**

**GUIDELINES FOR DANCES WITH DOGS SCHEDULES**

Subject to Member Body requirements, published Schedules for Dances with Dogs competitions normally include the following information:

1. The name of the Affiliate conducting the competition.
2. The date and venue at which the competition is to be conducted.
3. Details of the venue (such as whether it is an open or roofed/enclosed area, the surface of the ring [eg grass, carpet etc] and the specific dimensions of the ring).
4. The closing date for entries.
5. The address to which entries should be forwarded.
6. Entry fees.
7. Divisions and classes offered and the members of the Judging Panel(s) for each.
8. Commencing time of vetting, submission of music, music checks and judging.
9. Contact phone number (mobile) for the Affiliate on the day of the competition.
10. Such other information specific to the competition as the Affiliate considers appropriate.

**ADDITIONAL RULE**

**11.** The Schedule should also include advice on the acceptable audio formats for music at the

nominated competition.

**Rationale:** To provide clarification for competitors and club officials.