



FCI Guidelines for national Junior Handling competitions

General information

The aim of Junior Handling competitions is to increase the Youth's interest in canine activities and to develop wide-ranging co-operation and contact between dogs and young people.

Throughout the year, Junior Handling competitions taking place in international shows organized by official FCI National Organisations, bring together the opportunity for youths to be assessed by a Judge, and where youths will be evaluated with basis on an official set of FCI Guidelines.

The Judge

The person judging Junior Handling competitions should be an experienced dog show judge or an individual with experience in dog shows and junior handling. In both cases, he/she must be fully familiar with the practice of handling dogs of many different breeds, and should be able to communicate fluently at least in one of the official FCI languages.

The Judge should always consider the safety of every participant, being aware of addressing youths in a fair manner.

Judging Guidelines

The judging of Junior Handling competitions should resemble the judging of a breed judging ring, with simple figures that are transversal to ring requirements, and where the handler is expected to present the dog as the breed is supposed to be presented. The Judge should touch the dog as a simulation of the judging procedure held during a breed ring, evaluating the handler's knowledge and skill in harmony with the dog's presentation.

The main focus of evaluation process should be based on co-operation and synchronization among the participant and the dog.

- Every handler needs to be evaluated both individually and as part of a group.
- Figures: Up and down, circle, triangle, and moving together - avoiding elaborate figures such as 8s and more intricate shapes that are not usually used in breed rings.
- The Judge may ask handlers to switch dogs if he/she feels it is necessary in making a final decision, and should assure that all dogs are safely handled and show no signs of aggression or obvious reluctance towards the handlers.

Judging procedure

Junior Handling is based on the individual evaluation of the skill of each entered junior handler. During a Junior Handling presentation, the following points are to be taken into consideration:

1. Harmony and cooperation between the handler and the dog

Throughout the evaluation process, a natural and continuous collaboration between the handler and the dog is ideal; embracing an overall corresponding appearance, through a perceptible demonstration of cooperation and true-going presence between the handler and the dog.

2. The specific handling of the dog within its own breed

- a. In motion (triangle, straight action and with turn)
- b. Standing (as it is usual for the breed, with presentation on a table or ramp if required)

3. Knowledge and ability to show the breed

Overall knowledge of the dog handled. The name of the breed, the dog's age and demonstration of awareness of the breed's specific handling requirements, depending on the dog's breed

4. Showing the dog's bite

Demonstration of the bite consists in the handlers ability to show the mouth of the dog by lifting the lip (it is allowed for the handler to stand in front, behind or alongside of the dog). Opening of the mouth can be requested by the judge for those breeds where such a procedure is usual (Rottweilers, German Shepherds, etc.)

5. Presentation of the handler and dog together in a group

In counterpart with the individual presentation of each handler, it is also important to observe the handlers moving together around the ring. The handlers should not stand out from the group, and are expected to move in harmony with the dog's pace, and with regard the rest of the participants; keeping a safe distance between the other handlers. Evidence of sportsmanship should be perpetual among all Junior Handling participants.

6. Appropriate clothing and presentation of the junior handler

The Junior Handler and the dog should present a harmonious appearance as regards to clothing. The handler is recommended to use appropriate and functional clothing and accessories, such as shoes that are well adapted to the soil conditions and to the size of the dog. The colours of the handler's clothes should allow for the distinguishing of the dog's silhouette even from a distance, and any striking or inappropriate clothing is completely discouraged.

7. Overall appearance of handler and dog

Because the overall focus of attention in dog-handling should be kept on the dog, it is recommended that handlers avoid standing between the judge and the dog, without the practice of any exaggeration, but rather relating to this method as part of the handlers main purpose; in being present yet discreet. Any mishandling of the dog-lead or the loss of accessory objects such as coat brushes is bound to cause distraction of the dog or compromise the overall appearance of the handler and dog.

* The Judging procedure can be evaluated with the use of the *FCI Junior Handling Judging Standards* for the assessment of each participant, provided in attachment to these Guidelines

The *FCI Youth Junior Handling Manual* is available at www.fci.be

National representation in FCI World and Section Shows

- a) The representative of each country for the final of FCI World and Section Junior Handling Competitions must be a national citizen of the country that he/she is granted to represent. If the country does not have any Junior Handling activity, it is not allowed to send a candidate to FCI World and Section Junior Handling finals.
- b) Every participant must be over 10 and under 19 years of age on the day of the final competition held at the FCI World and Section shows.
- c) The Junior Handler Winner of any FCI member country may participate automatically both to Section Winner and World final competitions.
- d) Every country (national organisation) is entitled to designate one participant who may compete only in the final competition of the FCI World and Section Show.
- e) The qualified National representative may not compete in the daily qualifying Open Competitions held at the same FCI World and Section Show.

Age groups

Only the single group aged 10-17 years will be allowed to take part in National Junior Handling Competitions organised during FCI Shows.

Each FCI National Canine Organisation may issue national regulations for the division of participants into age groups or experience levels during the annual evaluation, but the participants competing in representation of their National Canine Organisation at Junior Handling Competitions in FCI World and Section Shows have to be at least 10 years old, and cannot be older than 18 years of age on the competition date.

Information to the show organisation:

- a) The organisation of the show must confirm the participation of each junior handler early enough before the Junior Handling competition.
- b) As the participants are young people, it is very important to provide exact information about the competition and participation in advance.
- c) The Junior Handling competition should be announced by the show committee with enough time in advance to let juniors be prepared to compete;
- d) Each FCI National Cynological Organisation has a specific procedure for the entry registration; they could have entries on the closing day(s) before the show, or entry admissions only during the morning/day of the show;
- e) Every junior handler who wishes to compete should be entered in the day's Junior Handling competition through an enrolment/registration form provided by the Show organisation committee
- f) Handlers are placed in line on one side of the ring, stacking their dogs with about two meters' distance from the other participants. Ring stewards should be aware of the importance of keeping youths at a safe distance from each other.
- g) The handlers can be placed according to their entry number, dog size or dog pace. These placements should be decided by the show organisation or requested by the Judge.
- h) Each handler will be individually evaluated according to the entry sequence. The first participant in line will be asked to place the dog in front of the Judge; it is recommended that handlers wait until the Judge is available to call them, so that the Judge can be able to evaluate the entire procedure of the handler placing the dog in the correct standing position.
- i) The Judge briefly examines the dog, simulating a breed ring judgement, and can ask the breeds name, the dogs age, and to see the dog's bite and/or teeth.
- j) It should be the handler's responsibility to show the dog's bite.

- k) The judge also indicates the figure(s) required in the individual handling time. The handler should know the pace and speed of the dog that is being presented, and move accordingly.
- l) After completed the requested figure, handlers are advised to stand the dog in front of the Judge, before returning to their initial position.
- m) When all the participants have made their individual presentation, the Judge will return to look at the participants together before making a pre-selection.
- n) The Judge evaluates the selected participants individually or in pairs, before making a final selection of the winning participants of the day's Junior Handling competition.



FCI Junior Handling Judging Standards

Show	
Judge	

Entry number:

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Sufficient	Judge's comments
Individual movement					
Movement in group					
Setting up the dog					
Bite					

Contact & co-operation with the dog					
Knowledge and Ability to show the breed					

Overall appearance					Placement	
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Judge's comments	
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