

Official Dogdance Rules 2009



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General rules

- Every dog with or without pedigree can take part in any Dogdance-Competition and achieve granted status (national as well as international).
- 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 dogdance 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 form a Dogdance team and perform their routine together!
- The focus of the performance should be on the dog and its qualities should be portrayed.

- A fair and kind handling of the dog is self-evident!
- The health and well-being of the dog has to be preserved under all circumstances.
- The following punitive equipment (Pinch, choke, Electric collar) are not tolerated at the competition, nor on the venue of the event. Neither will be unfair treatment of the dog accepted. Both will lead to sending-off the venue!

- 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.
- 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 and be left outside the ring.
- 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.

- Props have to be save for both dog and handler.
- The handler has to carry all props into the ring by himself in one go!
- The dog can be left outside the ring, when preparing the props.
- The use of props should enhance the routine and help the interpretation!

Funclasses

- Dogs from the age of 6 months on the day of competition can enter in the fun classes.
- Certain moves (jumps, crawl, any move standing on hind legs, any backward move, and any other move that may harm the young dogs upgrowth) are forbidden up to the age of 15 months!
- The use of motivation (food, toys, etc.) and training tools (clickers, targets, etc.) is allowed in all funclasses.
- Every team can enter fun classes as often as they wish.
- This also applies for any dog entered in official classes.
- A maximum of 1 entry per day is allowed for dogs younger than 15 months.
- A maximum of 2 entries per day are allowed for all other dogs.
- (But always bear in mind, that already one entry per day can be a lot for a dog, so always do what's best for your dog!)
- There is no judging by points in the fun classes.
- The judges will give some written and spoken feedback meant as constructive criticism.

Possible Fun classes

Beginners	Only open for teams that enter their very first competition!
Open	Open to all teams of all levels.
Seniors	For dogs over 8 and/or handlers over 60 years.
Handicap	For dogs and/or handlers with a physical handicap.
Trio	1 handler with 2 dogs.
Quartett	2 handlers with 2 dogs.
Gruppen	Mehr als 2 Menschen mit mehr als 2 Hunden.
Lucky Dip	The music for each team will be drawn before the competition. Afterwards the teams can prepare a routine and/or improvise to the given music.

The organiser is free to offer further fun classes. The definition of those classes is up to the organiser, but need to be clearly stated at the invitation of the competition..

Official classes

- The minimum age for a dog to be eligible for any official class is 15 months on the day of the competition.
- At no time in the official classes are primary or secondary reinforcers (food, toys, clicker, targets, etc.) allowed in the ring.
- Those training aids can be left outside the ring and can be given to the dog after the routine when he has left the ring.
- The dog must not re-enter the ring with the reward or after he has been rewarded outside!
- If the organiser offers a separate training and warm-up area all reinforcers (primary and secondary) can be used there.
- The dog shall not carry or pull a prop out of the ring, as it could be seen as a reward, which would lead to disqualification.

- There are a maximum of 200 points to be gained
- Ranking goes by the reached number of points.

- Entries in classes „Juniors“ and „Seniors“ are voluntary.
- If a dog is once entered in „Seniors and Handicaped“, he is not eligible for any other official class anymore!

- A maximum of 2 entries per day are allowed for all other dogs.
- (But always bear in mind, that already one entry per day can be a lot for a dog, so always do what's best for your dog!)

Official classes:

Class 1

Class 2

Class 3

Juniors (Junior handlers up to 16 years)

Seniors und Handicap (Dogs from the age of 8 and dogs with a handicap)

2010 the classes „Trio“ & „Quartett“ will become official!

Marks

Artistic Impression (max. 100 Points)

Teamwork max. 25 Points

- Charisma of the dog
- Charisma of the handler
- Working as a team

Dynamism max. 25 Points

- Dancing expression
- Rhythmic variation, setting accents, time
- Musical Interpretation

Concept max. 25 Points

- Choice of music
- Idea
- Realisation

Choreography max. 25 Point

- Development & Structure
- Ringuse / Balance
- Variety & Diversity

Technical Merit (max. 100 Points)

Flow max. 25 Points

- Flow
- Transitions
- Combinations

Execution max. 25 Points

- Accuracy
- Signalling
- Constancy

Content max. 25 Points

- Number of moves & combinations
- Balance of tricks & moves
- Variations

Difficulty max. 25 Points

- Moves
- Combinations
- Interactions dog & handler

Deductions

Bellen

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

Manipulation of the dog

- Up to 60 points can be deducted for manipulations of the dog, 4 points will be deducted for each incident!
- Any manipulation (physical, verbal or mental) will be deducted!

Health of the dog not considered

- Up to 60 points can be deducted.
- The health and well-being of the dog shall never be jeopardized.
- Excessive jumping, moving on hind legs, crawling, moving backwards should be avoided.

Improper use of costume and/or props

- A maximum of 30 points can be deducted for improper use of costume/props
- Using a prop only to lure or induce moves will result in points being deducted
- There should be a relation between the choreography and the prop(s) and/or costume .
- Every prop carried into the ring has to be used appropriate in the choreography
- It should be clearly visible that the handler is in control when dog engages with the props.

Music overtime or shortage

- Per second over- or undertime one point will be deducted.

Disqualifications

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

After a disqualification it is at judges discretion to allow the team to finish their routine as a trainingsround or to leave the ring immediately.

Even if the routine can be finished as a training round, no food is allowed in the ring!

Leaving the ring

- All four paws of the dog need to stay in the ring at any time. If the dog passes the line with one paw, he will be disqualified.
- With a line at the entrance and exit of the ring, this rule can be controlled by the ringsteward.
- On the line will count as in the ring.
- In case of doubt the decision should be made in favour of the team.
- The ringsteward has to control the line.

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.

Carrying too many props into the ring

- There are only as many props allowed as the handler can carry into the ring by himself!

Soiling in the ring

Unfaire Behandlung des Hundes

- Unnecessary pressure, punishments or similar behaviours from the handler will not be tolerated!
- Too many manipulations of the dog (verbal, physical oder mental).
- Excessive physical demands or jeopardizing the health of the dog.

Help from outside

- After ring clearance by the steward only the next team is allowed to enter the ring.
- Any help from outside will lead to disqualification.
- In case of a disturbance from outside the ring, the judges can decide upon a rerun.

Music Lengths:

Fun classes

Beginners:	Maximum	2:00
Open:	Maximum	3:30
Seniors:	Maximum	2:00
Handicap:	Maximum	2:00
Trio:	1:30 -	3:00
Quartett:	1:30 -	3:00
Groups:	1:30 -	4:00
Lucky Dip:	Maximum	3.30 (the handler can decide himself when the music should be stopped!)

Offical Klassen

Class 1:	1:15 -	2:00
Class 2:	1:45 -	2:30
Class 3:	2:30 -	3:30
Juniors:	1:15 -	2:15
Seniors and Handicap	1.15 -	2:00

Time faults in the official classes

- There is no tolerance in the above music lenghts!
- The time displayed on the CD-Player is binding.
- Per second overtime or shortage 1 point will bededucted.
- The DJ checks the music lengths and informs the judges about overtime or shortage.

Rules to enter and move up between classes

Entries of classes

- Every new dog entered for the first time in an official class has to enter in class 1.
- Exceptions can be made for foreign teams, which have been competing under other rules.
 - The first time, those handlers can enter a class, which they feel eligible.
 - Afterwards, their result will be stated in the record booklet and from then on the rules to move up will apply.
- Entries in classes „Juniors“ and „Seniors & Handicap“ are voluntary.
- If a dog is once entered in „Seniors and Handicaped“, he is not eligible for any other official class anymore!

Moving up

- Every team can collect moving-up points.
 - If a team receives his first moving-up point, the team **can** move up into the next higher class.
 - If a team receives his third moving-up point, the team **has** to move up into the next higher class.
- Moving-up points will be given to all handlers, receiving 85% or more points of the maximum points in their class.
- The points of the winner in each class is 100%

Example

1. Place 160 points = 100 %
 136 Punkte = 85%

Every team with 136 points or more will receive a moving-up point.

Record booklet

- To be able to control the compliance with the rules for moving up in classes, each team must have a record booklet to be eligible to enter in an official class.
- To enter in Fun classes, no record booklet is needed!
- The record booklet is for one team handler and dog.

- The record booklet must be ordered **prior** to the first start in an official class!
- No record booklets will be handed out at the competition!
- Without a record booklet there is no entry at a competition possible.

- Only competitions run and judged under the Official European rules will be recorded in the booklet.
- If two handlers compete with the same dog, they will need two separate record booklets and can therefore also enter in two different classes with the two handlers.
- The organiser fills the achieved results, the percentage and moving-up points into the record booklet.
- To make the entries valid, an official judge needs to check and sign the booklets.

- The record booklets can be ordered on the website www.dogdance.info

Ring

Floor and ring borders

- 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.
- The ring should whenever possible totally enclosed.
- Is this not possible, there has to be a line at the entrance and exit of the ring. The ring steward will control, that the dog does not cross this line and exits the ring.

Ring size

- For official classes the aim is a ring 12 x 15 meters or bigger.
- The minimum ring size for an official class 8 x 10 meters.
- For funclasses the ring can be smaller.
- The ring size must be stated at the invitation of the competition.

Divers

- The judges are seated on the long side of the ring.
- 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.

Richter

General

- 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.
- The judges always follow the judges codex.
- They study further (music, dance, training, health, ...)
- A kilometer allowance (30 cent / kilometer) as well as board and lodging are for the account of the organiser.
- The judges will not get a judging fee.
- A list of all official judges can be found on: www.dogdance.info

Judges accreditation

- To get the judges accreditation the aspirant takes part in at least one judges workshop.
- Afterwards he needs to shadow judge at least 80 routines (a minimum of 50 in an official and 30 in a fun class). This needs to be done under the control of an official judge.
- The 80x shadow judging need to be accomplished at 2 competitions minimum.
- To obtain the judges status, each judge needs to attend a judges workshop at least every two years.
- It is also desirable to take part in judges meetings and conventions as often as possible to ensure discussion and communication under the judges.
- Participation at the Dogdance-Convention is desired!

Number of judges

- For an official class 3 judges are necessary.
- Foreign judges can be invited if they have enough judging experience and are thoroughly briefed before the competition.
- At least 1 official judge **must** be invited!
- If there are less than 30 routines the competition can be held with only 2 judges.

Organisation

- After a maximum of 20 routines a pause for the judges needs to be planned, if there is no rotation of judges possible.
- To run more than 20 routines the judges need to give their ok.
- If there are more than 45 entries on a day, one judge more needs to be invited to allow a rotation of judges.
- The handlers in the classes „Seniors“ and „Handicap“ (Fun and official class) need to fill in a sheet, to inform the judges about age and/or handicap of the dog to allow adjusted judging.

Organisation of a competition

General

- The organiser can, but must not offer all classes (Fun and official classes).
- He can invent new fun classes.
- The list of the official classes is closed.

Duties and responsibilities

- To simplify planning and organising a competition, an organisers booklet can be downloaded.
- The organiser **can**, but must not allow bitches in season at the competition

Before the competition

- All classes offered need to be stated and explained in the invitation of the competition.
- Ring size and flooring **must** be published on the announcement.
- If the fun class „Lucky Dip“ is offered, the organiser should state, if there are CD-Players for practise offered or if the handlers need bring their own.

On the day

- The fun classes should, if possible, be run after the official classes to avoid contamination of the floor through food. If this is not possible, the ring should be cleaned prior to the official classes.
- A handlers briefing should be offered prior to the competition to avoid problems and to give all necessary informations. This can be done by the organiser or a judge.
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Participants

- A class needs to be split if there are more than 20 entries.
- Both groups will then be judged and ranked separately.
- Splitting of the class will be done by post stamp or by draw.

Ringsteward

- 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.
- He controls, that the dog doesn't leave the ring at any time. If the dog places one paw over the line at the entrance of the ring, he will signal the judges.

Music

- The DJ checks the music lengths and informs the judges about overtime or shortage.
- Ideally the DJ checks each CD prior to the start to avoid problems and delays.

Judging sheets and ranking lists

- The written feedback in the fun classes will be handed out to the teams after the competition.
- The judging sheets of the official classes will be kept by the organiser and shall not be handed out to the competitors!
- The ranking list with the averaged scores for the official classes will be handed out after the competition or to be made available otherwise.
- Also all results will be published on the website: www.dogdance.info

Record booklets

- Each Team entered in an official class needs to hand in the record booklet at the registration.
- The organiser checks if the teams are eligible to the entered class.
- After the competition the organiser fills in the record booklets and hands them over to an official judge for check and signature.