

Dog Show Regulations 2022

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This document is a translation. In cases of doubt, the Finnish version will prevail.



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1. General

These regulations apply to dog shows authorized by Suomen Kennelliitto – Finska Kennelklubben ry (hereafter referred to as the Finnish Kennel Club). A dog show must be announced in accordance with instructions for organization of dog shows.

By entering a dog in a show, the exhibitor commits to follow these regulations and complementary instructions as well as The Finnish Kennel Club's instructions for organization of dog shows, Finnish Kennel Club's regulations, and FCI's regulations.

2. Purpose of dog shows

The purpose of dog shows is to promote the breeding of healthy, well-tempered dogs, which are typical of their breed to their working abilities, structure, and conformation. Dog shows are a form of dog sport where dog enthusiasts have a chance to compete with dogs they own or handle.

3. Well-being of dogs

The well-being of dogs must always be a priority at dog shows.

Exhibitors must look after the well-being and appropriate treatment of their dogs at dog shows and during preparations for dog shows. Dogs must not be treated badly and/or exposed to dangerous conditions. Failure to comply with this may lead to dismissal from the show in question and possible prohibition to participate in dog shows.

It is forbidden to treat a dog with any substance that affects the dog's well-being and health. This also applies to treatment of structure, shape, or colour of the dog's coat as well as dyeing of skin and nose.

The dog show's veterinarian may examine dogs and has the right to dismiss dogs from the show if a dog is discovered to be ill. A veterinarian or a person authorized by the Finnish Kennel Club may also take samples from dogs during the show.

4. Right of participation

In dog shows may participate dogs registered with a kennel organization of a country recognized by the FCI, of breeds approved either by the FCI, the Nordic Kennel Union NKU, or the Finnish Kennel Club, that have been identification marked in a way that is approved by the Finnish Kennel Club, and that meet valid vaccination requirements. Breeds that have not been recognized by the FCI may not compete in group finals at International Dog Shows.

Dog show participation is not open to

- dogs, which are not vaccinated in accordance with the Finnish Kennel Club's Vaccination Regulations
- sick dogs
- bitches in whelp 30 days or less before they are due (due date = 63 days after the first mating) and bitches that have whelped less than 75 days before the show
- dogs that have been cropped/docked contrary to Finnish law
- aggressive dogs

- dogs which have been subject to measures aimed at altering a fault mentioned in the breed standard or some other characteristic that is considered to be a fault
- dogs, whose coat has been dyed or which have been groomed in a manner that is contrary to the breed standard with the purpose of concealing, for example, a long coat or the dog's actual coat quality
- a dog, whose performance has been affected in a way that is in breach of the Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Regulations

To investigate a breach of regulations, necessary samples may be taken from the dog in accordance with the Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Regulations.

A dog may not wear a muzzle or other comparable control implement during judging.

The right to participate does not extend to

- dogs with an owner, or even one member in a consortium of owners, who has, as an additional sanction, been banned from participating in dog shows as an exhibitor or handler by the Ethical Committee of the Finnish Kennel Club or who has been temporarily banned from participating in dog shows as an exhibitor or handler by the Finnish Kennel Club
- breeder's groups with a breeder, or even one member in a consortium of breeders, who has, as an additional sanction, been banned from participating in dog shows as an exhibitor or handler by the Ethical Committee of the Finnish Kennel Club or who has been temporarily banned from participating in dog shows as an exhibitor or handler by the Finnish Kennel Club
- a dog that the Finnish Kennel Club has banned from participating in dog shows

The Finnish Kennel Club's general rules for conflicts of interest in force at the time are observed at dog shows.

5. Entry to dog show

Entry to a dog show must be submitted in accordance with instructions provided by the organizer, on a form approved by the Finnish Kennel Club, digitally or by mail. The entry must be made before the entry period ends.

The maximum number of dogs at a show may be limited upon a decision made by the Show Committee, in accordance with the instructions for organization of dog shows.

A dog must be entered to the show with the name it has been registered under and as the breed it has been registered as. It must be signed up for a quality grading class where it is entitled to participate in. A dog may not be transferred to another class after the entry period has closed, unless the issue involves a mistake made by the organizer.

A dog that has been entered with incorrect details may be excluded from the show and any results it has achieved can be cancelled.

6. Refund of entry fee

An exhibitor may request a refund of the entry fee if

- the dog show is cancelled
- the entry is cancelled because of a change in judge, unless the Show Committee has announced a reserve judge for the breed before the close of the initial entry period

- the entry arrives too late
- the breeder of a dog entered to the show is invited to judge the breed in question or the owner of a dog entered to the show is invited to judge at the show after the close of the entry period

Entry fees will not be refunded if

- a dog entered to the show has not been vaccinated or identification marked in accordance with the Finnish Kennel Club's regulations
- a dog entered to the show, or its owner gets ill
- the dog show is cancelled because of a force majeure event (authorities prohibit public gatherings, transport strike, the health status of dogs, etc.)

The Show Committee is entitled to deduct bank fees and administrative costs caused by a refund of entry fees.

7. Regulations concerning exhibitors

Exhibitors must look after the well-being and appropriate treatment of their dogs.

Exhibitors are responsible for covering any damages dogs they own or handle may cause at the show.

Exhibitors may not speak to the officiating judge before or during judging.

Exhibitors may not conduct themselves inappropriately or unethically nor disturb or criticize the judge at the show venue.

8. Insurance

The show's organizer is required to take out a group accident insurance for judges and ring stewards as well as a liability insurance policy, which covers the compensation liability that may derive from personal injury or damaged property occurring to an audience member, an official, or an external party in relation with the organizing of the dog show.

9. Dog show judges

The officiating judge must be authorized by the Finnish Kennel Club.

10. Judging of dogs

A judge gives a written critique for every dog he or she judges. The dog's results and critique achieved at the show may be published in the Finnish Kennel Club's Breeding Database.

If a dog participating in the show has been subject to an accident and has an injury that affects judging (e.g., tail vertebrae have been removed), the judge may, under his or her own discretion, decide to accept a veterinary certificate and take this into consideration when judging. The veterinary certificate must be a form approved by the Finnish Kennel Club and it may also be presented via the Finnish Kennel Club's digital system. A veterinary certificate must be presented before judging and a notation of it must be made on the critique form.

No attempt may be made to disturb the dog or reduce its chances of being judged fairly.

Attempting to improve the dog's presentation inside or outside the ring in a way that disturbs judging is forbidden. The officiating judge or a ring steward must intervene in activities that disturb judging inside or outside the ring.

Dogs that arrive too late for judging can only receive a quality grade.

Once a dog has been brought into the ring for measuring and/or quality grading, it must be presented in all classes for which it is eligible on the basis of its competition record, unless the Show Committee grants permission for the dog to leave prior to the conclusion of the show.

11. Judging criteria

Dogs are judged class by class in the sequence determined by the Dog Show Regulations.

11.1 Quality grading

The quality grade the judge issues must correspond with the following definitions:

EXCELLENT may only be awarded to a dog which comes very close to the ideal standard of the breed, which is presented in excellent condition, displays a harmonious, well-balanced behaviour, is of high class and has excellent posture. Its superior characteristics in respect of its breed permit that minor imperfections can be ignored; it must, however, have the typical features of its sex.

VERY GOOD may only be awarded to a dog which possesses the typical features of its breed, has a well-balanced structure and is in good condition. A few minor faults may be tolerated, but none of a morphological nature. This grading can only be awarded to a dog that shows class.

GOOD may be awarded to a dog that is a typical representative of its breed, however showing clear faults.

SUFFICIENT must be awarded to a dog which corresponds adequately to its breed without possessing the generally accepted characteristics or whose physical condition leaves something to be desired.

DISQUALIFIED shall be awarded to a dog whose type or conformation does not correspond with the breed standard, whose behaviour does not match with the breed standard, is clearly aggressive, has a missing testicle or abnormal testicles, has severe abnormalities in bite or jaws, whose colour or coat quality does not correspond with the breed standard or clearly exhibits signs of albinism. This quality grade may also be awarded to a dog, which does not appear healthy. In addition, it can be awarded to a dog that has faults that are listed as disqualifying faults in the breed standard.

Dogs that cannot be awarded with any of the grades mentioned above shall be removed from the ring with the rating

CANNOT BE JUDGED

This rating is given to a dog whose gait is impossible to judge or is constantly avoiding being examined by the judge and makes it impossible to check its bite and teeth, morphology, tail, or testicles, or if there are detectable signs of measures or treatments which look like attempts at cheating or if the judge has reason to suspect that a defect in the dog has been corrected (e.g. eyelids, ears, or tail). The reason why the dog cannot be judged must be written in the critique.

11.2 Competition classes

In competition class, the judge places in each class the four (4) best dogs that have received the quality grade *Excellent* or *Very Good*. The placing of these dogs is recorded in the critique.

The judge may, under his or her consideration, award the grading *Certificate Quality (SA/CQ)* to dogs that have placed in the competition class as well as to other dogs that have competed in the same class and received the quality grade *Excellent*. This entitles the dog to participate in the Best Male or Best Bitch class, in accordance with the sex of the dog, if the dog is placed among the four (4) best dogs in its class.

12. Classes

With the exception of Breeder's Class and Progeny Class, a dog can compete in only one quality grading class which the entrant may choose in accordance with the rules.

Male dogs and bitches are judged separately, with the exception of Best of Breed competition, Breeder's Class, Progeny Class, group finals, and Best in Show competition.

A dog may be entered to only one of the following classes (a–h)

a) **Baby Puppy Class (PPEN)** is a competition class for dogs which have reached the age of five (5) months but have not reached the age of seven (7) months on the day of the show. The judge may award *Prize of Honour* to puppies he or she deems worthy of it. Baby Puppy Class can only be organized in Specialty Shows and Puppy Shows.

b) **Puppy Class (PEN)** is a competition class for dogs which have reached the age of seven (7) months but have not reached the age of nine (9) months on the day of the show. The judge may award *Prize of Honour* to puppies he or she deems worthy of it.

The best male and bitch puppy awarded with *Prize of Honour* participate in the Best of Breed Puppy competition.

Puppy classes are unofficial and organized only if the Show Committee wishes to do so.

Best in Show Puppy competition may only be held at Specialty Shows and Puppy Shows.

c) **Junior Class (JUN)** is a quality grading for dogs which have reached the age of nine (9) months but have not reached the age of eighteen (18) months on the day of the show.

A junior certificate is awarded to the best Junior Class dog entitled to it and awarded with *Certificate Quality (CQ)* in competition class. A dog that already has obtained the show results required for the Finnish Junior Show Champion title cannot be awarded a junior certificate. No reserve junior certificates are awarded in Junior Class.

The best junior male dog and bitch awarded with *Excellent* and *Certificate Quality* participate in the Best of Breed Junior competition. The Best of Breed Junior goes on to compete for the title of Best in Show Junior if this competition is held at the show.

d) **Intermediate Class (NUO/INT)** is a quality grading for dogs which have reached the age of fifteen (15) months but have not reached the age of twenty-four (24) months on the day of the show.

e) **Open Class (AVO/OPN)** is a quality grading for dogs which have reached the age of fifteen (15) months on the day of the show. There is no upper age limit in this class.

f) **Working Class (KÄY/WRK)** is a quality grading for dogs which have reached the age of fifteen (15) months on the day of the show.

At International Dog Shows, the only breeds eligible for Working Class are those appearing as working breeds in the FCI Breed Nomenclature or breeds to which the FCI has granted an exception for participation in Working Class.

For entry in Working Class at International Dog Shows, Nordic Dog Shows, and National Dog Shows, the trial qualification required of breeds the FCI has defined as working breeds or to which the FCI has granted a separate right to compete in Working Class is at least the result or results required for the title of Finnish or International Champion.

At other than International Dog Shows, breeds that can achieve the title of Working Champion in Finland but do not belong to the set of FCI-approved working breeds, can participate in Working Class once they have been awarded the title of Working Champion.

A result from a Mental Test does not entitle for entry in Working Class.

g) **Champion Class (VAL/CH)** is a quality grading for dogs which have reached the age of fifteen (15) months on the day of the show and are Finnish Show Champions or confirmed show champions of some FCI-recognized kennel organization or confirmed international show champions. A Finnish Show Champion must always be entered to Champion Class unless the dog is entitled to participate in Working or Veteran Class. Junior and Veteran Championships do not entitle for participation in Champion Class.

h) **Veteran Class (VET)** is a quality grading for dogs which have reached the age of eight (8) years on the day of the show.

A veteran certificate is awarded to the best Veteran Class dog entitled to it and awarded with *Certificate Quality (CQ)* in competition class. A dog that already has obtained the show results required for the Finnish Veteran Show Champion title cannot be awarded a veteran certificate. No reserve veteran certificates are awarded in Veteran Class.

The best veteran dog and bitch awarded with *Excellent* and *Certificate Quality* participate in the Best of Breed Veteran competition. The Best of Breed Veteran goes on to compete for the title Best in Show Veteran.

i) **Best Male / Best Bitch (PU/PN)**. Dogs, which have been placed among the top four (4) dogs in Junior, Intermediate, Open, Champion, Working, or Veteran Class and have been awarded with *Excellent* and *Certificate Quality (CQ)*, are entitled to participate in this class.

The judge may award a certificate to the best eligible dog that has been awarded with *Certificate Quality (CQ)*, but which has not accumulated the show results required for the title of Finnish Show Champion. A dog may not be awarded with a certificate if it already has the results that entitle for the Finnish Show Champion title, if it only needs to meet the additional requirements set for the Finnish Show Champion title, or it is less than 2 years old and has already been awarded with two certificates. In this case, the certificate transfers to the next dog awarded with *Certificate Quality (CQ)*.

A reserve certificate is awarded to the second-best dog that has been awarded with *Certificate Quality (CQ)*, but which has not accumulated the show results required for the title of Finnish Show Champion. A dog may not be awarded with a reserve certificate if it already has the results that entitle for the Finnish Show Champion title, if it only needs to meet the additional requirements set for the Finnish Show Champion title, or it is less than 2 years old and has already been awarded with two certificates. In this case, the reserve certificate transfers to the next dog awarded with *Certificate Quality (CQ)*. The certificate and/or reserve certificate may be left unawarded only if the dog's behaviour or bearing no longer

corresponds with the quality grade it was previously awarded with. The reason why the certificate or reserve certificate is left unawarded must be written in the critique.

At Nordic Dog Shows, a Nordic Show certificate and a reserve Nordic Show certificate is awarded in addition to the national certificate and reserve certificate. The Nordic Show certificate is awarded to the winner of the Best Male / Best Bitch Class and the reserve Nordic Show certificate to the second-best male dog and bitch.

At International Dog Shows, the judge may, under his/her consideration, award a CACIB to an eligible dog the judge considers as best, and a reserve CACIB to an eligible dog the judge considers as second-best, provided that they have competed in Intermediate, Open, Working, or Champion Class.

j) Best of Breed (ROP/BOB) and Best of Opposite Sex (VSP/BOS)

The Best Male and the Best Bitch participate in the Best of Breed competition.

The Best of Breed dog goes on to compete in the group finals for Best of Group.

k) Breeder's class (KAS) is a quality grading where a group formed by four dogs of the same breed compete in. The dogs must be bred by the same breeder or registered under the same FCI-approved kennel affix. In addition, the dogs must be awarded with the quality grading *Excellent* or *Very Good* at the current show.

A breeder may only take part with one group per breed at the same show.

If the judge considers the group to be of consistently high quality, he/she can award the group with a *Prize of Honour (KP/HP)*.

In the competition class for Breeder's Class, the judge ranks four (4) breeder's groups according to order of merit. If the best group of the breed is awarded with a *Prize of Honour*, it goes on to compete for the Best in Show Breeder's group.

l) Best in Show Breeder (BIS-KAS) The Best of Breed Breeder's group awarded with *Prize of Honour* goes on to compete for the title Best in Show Breeder's group. The judge ranks the four (4) best groups in order of merit.

m) Progeny Class (JÄL) is a quality grading where a male or a bitch competes with a group formed by four of its offspring of the same breed. The male or the bitch does not have to be entered to other classes but must be presented together with its progeny group. The offspring must be awarded with the quality grading *Excellent* or *Very Good* at the current show.

Progeny Class can only be organized in Specialty Shows.

If the judge considers the group to be of consistently high quality, he/she can award the group with a *Prize of Honour (KP/HP)*.

In the competition class for Progeny Class, the judge ranks four (4) progeny groups according to order of merit. If the best group of the breed is awarded with a *Prize of Honour*, it goes on to compete for the title Best in Show Progeny group.

n) Best in Show Progeny (BIS-JÄL) The Best of Breed Progeny group awarded with *Prize of Honour* goes on to compete for the title Best in Show Progeny group. The judge ranks the four (4) best groups in order of merit. The Best in Show Progeny group competition may only be held at Specialty Shows.

o) Best in Show Veteran (BIS-VET) The Best of Breed Veterans take part in this competition. The judge ranks the four (4) best dogs in order of merit.

p) **Best in Group** (RYP/*BIG*) for the winners of Best of Breed in their own breed groups. The judge ranks the four (4) best dogs in order of merit.

q) **Best in Show** (BIS) is for the Best in Group winners. The judge ranks the four (4) best dogs in order of merit.

13. Colours indicating prizes

Quality gradings are indicated by the following colours:

Excellent	red
Very good	blue
Good	yellow
Sufficient	green
Disqualified	grey
Cannot Be Judged	brown
Certificate Quality	pink

Placings in competition class are indicated by the following colours:

1 st red
2 nd blue
3 rd yellow
4 th green

Colours of rosettes:

Certificate	blue-white
Reserve certificate	light blue
CACIB	white
Reserve CACIB	orange
Nordic Show certificate	black-gold
Reserve Nordic Show certificate	white-silver
Best of Breed (BOB)	red-yellow
Best of Opposite Sex (BOS)	white-green
Prize of Honour	lilac
Finnish Show Champion	red-yellow
Junior certificate	light yellow
Veteran certificate	light green
BOB Junior	no defined colour
BOB Veteran	no defined colour
Junior Champion	no defined colour
Veteran Champion	no defined colour

More detailed guidelines for awarding prizes and prize rosettes can be found in the instructions that complement Dog Show Regulations.

14. Judgement amendments

The judge's decision is final and cannot be appealed. The judge cannot amend his/her assessment of a dog unless an organizing mistake or other comparable mistake has occurred (e.g., a dog has been judged in a

class in which it is not eligible to participate). The amendment must be performed together with a member of the Show Committee.

If the case involves a marking error that can be rectified on the basis of recorded results, the rectification can also be performed at the Finnish Kennel Club when the show's results are checked.

A judge's actions can be appealed only if the judge has breached these regulations or failed to observe established good practice.

15. Other instructions

These Dog Show Regulations are complemented by instructions for organization of dog shows issued by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club, other rules and instructions issued by the Finnish Kennel Club, as well as FCI rules endorsed by the Finnish Kennel Club.

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club can, for compelling reasons, issue special orders related to organization of dog shows.

16. Complaints

Appeals are to be made in accordance with the appeal procedure adopted by the Finnish Kennel Club.

17. Validity

These regulations are in force from 1.1.2022 to 31.12.2026.