

Competition rules:

A competitor may compete in the following categories:

- Trimming
- Spaniels and Setters
- Poodles
- Other pure breeds
- Intermediate* - all competitors with more than 2 years of experience and/or who have never won a gold medal in the open class. A competitor may compete as an "Intermediate" multiple times in competitions for 12 months, even if they are the winner. In the second year they must enter the "Open" class, even if they are not the winner. In this category, haircuts are made in accordance with the FCI in the following areas: trimming, poodles, spaniels and setters and pure breeds.
- Beginner* - no more than 2 years of experience. Participation in exhibitions also counts towards experience. A competitor may compete as a "Beginner" in multiple contests for 12 months, even if they win. In the second year, they must participate in the "Intermediate" class, even if they do not win. In this class, all breeds and techniques are allowed. Contest Organizers may divide the Beginner class into four main categories.
- Commercial/workshop * - Competitors may enter any breed recognized by the FCI for commercial grooming: breeds that normally require trimming may be trimmed with clippers or scissors; long-haired breeds may be trimmed with clippers or scissors. Poodles are only accepted with an Asian style haircut or the shape of another breed, such as Bedlington or Kerry blue. Coloring is not allowed. All breeds in this category. Dogs may not be trimmed or competed with spitz-type dogs in this category.
- Asian Style* - Competitors may enter any breed recognized by the FCI and perform Asian styling in accordance with the standards of this style. All techniques are allowed. Collars and coloring with washable products such as chalk and markers are acceptable.
- Double Coat* – in this category, the competitor may start with an undercoat breed, including Spitz, Samoyed, Shetland Sheepdog, Collie Sheepdog and others. Scissor techniques are allowed.
- Model Dog* – in this category, the competitor may start with an artificial dog model made of soft and smooth material made of synthetic fibers, providing a realistic finish. The color of the coat of the model dog is optional and all techniques are allowed. The presentation must be neat and pleasing to the judge's eye. Collars and coloring with paints, markers or powders are acceptable. The competitor provides their own Model Dog.
- 2 Groom* – in this category, 2 competitors start, who simultaneously have to cut/trim 1 dog within a specified time. The dog can be made according to all categories (excluding Modeldog). All styles and techniques are allowed.

* These categories do not qualify for Best in Show.

In competitions where the "Open" and "Champion" classes are scheduled, competitors will enter the class they belong to, taking into account their previous results

In a given category, a competitor can compete in one of the following two classes:

1. Open - All competitors who have never won their categories and will remain in it for 12 months, even if they win, can be admitted to the "Champion" class, if it exists, a year later only in the categories in which they won and only if the victory was achieved in a class of at least 5 competitors; otherwise, another gold medal must be won in a larger class
2. Champion - competitors who have already won the category during the competition are admitted to this class.

Working time:

Trimming without using a clipper

- Small and medium dogs - 2.5 hrs.
- Large dogs - 3 hrs.

Trimming with the use of a clipper (e.g. miniature schnauzer)

- Small dogs - 2 hrs.
- Medium dogs - 2 hrs. and 15 min.
- Large dogs - 2.5 hrs.

Spaniels and Setters

- All setters, American cocker spaniel, cocker spaniel, springers, ... - 2.5 hrs.

Poodles*

- Up to 45 cm - 2 hrs.
- Over 45 cm - 2.5 hrs.

*additional 15 minutes of time for dogs with top knot

Pure breeds

- Bichon, Bedlington - 2 hrs.
- Kerry Blue Terrier, Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier, Black Russian Terrier, Bouvier - 2.5 hrs.

Intermediate

- All breeds 2.5 hrs.

Beginners

- All breeds 2.5 hrs.

Commercial/workshop

- Small and medium breeds - 1.5 hrs.
- Large - 2 hrs.

Asian Syle

- Small and medium breeds -1.5 hrs.
- Large - 2 hrs.

Double Coat

- Small and medium breeds -1.5 hours
- Large - 2 hours

2 Groom

- Small and medium breeds - 1.5 hours
- Large - 2 hours

A 10 minute break will be started after 1 hour of a given category

Regulations

- Dogs must be bathed (except for dogs to be trimmed).
- Ears must be clean and nails must be trimmed.
- The underbelly and intimate and anal areas must be previously prepared for hygiene reasons, according to breed standards.
- No line or pattern should be visible. The dog's coat must be long enough to allow the groomer to show the difference in appearance.
- Competitors competing with dogs with a distinct line and/or with hair that is too short to allow for a change in its appearance should be aware that they will not have a chance to compete for victory.

- All grooming techniques are permitted provided they are selected with respect to the dog's hair type.

Categories Trimming and Spaniels and Setters

- A trimming knife is permitted.
- All treatments must be performed in accordance with breed standards.
- The use of (coloured) chalk powder or stone, spray and cream is permitted.
- Clippers may not be used except for:
 - Scottish Terrier - front, head, ears.
 - West Highland White Terrier - front and ears.
 - Cocker Spaniels and Setters - front and ears.
 - Schnauzers - front, head, inner thighs and ears.

Categories Poodles and Pure Breeds

- The dog must be bathed and dried well.
- No spacers are allowed.
- The muzzle and paws (feet) of the Poodle must be shaved before the start of the competition.
- Poodles must be trimmed in a style recognized as the breed standard.
- If the Poodle is to have a top knot, the competitor may ask someone to help hold the dog.
- Dyeing is not allowed.

Competitors

- On the entry form, competitors must state the breed of dog they are competing with and, in the case of the Poodle category, what haircut will be performed. A signature is required to accept all rules.
- Competitors must be in the ring 30 minutes before the start of the competition with their own dog and tools.
- Competitors are not allowed to talk to other competitors and/or the public during the competition.
- Competitors are not allowed to use a mobile phone and/or any electronic device during the competition.
- The use of chalk is permitted, however, no trace should appear on the judges' hands after the evaluation, as this may result in disqualification.
- Any inappropriate or aggressive language towards the judges or towards the dog being treated in a rough or dangerous manner may result in disqualification.
- Any disqualification will be decided by the Chair of the Jury.
- At the end of the competition, competitors should remove all hair, equipment and products from the grooming table and place all items on the floor under the table to allow the judges to easily approach the tables for judging.
- A comb should be placed on the table for the judge to use during judging.
- Competitors may groom their dogs before and after their dogs are judged by the judging panel.
- The competitor should position their dog for presentation to the judge. Dogs not being judged may not be held in the show position.
- Any complaint must be made in writing, submitted before the end of the event and will cost €25

Judges' evaluation

Photos of the dogs will be taken before and after the competition/evaluation

Judges will initially evaluate each dog before the competition starts and once again after it has finished.

The following factors influence the evaluation:

- Adaptation of the chosen style to the dog.
- Degree of difficulty of the cut.
- Ability to hide flaws and enhance anatomical beauty.
- Use of current and modern grooming styles.
- Consideration of current breed standards*.
- Quality of the cut with scissors, clippers and/or trimming after combing.
- Balance, symmetry and smoothness.
- Presentation of the dog to the judges.

* International differences in styles will be taken into account, e.g. between American and Scandinavian styles.

Judges may withhold the award at their discretion.

Poodles

- Quality of work with clippers. • Have the paws, muzzle and tail been trimmed using the appropriate blades?
- The finished product should be smooth, free from tufts of hair around the lips, eyes and paw pads.

Trimming

- There should be no bald spots or pink skin patches visible.
- The coat must be trimmed "with the hair" without causing pain.
- Removal of the undercoat with a currycomb (hook trimmer) is only permitted if the dog has been trimmed by hand.
- A coat groomed using the "rolling coat" method is acceptable, but the work done in the ring must be sufficient to show a clear change in the dog's appearance.
- If a clipper is used to trim the soft hair of the head or ears, forechest or inner thighs, these areas must be trimmed neatly and smoothly using the appropriate blade.
- Areas trimmed with a clipper should blend smoothly with areas trimmed using other techniques, they should not stick out.
- Excessive use of scissors will be penalized.

Purebreds, Spaniels and Setters

- If a competitor uses thinning scissors, the areas that have been thinned out should blend smoothly with the rest and create a natural look.

The judges' decision is final and binding.

Scoring

In the four main categories (Trimming, Spaniels and Setters, Poodles and Other Pure Breeds), the judging system is based on points.

In each class, each judge awards:

- 10 points for first place,
- 8 points for second place,

- 6 points for third place.

Judges may not consult each other on their scores during the competition.

Each judge has their own list of winners.

The chairman of the jury draws up the final list of winners by adding up the points from the judges' lists.

In the event of a tie, the chairman of the jury consults with the other judges to establish the final list of winners.

Procedure

A competitor who is observed to be handling the dog in an inappropriate or dangerous manner may receive a warning from the judge. A second warning will result in disqualification.

A competitor who cuts or cuts the dog, or causes a burn, cannot be declared the winner of the competition. Entering the competition is tantamount to accepting the above rules and consenting to the use of your image during live broadcasts on social media and the publication of photos.