

Latvian Dogs Running Sport Club - Lure Coursing REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1.1. Aim of Regulation.

This regulation aims to standardize the elements of Lure Coursing events for sighthounds governed by the LKF/FCI.

1.2. Type of Lure Coursing Championships.

1.2.1. INTERNATIONAL championship (CACIL).

The certificates "certificat d'aptitude au championnat international de lévriers " (CACIL), " reserve certificat d'aptitude au championnat international de lévriers " (R.CACIL), " certificat d'aptitude au championnat national de lévriers" (CACL), "reserve certificat d'aptitude au championnat national de lévriers " (R.CACL) are awarded.

1.2.2. CHAMPIONSHIP OF LATVIA (CACL).

Championship of Latvia is held once a year. The following certificates are awarded: "certificat d'aptitude au championnat national de lévriers " (CACL) and in the junior class - "junior certificat d'aptitude au championnat national de lévriers " (JCACL).

1.2.3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP(CACL).

All members of organizations which are LKF members, as well as of organizations which are FCI members can participate in the competitions. The following certificates are awarded: "certificat d'aptitude au championnat national de lévriers " (CACL), "reserve certificat d'aptitude au championnat national de lévriers " (R.CACL)and in the junior class - "junior certificat d'aptitude au championnat national de lévriers " (JCACL).

1.2.4. CLUB competitions

All members of organizations which are LKF members can participate. No certificates are awarded, but winners and prize-winners are defined.

Club coursing competitions are held without prior agreement with the LKF Training commission.

1.3. Competitions with awarding of certificates

1.3.1. In Latvia, the certified Sighthound competitions are CACIL and CACL competitions, with the place and time approved by the LKF Training Commission.

1.3.2. Application for the certified competitions must be given to the LKF Training commission not later than December 1 of the year prior to the competitions.

1.3.3. The application can be refused if the date of the competitions coincides with another important canine event.

1.4. Admission, authorization to start

1.4.1. To CACL competitions, all Sighthound breeds (Group 10) are admitted, as well as Sighthound breeds not recognized by the FCI. Dogs of some breeds of FCI Group 5 are admitted: Pharaoh hound, Cirneco dell'Etna, Podenco Ibicenco, Podenco Canario, Bassenji, Rhodesian Ridgeback.

1.4.2. Start requirements

a) The Sighthound must have an LKF/FCI pedigree (or puppy certificate);

b) The Sighthound must have a valid license card containing the results of the qualification runs;

c) Minimum age for dogs of big breeds – 10 months; for Whippets and Italian Greyhounds – 9 months;

d) Maximum age - until the end of the lure coursing season during which the 8th year is completed;

e) The dog must be entered under the name of the owner indicated on the license card.

f) For INTERNATIONAL, i.e. CACIL competitions – the maximum height at the withers for Whippets is 51 cm for dogs, 48 cm for bitches; for Italian Greyhounds - 38 cm. Dogs taller than above mentioned run in a separate class, titles are not awarded. In CACL competitions, i.e. CHAMPIONSHIP OF LATVIA, NATIONAL competitions – the height is not taken into account.

1.5. License cards

1.5.1. The license card is issued by the LKF Training commission, or by the authorized organization, according to the results of the qualification trials.

The license card must give the following information:

- a) breed, sex, dog's name, pedigree number, tattooing number or chip number, date of birth, name and address of the owner;
- b) For Whippets and Italian Greyhounds, certified attestation of the height at the withers;
- c) The results of qualification trials;
- d) The results of competitions and coursing trials.

1.5.2. Qualification

Qualification is a number of minimal requirements to the dog for it to be allowed to participate in competitions.

Based on the fulfillment of these requirements, the dog receives a license card and is entitled to participate in competitions.

Qualification trials can be judged by one coursing judge (LKF/FCI).

To qualify:

1. The dog must have an LKF/FCI pedigree (or puppy certificate);
2. The dog must be vaccinated according to the age;
3. At the moment of trials the dog must be walked and not fed for about 6 hours;
4. The dog must be ready to endure hard weather conditions (rain, wind);
5. The dog must show interest in the lure that is moving away and must chase it without stopping during the whole distance (not less than 350 m).
6. The dog must not be shy; it must not disturb the rivals or show aggression towards them;
7. The dog must have the muzzle and the jacket and feel comfortable wearing them.

1.6. Classification according to sex and age

1.6.1. The officials can distribute dogs into classes:

- Junior class - from 9 to 18 months (the minimal age in the class according to the breed);
- Standard class - from 15 months to 7 years;
- Veterans - from 7 to 8 years (at discretion of the owner up to 10 years).

1.6.2. At the discretion of the officials, dogs and bitches can run separately in competitions/trials, under the condition that there are not less than 3 dogs of each sex in the class at the start.

1.7. Conditions for the events. Announcement of events.

1.7.1. Conditions for the events are in concordance with the LKF regulations.

1.7.2. The following information must be announced:

- a) Organizer, place, date, the schedule of the event;
- b) The name of the Lure Coursing Director;
- c) Information about the coursing track ;
- d) Entry fees;
- e) Entry closing date;
- f) Responsibilities (acc. to p.1.11).

1.8. Excuse of dogs and officials

1.8.1. Information about any dog for which there is a problem preventing it from participating must be given to the event management before the beginning of the event.

1.8.2. The officials, who are on duty for an event, are bound to inform the event management of any problem before the beginning of the event.

1.8.3. In all cases, the entry fees have to be paid.

1.9. Disqualification

1.9.1. The officials may disqualify a dog if it is encouraged by calling, gestures, whistling or other handling (by owners or by handlers).

1.9.2. The judges will disqualify the dog which attacks or tries to attack other dogs, shows aggression towards other participants of the run, shows weak interest in chasing the lure and impedes the progress of the course. The immediate defensive reaction on the attack is permitted. It is not considered a scuffle when a dog, with no intention of fighting, interferes due to its interest in the lure in order to give itself a clear view during the course.

1.9.3. Dogs which stop during the course, jump over the fencing, without making an obstacle to other dogs, will not participate in the given competitions, but are not disqualified.

1.9.4. Disqualification elimination:

- 1st offence in a season – suspension for the day;
- 2nd offence in a season – suspension for 4 weeks;
- 3rd offence in a season – suspension for 8 weeks;
- 4th offence in a season – suspension for the rest of the season.

1.10. Doping

1. 10.1. All kinds of doping are forbidden.

1. 10.2. If there is a suspicion of doping, the event officials, jointly with the veterinary surgeon on duty, may order a doping test. The dog's owner is bound to make his dog available for this test.

1.10.3. Use of doping results in expulsion from the cynological organization.

1.11. Responsibility Disclaimer

Neither the organizer, nor the officials are responsible for injuries incurred by the dogs' owners, the dogs or the officials. Likewise they accept no responsibility in case of escaped dogs. The owner of a dog is not responsible if his dog injures another dog during a race or course.

1.12. Disputes

The judging is definitive and cannot be appealed.

1.13. Disqualification of owners

The Lure Coursing Director, jointly with the Jury or the judges, are authorized to exclude and dismiss from the event venue anyone who does not abide by the orders of the officials, who insults them, behaves improperly, is in a state of intoxication, or treats dogs cruelly. The results gained by the dogs of such an owner at the given competition are cancelled. The registration fee is not returned.

2. LURE COURSING COMPETITIONS/TRIALS ORGANIZATION

Coursing CACL trials and competitions are held according to the "Regulations of Running Dogs Sport Club of Latvia on coursing competitions/trials for sighthounds", approved by the LKF Training commission. The dogs run in pairs, both of them slipped simultaneously. At the competitions, each dog participates in two runs, the change of the pair is obligatory. At the trials, one more run can be held. The judging is performed according to the five criteria, with the 20 points total maximum: speed, enthusiasm, intelligence, agility, endurance.

2.1 List of officials and their duties

2.1.1. Judges.

The judges – an LKF/FCI judge and his/her licensed assistant are the superior institution of the event. They supervise the observance of the regulation and follow the coursing progress. Their decisions are final in the cases of disputes or doubts. In case of technological matters they have to talk with the Lure Coursing Director.

Before the event begins the judges have to take care, that the directives in paragraphs 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.6 are respected and that the health of the dogs is assured.

The events will be judged by at least two specialists, one of them being an LKF or FCI coursing Judge. They may be assisted by a number of field observers.

2.1.2. Lure Coursing Director

The Lure Coursing Director must be a specialist with experience. He/She is the supervisor of the technology and organization. The Lure Coursing Director manages all the technical and organizing services and fulfils all the judge's demands.

2.1.3. Field observers

Observers can be placed around the coursing ground in support of the judges. The judges place the observers on the different sectors of the field. Their task is to supervise the course and to make the judges aware of any irregularities and infringements of course regulations, which may have occurred, on the field during the course. If a dog belonging to a field observer participates in a run, the observer must be replaced.

2.1.4. Starters

The owners/handlers keep dogs quiet in the fenced waiting place and get them to the start in time.

At the start the starters check the following:

- The dogs are in the correct starting position;
- Every dog is wearing a suitable collar, which is taken off only before the start (collars with spikes, starting leads or choke collars are forbidden);
- The muzzles are correctly positioned (the following models are accepted: steel wire, plastic coated steel wire or plastic);
- The jackets are correctly positioned (the model and the size must correspond to the regulations of the competitions);
- Blinders are forbidden.

The control, slip and start must be quick, but without any haste.

2.1.5 The Lure Operator and technical service

The lure machine operator receives instructions from the Lure Coursing Director and the Judges. The location of the lure machine should be such that the operator has a clear view of the whole course.

The operator must operate the lure at the correct distance in front of the dogs. This requires great competence and excludes any inexperienced operator.

2.1.6 Veterinary Surgeon

The organizer will employ a veterinary surgeon for the event. The veterinary surgeon must be present and ready to intervene during the entire event.

Dogs younger than 2 years and older than 6 years must be controlled by the veterinary surgeon after each run, when the distance is more than 600 metres.

2.2 Guidelines with respect to the terrain, surface and course length

2.2.1. Terrain

A large meadow comes closest to the ideal coursing field. A slightly sloping or somewhat hilly terrain is also highly acceptable. A few bushes as well as some trees are desirable as long as they do not constitute any danger to the dogs.

2.2.2. Surface

The ground should not be too slippery and must be free from stones and holes. Some natural obstacles are highly recommended, but not compulsory. They must be clearly visible from the dogs' viewpoint from a distance of at least 30 metres, particularly when there are depressions in the ground.

2.2.3. Course length

The course length should be:

From 400 to 700 metres for Whippets and Italian Greyhounds.

From 500 to 1000 metres for all other breeds.

2.2.4. Distance between pulleys

The distance between the pulleys is of the greatest importance, it must be adapted to the conditions of the terrain. Turns sharper than 60 degrees are not permitted.

2.2.5. The course layout

In view of the high physical performance required of the dogs during coursing, the whole course must be clearly visible and free from any danger. The course layout must be changed for the second course of the day.

The lure line must be positioned to minimise the risk that dogs get entangled and injured by the line.

2.3 The start

2.3.1 Jackets

The dogs will run in pairs, being slipped simultaneously. One will run in a red, the other in a white or blue jacket.

2.3.2 Uneven number of entries

In case of an uneven number of entries the organizers will try to find a companion dog, where possible, to avoid a solo run.

2.4. Coursing Material

The organizer is obliged to ensure that all the coursing equipment is in perfect working order so that it can run without any failures. The Lure Coursing Director has to take care for back-up material of sufficient amount and quality to ensure a trouble free coursing event.

2.4.1. The lure machinery must fulfill the following requirements:

- a) be able to accelerate the lure rapidly;
- b) respond rapidly to any changes of speed;
- c) have sufficient performance in reserve.

2.4.2. Pulley must not be of bright colours and must not be glittering.

2.4.3. The lure must be made of a light hare skin about 40 cm long, or of a similar material. If the weather is rainy or humid, a plastic or cloth lure can be used.

2.5. Judging

Lure Coursing judges will judge the performance of the dogs on the basis of five (5) criteria. The maximum amount of points to be given for each criterion is 20 points.

Sighthounds which do not get at least 50% of the maximum score in the first round without any reason, will be excluded from the second round.

There shall be two runs for each dog, the points of which shall be added. Should there be no possibility for a second run, or if the second run is not foreseen by special regulations, the points earned in the first run shall be taken into consideration for the placing.

In case two or more participants get an equal result (taking into consideration the points earned in the two runs), the dog having obtained the higher number of points during the second run will get the better placing.

However if the result is still equal, the dog having obtained the higher number of points in the second run in the following sequence of importance: endurance, then agility, then enthusiasm, then intelligence and finally speed will get the better placing.

2.6. Sanctions

Only qualified Judges can impose sanctions, which must be in accordance with these regulations.

2.6.1. Pre-slip penalty

If the handler slips a hound too early, the judges may deduct 10% of the hound's total score for the course. If the same course has to be restarted, the penalty no longer applies.

If there is a false start, the Judges can seek the advice of the starter or Lure Coursing Director.

2.6.2. Course delay

Absence at start time of a course may incur a dismissal for the day.

2.6.3. Excuse

Judges may excuse a dog for the day which:

- a. Remains near its owner after the start signal or walks off the field;
- b. Follows its opponent and not the lure;
- c. Does not have the necessary physical condition for competition as confirmed by the opinion of the veterinary surgeon.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDING THE TITLES.

3.1. At the corresponding coursing competitions, a CACL is awarded to the Sighthound that has got maximum points in the class, but not less than two thirds of the possible total points.

3.2. The Sighthound with the second result is awarded a R.CACL.

3.3. At the corresponding coursing competitions, a JCACL is awarded to the Sighthound that has got maximum points in junior class, but not less than two thirds of the possible total points.

3.4. Number of dogs starting

3.4.1. If there are at least three dogs of each sex per breed at the start, the CACL (JCACL) may be awarded separately to dogs and bitches.

3.4.2. If there are fewer than three dogs of on sex per breed at the start, all the dogs and bitches compete together for a single CACL (JCACL).

3.4.3. If there are fewer than three dogs of any particular breed at the start, then the CACL (JCACL) will not be awarded.

3.4.4. If the second run is not held, the titles will not be awarded.

4. "LATVIAN COURSING CHAMPION" TITLE REQUIREMENTS

4.1. The title "Latvian Coursing Champion" will be awarded to the dog under the following conditions: At the minimum age of 15 months, the Sighthound must have earned at least two CACL certificates by winning at LKF coursing competitions or by winning a corresponding prize place at such competitions. The certificates must be awarded by two different judges. The period between the first and the last CACL must be at least six months and one day.

If the application for awarding the title to the dog with the CACL cannot be confirmed, then the CACL from the given competition is passed on to the dog that received the R.CACL.

4.2. The title "Latvian Coursing Champion" can be awarded to the dog that received only one CACL certificate by winning at Latvian Coursing Championship.

4.3. The title "Latvian Junior Coursing Champion" will be awarded to the dog that received only one JCACL by winning at or by gaining a corresponding prize place at Latvian Coursing Championship in junior class, or to the dog that received two JCACL at other LKF coursing competitions (no time limits).

4.4. To prove the title "Latvian Coursing Champion" ("Latvian Junior Coursing Champion"), a Sighthound must have an exterior evaluation at a LKF/FCI show, not lower than "very good".

4.5. If the application for awarding the title to the dog with the CACL cannot be confirmed, then the CACL from the given competition is passed on to the dog that received the R.CACL. The JCACL is not passed on to another dog.

4.6. The title "Latvian Coursing Champion" is awarded under the following conditions: the Sighthound must receive at least two CACL certificates by winning at or by taking a corresponding prize place at LKF coursing competitions in Veteran class, under different judges.

4.7. The title "Latvian Coursing Champion" can be awarded to the dog that received only one CACL certificate by winning at or by taking a prize place at Latvian Coursing Championship in Veteran class.

5. PROTECTION OF ANIMALS.

The safety and health of the animals must always guide all officials and participants during lure coursing events.

The notion of the animal's protection must always be observed. Consequently, the owner of a dog is always free to withdraw his dog from the lure coursing event.

If the veterinary surgeon so requests, the officials must exclude a dog from continuing the course if the dog's health is endangered.

The use of a muzzle (Enclosure 2) is compulsory for all breeds, except for Italian Greyhounds.