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Specifications Canicross and Bikejöring

For the organization of the FMHB World Championships

1. Regulations for Dogs.

- The dog has to be older than 18 months.
- The dog has to have a valid anti-rabies inoculation and has to have a certificate of vaccination.
- The dog has to have a valid insurance.
- The identity of the dog has to be attested by the chip.
- The dog has to be a Belgian Shepherd according to the official Belgian Shepherd standard (FCI Nr. 15). This must be proven by official FCI pedigree.
- The dog is allowed to wear a muzzle, but the dog has to be able to breath, drink and eat. The size has to be checked by the vet and the Jury.
- Every dog is allowed to start once, two times is forbidden.
- Pregnant and lactates dogs are not allowed. Injured or sick dogs are not allowed. In case of doubt, the decision is taken by the Jury or veterinarian.

2. Female Dogs.

- Female dogs in heat are allowed to participate. The start position during the competition will be specified by the Jury. The organizer must be informed during registration.

3. Animal abuse

- The use of training collars, electric shock devices, whips, sticks and other coercive tools is prohibited in the entire event, training facilities and surroundings. If one of the above or other coercive tool is used, this shall lead to disqualification, regardless of the legal situation in the country. Any accusation must be accompanied by written evidence and witnesses.
- The law in every organizing country concerning animal abuse must be followed at all times.

- In case an animal abuse has been determined and after hearing all parties, the Belgian Shepherd Club and the Kennel club in the country of the abuser will be informed.

4. Rules for dog handler.

- Every dog handler has to be older than 18 years old.
- Every dog handler has to be a member of one of the approved FMBB Belgian Shepherd Clubs.
- The winner of the last FMBB WM is allowed to defend his/her title in the following FMBB. The winner has to start with the same dog of the previous championship.
- If there is a Belgian Shepherd club in the country, where the dog handler officially lives and this club is an FMBB member, then the concerning Belgian Shepherd Club must agree with the participation of non-members at the competition. Information about the status must be obtained by the responsible of the organization.
- There is no legal claim to participate in the event.

5. Classes

Class	Age	Distances	
Senior Women	18 – 49	± 2000 m	± 5000 m
Senior Men	18 – 49	± 2000 m	± 5000 m
Women Veterans 1	+50	± 2000 m	± 5000 m
Men Veterans 1	+50	± 2000 m	± 5000 m

6. Number of participants.

- The number of participants per country at the FMBB is not limited. The team leader of every club (country) is responsible for the correct registrations in case the club (country) is managing the registrations. If registrations for a country are individual (in case the club /country is not taking care), then the registering competitor is responsible for the correct input of her/his data.

7. Equipment.

- Functional brakes on the bike are mandatory, helmet and gloves have to be worn during Bikejöring, metal mudguards are not allowed. The leash has to be attached to the frame of the bike, under the steering bar and above the bikes fork. The leash has to be fixed to the front of the bike through proper installation (flexible support or kind of spring) which may not be longer than the wheel of the bike. A panic snap could be used. The leash is not allowed to be attached to the human.
- Shoes with spikes (Canicross and bikejöring) are not allowed. Click pedals and the matching shoes are allowed, as well as special bike shoes.
- The dog has to wear a harness. Harness from protection work is forbidden. The judge has to check the harness at the start. The harness has to fit, otherwise the competitor is not allowed to start.
- The dog and the dog handler are linked with an elastic leash. The leash at Canicross is allowed to be maximum 2 m and at Bikejöring maximum 2,7m (when stretched). The dog handler has to wear an abdominal belt and could use a panic snag at

canicross.

- The dogs are allowed to wear collars during the race. Choke collar, spike collar and electrical collars are not allowed.
- The Judges have to control the equipment. In case of wrong equipment, they are allowed to disqualify the dog handler or give him a penalty.

8. Reporting Procedure at the FMBB WC.

- The dog handler has to go to the registration point at the time published in the schedule of the FMBB.
- The dog handler has to show all documents- passport, valid anti-rabies inoculation and has to have a certificate of vaccination, document that the dog is a Belgian Shepherd (FCI pedigree) and the insurance papers.
- The vet will check the chip for identification and make sure that the dog is in a condition to start.
- The dog handler receives all information and materials needed for the competition at the meeting before the first start. The meeting point and the time will be published online by the FMBB organization.

9. Competition.

- At the start: complete bike and dog has to be behind the starting line. In case of an early start: Penalty of 30 seconds.
- During overtaking: the slower dog handler has to allow the overpassing without hindering the faster one. Both have to take care that there is no contact between the dogs. All competitors have to make sure that there is no disturbance of each other.
- The order of the starts will be published the day before the first race, no separation between women and men.
- In the first race the distance between the dog handlers in Canicross are 30 seconds and in bikejöring 60 seconds.
- The order of the second race will be: the fastest dog handler first and the next on after 30(60) seconds and so on. There will be no separation of women and men.
- It is allowed to get help of two people at the start of bikejöring. The instructions of the Jury have to be followed.
- There is no allowance for help at the start during Canicross.
- The dog handler has to be in the Starting Area 10 minutes before the start and has to follow the instruction of the Jury and helpers. After three times asking for the dog handler in the starting area, no start will be possible. The starting time presented at the starting list is obligatory and has to be followed by the competitor.
- There will be a check of the equipment before the start. Chip of the dog will be checked at the finish line. The dog handler has to allow the organizers to read the chip and shall not leave prior to this check. .
- The distances will depend on the weather conditions, if needed the distances could be shortened. The judges have to decide.
- It is forbidden to force the dog to run. The dog has to run in front or next to the dog handler, but not behind the dog handler.
- It is not allowed to use motivation equipment.

- If the dog is not able to run any more, the dog handler has to leave the competition and inform the Jury.
- The dog handler has to make sure, that the dog is always on leash and does not show any aggression toward other dogs or people during the race.
- If the dog handler is not following these rules, the dog handler can be disqualified.
- For bikejöring, the competitor has to cross the finish line with 3 elements: himself, the dog and the bike. These 3 elements have to do the whole trail and have to cross the finish line together.

10. Route.

- The route will be marked from the start till the finish line.
- The route will be published on the FMBB World Championship website two months before the FMBB World Championship. The route is allowed to be changed in case of problems reported to the board.
- The competition consists of two parts, a short distance and a long distance. Both have to be completed. One route will be about +/- 2 km and the second about +/- 5 km. Every dog handler has to take part at both races. The smallest sum of both races times will show the winner. The time will be stopped when the dog and the dog handler pass the finish line.
- The veterinarian and the Jury have to approve the routes.
- Following markings will be on the courses:
 - round red point on the right side
 - change of the directions in the next 20 meters to the right
 - round red point on the left side
 - change of the directions in the next 20 meters to the left
 - blue square mark
 - go on this way
 - yellow triangular mark
 - be careful, dangerous passage
- The organization has to ensure that the trails do not get too dangerous for human or the dog. If this is the case, the bikejöring trail may be slightly different from the canicross trail to avoid dangerous zones.
- No dog is allowed to run free on the trails even in the authorized period for trail inspection. (before, during and after the competitions)
- The whole trail has to be accessible with a vehicle in case of an accident. An official vehicle may be used in case of accident or technical problems.
- A permanent ambulance or medical supervision on the terrain is obligated. The nearest hospital should be informed about the competition. A vehicle has to be provided in case of an intervention on the terrain.

11. Evaluation.

- Every dog handler has to take part in both races.

- The first race is on Thursday and the second race is on Friday or Saturday during the FMBB.
- The fastest time (sum of both races) will win the competition.
- The times measurement can be electronic with a transponder.
- The results will be documented at the finish line.
- There will be no separation during the competition between women and men, but the results will be separated (§4).
- In case of only one participant, the evaluation in this class will be done. There will be no mixture of classes in this case.

12. Award Ceremony.

- There will be an award ceremony for the first, second and third place of every class.
- Every dog handler has to attend. Not-attending must be approved by the Jury.

13. Spectators.

- It is allowed to support the dogs and dog handlers by voice and applause.
- It is not allowed to motivate the dogs by food, balls or other things or running with the dogs.
- The Spectators have to follow the instructions of the helpers and Jury to avoid incidents with the dogs.
- Dogs of the Spectators have to be at leashes and are not allowed on the route. Dogs from the spectators have to have a valid anti-rabies inoculation.

14. Jury.

- The Jury of judges are proposed by the organization and approved by the FMBB board.
- The Jury of judges have to judge to the best knowledge and applying the rules.

15. Defiance of the rules.

- In the case of defiance of the rules or wrong handling of the dogs, the Jury of judges or the FMBB board is allowed to disqualify the dog handler without giving back the registration fee. It is up to the judges to decide on the size of a penalty in the event of a breach of the rules.

16. Liability Exclusion.

- The dog handler confirms any liability exclusion. Every dog handler has to sign the liability exclusion at the registration.

17. Registration Fee.

- See general rules FMBB

18. Protest.

- See General Rules FMBB

19. Anti doping rules.

- See General Rules FMBB