

RACE RULES EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

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Chapter 1 : Organisation European Championships

The federation named « EUROPEAN CANICROSS FEDERATION », also known as « ECF » is the depositary of the project « European championship ». This organisation assigns every year a candidate country, member of the ECF, in the following disciplines with one dog teams :

- a) Canicross
- b) Bikejöring
- c) Scooter 1 dog
- d) Relays

The official name of the event is « European Championship Canicross and Bikejöring ». The name « Eurocanicross » is not allowed. In fact the winner of the championship is titled « European Champion » and is therefore not just a winner of a nice race somewhere in Europe.

When there is a default in the candidature, another country member of the ECF may be chosen.

The European championship will be organised over 2 days (the results of these two days will be counted together for the final ranking)

a) As to Canicross :

- The sprint race (or short distance) will be held on Saturday
- The long distance will be held on Sunday
- The relays will be held on Sunday after the long distance race

b) As to bike-jöring and Scooter 1 dog :

- The circuit will be held on Saturday and Sunday
- The circuit can be the same on both days
- The circuit is of the « long distance » type

Only athletes who have a licence in a country member of the ECF are allowed to participate. Every nation has to register their athletes with the official document « Entry Form », which has to be sent to the ECF secretary within the prescribed time. The starting list will be established through lottery by the ECF webmaster, using a computer system. This list will be published and transmitted to the organiser.

(More details in chapter 29)

Chapter 2 : Dates

This manifestation will be held **the second complete weekend of October**. In exceptional cases another date can be accepted but it has to be published minimum 1 year in advance.

Chapter 3 : Choice and obligations of the organising country

- 1) The candidature of the country which wants to organise the European Championship has to be submitted 2 years in advance, at the fall general assembly. The choice of the organising country will be voted by all the nations. This candidate country has to submit a candidature document.
- 2) The chosen country has to pay a deposit of 1000 €. In case of default, this deposit will remain property of the ECF. The payment can be done in the form of « Bank warranty ».
- 3) At the spring general assembly preceding the championship, the organising country will announce the price of the registration fees.

The registration fee may not exceed :

- 60. € for 1 start for an adult (cani or bike or scooter)
- 30 € for a second start for an adult (cani + bike / cani + scooter / bike + scooter)
- 40 € for 1 start for a kid
- 10 € per additional relay team, taking into account that every nation has the right to register 1 team « men » and 1 team « women ».
- 10 € per vehicle on the stake-out (no matter the duration of the stay) provided showers and toilets are available

Note :

- a) These amounts can be indexed every year according to the next formula :

New amount = (basic amount x new index) : starting index

- Basic amount = Prices mentioned above
- Starting index = health index (base 2004 Belgium) February 2013 = **120,27**
- New index = health index (base 2004 Belgium) from the month of February of the year for the calculation.

- b) The organiser may demand less then the maximum price in order to attract more participants.
- c) **Any refund (registration, meals,...) due to discontinuance, even when justified, is excluded. (See chapter 29 – remark n°3 page 28)**

- d) The organising country has to pay a fee to the ECF. This will be of 2 € (two euros) per starting adult (1 start = race Saturday + Sunday). This fee will be indexed according to the formula above in point 3 – note.

The deposit will be returned to the organising country; the amount of the fee will be deducted from it.

Chapter 4 : Technical Commission

1) Constitution :

- a) For each event, the Technical Commission will consist of a president and 3 commissioners (+ one reserve) « all non competitors », representing one of the nations affiliated to the ECF. The nations which have to provide a commissioner will be chosen by lottery at the fall GA to avoid unnecessary travelling. The president and commissioners chosen by lottery will have different nationalities. If needed another lottery will be proposed. The country which commissioner is absent, is not fulfilling its duty and will therefore lose its right to vote at the GA.
- b) A non-competitor team manager cannot be part of the technical commission because in case of filing a claim (protest), he cannot be judge and party at the same time.
- c) The president of the technical commission is elected for 4 years at a fall general assembly. If a European Championship is organised by the elected president's nation, he cannot remain in his function. A substitutional president will be elected for this event. The mandate of the outsted president will be extended for 1 year.

Independently of the members from the technical commission, the organising country will provide enough **race inspectors**, who will be placed on strategic places on the trails. In addition to their role of observing the race, they can also perform the function of « signalman » or security. (see article 15)

2) Expertise of the Technical Commission:

- a) Making sure the organiser is checking the identity documents of the athletes (name – year of birth – nationality)
- b) Having the children of the category School Boys/Girls do an ability test at the veterinary inspection (see chapter 24 – point 1 – article b)
- c) Supervising the regularity, smooth running and application of the race rules of the competition very strictly.
- d) Announcing the warnings.
- e) Inflicting the penalties.
- f) Deciding about disqualifications.

- g) Examining and deciding about well founded complaints (protests).
- h) Checking the temperature and when needed deciding to make the trails shorter.
- i) Checking the relevance of the number of commissioners of the race and the choice of their placement on the trail.
- j) Checking the trail markings. Checking if the dangerous areas are well indicated and secured. Checking if the security of competitors is assured, especially in bikejöring (if needed the technical commission will adapt the trail).
- k) Ordering doping controls on a competitor or on a dog.
- l) Closing the circuit for trail inspection in case of pooring rain, in order to preserve the quality of the trail (see chapter 21 – n°3 – page 16)
- m) Authorise (with penalty) or refuse of a second start, because of a « missed start ».

3) Obligations of the organiser towards the Technical Commission:

- a) The organiser shall appoint a contact person who shall stay in contact with the President of the Technical Commission and who is able to answer all the questions (circuit, telephone numbers, etc...).
- b) The organiser shall supply all the members of the Technical Commission with a lunch packet.
- a) The organiser shall submit to the President of the Technical Commission:
 - On Thursday, on the occasion of the GM: the list of the entered participants, the starting list (with bib numbers) – the map of the circuits after having mentioned the dangerous and/or critical points thereon.
 - On Saturday, immediately at the end of the first day: the official results in order to record the penalties therein and to sign the document in order to make the results official.
 - As soon as on Thursday, the organiser shall supply the President of the Technical Commission with a means of transport (quad, bike, 4x4 vehicle, ...) in order to allow the latter to view the circuit at any moment.

4) Mode of operation:

The technical commission meets at the end of each day's competitions to consider the report of the race inspectors or the filing in of a protest (see article 5). After hearing all the concerned persons, only the 4 commissioners chosen by lottery and the president will take decisions to give eventual penalties, warnings or disqualifications. The technical commission will hang out their decisions on the official information pannel and will inform the Team Manager of the concerned competitor.

The Team Manager of the concerned competitor has **30 minutes to make opposition** by using the terms of a deposit of a claim (protest). (see chapter 5)

In case of opposition:

The Technical commission will meet again to examine the arguments of the opponent or an error made by the organisation. If the commission thinks it is necessary they will surround themselves with potential witnesses. The commission will deliberate again and this decision will be final

Chapter 5 : Lodging of complaints (or protests)

- a) A written complaint will be lodged and addressed to the president of the technical commission, exclusively by the Team Manager of the athlete who considers himself being the victim of a prejudice and an amount of 25 € (twenty-five euros) has to be paid. This amount is indexable (see chapter 3 – point 3 –article a – page 2).
- b) In order to be admissible, the complaint has to be lodged within a maximum of 30 minutes after the display of the results of the concerned race.
- c) If the technical commission decides that the athlete who has lodged his complaint is right, the amount of 25 € will be returned to the competitor. If this is not the case, the money will be kept by the ECF.
- d) Every Team Manager must be in possession of the regulations printed by himself (latest official version published on the ECF site). When he lodges a complaint, he shall refer to the involved article.
- e) The President of the Technical Commission shall prepare the official complaint lodging forms in 3 languages (French, English, German). These documents will be handed to the Team Leader on the occasion of the first meeting on Friday.
- f) The personal cameras are allowed and can be used to serve as a piece of evidence in the event of dispute. The Technical Commission is entitled to view the movie (or any other picture photograph) to assess the validity of a complaint.

Chapter 6 : Distances and starting procedures

The European Championships will be held over 2 days (Saturday and Sunday).
The race distances per category are clearly announced in advance and posted on the place of the race itself.

On Saturday, all starts (bikejöring and canicross and scooter) will be given per category and following the order of the bib numbers, which have been attributed by lottery (see chapter 29).

1) Canicross – Categories adults and juniors:

- a) The first day (Saturday), the competitors will be running a « sprint race » or short distance. The starts will be individual or in pairs (two by two) (*I*). The race will be of the type « against the clock », every minute or every 30 seconds (*I*). The maximum distance may not exceed 3 km, with a minimum of 2 km.

- b) The second day (Sunday), the competitors will run a « long distance race ». The starts will be given per category « mass start » or in several waves (*I*). The distance may not exceed 7 km, with a minimum of 5 km.
- c) The junior categories run the same distances as the adult categories.

2) Canicross – Kids categories:

The kids will run the same trail on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, the starts will be « against the clock », individually every minute. On Sunday, the starts will be «mass start», or in waves (*I*).

- a) For the School boys/girls, the distance may not exceed 2 km, with a minimum of 1,2 km. Advised : 1,5 km.

The school boys/girls must be accompanied by an adult over the whole distance!
The adult who accompanies has to secure the child with a double leash that is longer than the leash of the child. The task of the adult is to ensure the security of the child and may only intervene if a problem arises. Neither the child, nor the dog should be stimulated physically or psychologically, by a word or an attitude, to improve their performance. If the adult does, so the child **will be disqualified**.

The adult may never be ahead of the child : the **penalty will be of 1 minute if he does so.**

Disqualification if a second infringement is committed

- b) For the young boys/girls, the distance may not exceed 3 km, with a minimum of 2 km. This trail may be the same as the sprint race for adults.

The competitor may be accompanied in the first 200 meters in order to help him manage his dog during the departure.

Note : If the nations vote positively at the preceding spring general assembly, other options could be chosen:

- Mass starts on Saturday, on the short distance circuit
- Individual starts « pursuit » on Sunday, on the long distance circuit

In this way, the first competitor who crosses the finish line will be sure to have the title of « European Champion », which is not automatically the case when using the other formula because the competitors have to wait for the results of the 2 days combined (Saturday + Sunday).

3) Canicross – Relays :

- a) The relay race will be held on a trail of 1 km – 1,5 km maximum. This circuit may be the same as the school boys/girls.

b) A nation may register several relay teams. If it is the case, only its best classified team could be rewarded (medals – podium). In other words, only one relay by nation will be rewarded and consequently, the podium will always be consisted of three different nations. The organiser is invited to provide for an « award » for the teams who will so be excluded from the podium and receive no medal.

(see also chapter xxxxxxxx)

4) Bike-Jöring and Scooter 1 dog:

- a) The distance may not exceed 7 km, with a minimum of 5 km.
- b) The trail on Sunday may be the same trail as on Saturday. The trail may be the same as canicross « long distance ». The starts will always be given individually, « against the clock ».
- c) On Saturday the starts will be given per category and in the order of the race numbers (bib numbers) which have been chosen by lottery (see chapter 29). On Sunday, the starts will be given per category but starting with the fastest time and ending with the slowest time. The starts can be given every 30 seconds (*I*).
- d) The competitor may be assisted in the starting area before departure by one person. This person will hold the dog **OR** the bike.

(I) According to the choice of the organiser and the consent of the technical commission.

5) Extreme heat

The distance of the trails per category depends on the climatic conditions. The technical commission has to verify the temperatures and if needed the trails will be made shorter.

- a) The trail will be made slightly shorter starting from 20 °C and above, temperature will be taken 1 hour before the first start, 1 meter above the ground, in the shade at the starting area.
- b) The distance of the trail must be imperatively reduced in case of extreme heat, regarding temperatures above the ground of 25 °C, taken 1 hour before the first start in the starting area, 1 meter above the ground, in the shade.
- c) For the kids trail, the distance may not exceed the half of the adult distance.

Chapter 7 : Categories and chronological order of the starts

- a) Every competitor is obliged to run in his/her category.
- b) For the determination of every category, the birthday date is not taken into consideration, it's the birthyear that counts for the determination.

c) The identity of the competitor, as well as his birth date, sex and nationality, will be submitted to controls (obligatory) by the organiser, by means of the competitor's identity card or passport. In case of cheating : **disqualification and loss of title.**

d) **The weight of the dog is not taken into consideration.**

e) The title will be given to all categories consisting of min 3 registered competitors even if there are in the end less than 3 competitors classified (due to absence, disqualification, abandonment)

f) If there are less than 3 competitors registered on the official list of the starts, the podium ceremony will be held, with national anthem and flag, and medal. **But no official title will be awarded.** (The competitor cannot say he is European champion)

1) Canicross

School Boys (from 7 until 10 years), with title

Young Boys (from 11 until 14 years), with title

Juniors men (from 15 until 18 years), with title

Seniors men (from 19 until 39 years), with title

Masters Men I (from 40 until 49 years), with title

Masters Men II (from 50 until 59 years), with title

Masters Men III (from 60 years and more), with title

School Girls (from 7 until 10 years), with title

Young Girls (from 11 until 14 years), with title

Juniors women (from 15 until 18 years), with title

Seniors women (from 19 until 39 years), with title

Masters Women I (from 40 until 49 years), with title

Masters Women II (from 50 until 59 years), with title

Masters Women III (from 60 years and more), with title

2) BikeJöring (or Cani-VTT

The minimum age to participate is the age of junior categorye. **No derogation is allowed.**

Juniors men (from 15 until 18 years), with title

Seniors men (from 19 until 39 years), with title

Masters Men I (from 40 until 49 years), with title

Masters Men II (from 50 until 59 years), with title

Master Men III (from 60 years and more), with title

Juniors women (from 15 until 18 years), with title

Seniors women (from 18 until 39 years), with title

Masters Women I (from 40 until 49 years), with title

Masters Women II (from 50 until 59 years), with title

Masters Women III (from 60 years and more), with title

3) Scooter 1 dog

The minimum age to participate is the age of junior category. **No derogation is allowed.**

Juniors men (from 15 until 18 years), with title

Seniors men (from 19 until 39 years), with title

Masters Men (40 years and more), with title

Juniors women (de 15 à 18 ans), with title

Seniors women (de 18 ans à 39 ans), with title

Masters Women (40 years and more), with title

Example reference 2013 : (this table can be used if adapted every year)

CANICROSS (men and women)

- Minimes = School Boys/girls : kids born in 2006 - 2005 – 2004 et 2003

- Cadets = Young Boys/girls : kids born in 2002 - 2001 – 2000 et 1999

- Juniors : born in 1998 - 97 – 96 et 95
- Seniors : born from 1994 until 1974 (included)
- Masters I : born from 1973 until 1964 (included)
- Masters II : born from 1963 until 1954 (included)
- Masters III : born from 1953 and before...

BIKE – JÖRING (men and women)

- Juniors : born in 1998 - 97 – 96 and 95
- Seniors : born from 1994 until 1974 (included)
- Masters I : born from 1973 until 1964 (included)
- Masters II : born from 1963 until 1954 (included)
- Masters III : born from 1953 and before...

SCOOTER 1 DOG (men and women)

- Juniors : born in 1998 - 97 – 96 and 95
- Seniors : born in 1994 until 1974 (included)
- Masters I : born from 1973 and before ...

4) Relays with title :

- a) Three men from the same country starting from the juniors category, who participate in the European championship in an individual category.
- b) Three women from the same country starting from juniors category, who participate in the European Championship in an individual category.
- c) All other formations (mixed teams, teams consisting of different nations,...) may participate, but are not able to gain the title of European champions in relays.

Chronological order of the starts :

01 Bikejöring Senior Men

02 Bikejöring Senior Women

03 Bikejöring Master Men I

04 Bikejöring Master Women I

05 Bikejöring Master Men I I

06 Bikejöring Master Women I I

07 Bikejöring Master Men I I I

08 Bikejöring Juniors Men

09 Bikejöring Juniors Women

10 Scooter Men

11 Scooter Women

12 Scooter Master Men

13 Scooter Master Women

14 Scooter Juniors Men

15 Scooter Juniors Women

16 Bike-Jöring Master Women III

17 Canicross Men

18 Canicross Women

19 Canicross Master Men I

20 Canicross Master Women I

21 Canicross Master Men II

22 Canicross Master Wome II

23 Canicross Master Men III

24 Canicross Juniors Men

25 Canicross Juniors Women

26 Canicross Master Women III

27 Canicross School Boys

28 Canicross Scool Girls

29 Canicross Young Boys Garçons

30 Canicross Young Girls

Relays Men

Relays Women

Chapter 8 : Medals

The ECF will choose the medals or will give proxy to the organising country to provide the medals. These will be « standing ».

- a) On the medals will be mentioned (in German, French or English) :
 - European Championship ECF
 - The year
 - The name of the organising country and/or the name of the city where the event is being held.
- b) The medals will be in any case at the expenses of the organiser. The organising country will have to submit the choice of the medals for approval at the spring general assembly taking place before the race.
- c) The first 3 of every official category will receive a medal (gold – silver – bronze).
- d) In addition to the medals, the organiser may provide diplomas.

Chapter 9 : List of results

- a) The organiser will hang out the list of results per category maximum 30 minutes after the end of the concerned race.
- b) Complaints have to be **written** and addressed (by means of the official document) to the president of the technical commission by the Team Manager, together with a fee of 25 € and has to be given max 30 min after the hanging out of the results of the concerned race. (see chapter 5 : Complains and protests). To this end, the time of posting must be mentioned on the list of results.

Chapter 10 : Official information pannel

An official information pannel will be placed on a strategic place so it will be noticed by every participant.

On this pannel has to be mentioned:

- c) The starting hours of all the different categories, when mass start or waves, in case of individual starts it has to be the starting hour of every participant.
- d) The temperature which is measured at the start of every race.
- e) The name, telephone number and the place where they can find the president of the technical commission during the event.
- f) The list of results, noting « not official » or « official » with in each case, the mention of the time of posting.
- g) The decisions of the technical commission (disqualifications and penalties) with mention the time of posting.
- h) The complete text of the ECF rules in French and English.

Chapter 11 : Calling Chamber

Function :

The calling chamber is a zone surrounded with barriers which precedes the starting area. It has to be big enough so the dogs have some space to breathe. There will be water containers available to refresh and hydrate the dogs.

- a) The competitor and his dog have to be present in the calling chamber 10 minutes before the official start. Once they have entered the calling chamber they can no longer get out. They will be at the disposition of the starter. Several controls can still be made before the competitor enters the chamber or even inside the calling chamber.
- b) Only the school girls/ boys , young boys/ girls and the Bikejöring competitors may be assisted by their « assistant ».
- c) Once in the calling chamber it is forbidden to leave. If there is any problem with equipment (harness, carabiner,...) another (third) person may go and look for it and pass it through the fence.
- d) A Team Manager can put in the starting zone “Calling Chamber”, ‘approved’ race equipment to compensate for a breakage of last minute.

Chapter 12 : Insurances

The insurances of the type « accidents » and « civil liability» will be at the expenses of the athletes if their federation does not insure them .

It is advised for the athletes to have an insurance of the type « family » for the possible damage their dog can do to others.

The organiser of the event is obliged to have an insurance of the type « organisation » which covers his civil liability.

The organiser may in no case be held responsible for any accidents caused by a competitor or his dog.

Chapter 13 : Race numbers (bib numbers)

The organising country has to provide the bib-numbers. They have to be resistant (should not tear). The bib numbers may also be made out of tissue (like some kind of t-shirt fabric). No sticker bib-numbers.

The bib-numbers have to be firmly fixed on the chest.

For Bikejöring and Scooter, a hard frame plate can also be used.

Chapter 14 : Timing / Chrono

Taking the time of every participant is mandatory. The used method has to be reliable and undisputable.

A double timing is mandatory, it can be done by video camera or manual chrono.

The timing will be taken on the starting line and on the finish line.

The timing can be done by using « electronic chips » fixed, according the guidelines of the timing team, on the bip-numbers or on the chest of the tissue bib-number, on the ankle or on the shoe of the competitor, on the dog's collar or harness.

In case it comes to the last sprint before finishing, it will be the nose of the dog that is taken into consideration for the ranking, not the time by timing.

Timing on other parts of the trail is not required.

The starting and finishing lines have to be in a visible zone.

Chapter 15 : Race judges

Independently of the members of the technical commission, race judges, provided by the organiser, will be placed on strategic places and spread over the total length of the different trails, especially on difficult areas.

The race judges are under the command of the president of the technical commission. They have to report every irregularity that they have seen on the place where they were put. For this purpose they will be invited at the meeting of the technical commission in order to be heard.

Technical equipment (camera, video camera,...) will be an advantage to argument regarding possible irregularities that have been observed. The race judges do not take any decisions ; only the technical commission will take decisions on the disputes or irregularities observed.

The race judges may also function as signaller and security men.

It has to be noted that the trail markings have to be sufficient on their own to show participants the right way, competitors should be able to run the race without any help of the race judges (who are obliged to assure the function of signaller if needed).

Chapter 16 : Security

The whole trail has to be accessible with a vehicle in case of any accident. An official vehicle may be used on the trail in case of accident or technical problem.

Chapter 17 : First Aid

A permanent sanitary or medical post is mandatory on site.

The nearest hospital should be informed about the competition. A vehicle has to be provided in case of an intervention on site.

Chapter 18 : Veterinary

The organiser must have one or two vets on the spot during the whole duration of the event.

The dogs have to be identifiable by tattoo or electronic chip.

The dogs have to pass the vet control in order to be accepted to the race. Dogs that do not pass the examinations of the vet will not be allowed to start.

The dogs have to be vaccinated : It is the veterinary book of the dogs that will count to verify if the dog has had all the necessary vaccinations. Obligated vaccinations are : rabies, and kennel cough, without specification of the brand of the used products. In case of first vaccination, this has to be done at least 21 days before the event.

Unannounced controls on the dogs may take place at the start, finish or during the event.

If a competitor refuses a veterinary control, he will be excluded from the event : **disqualification.**

Female dogs in heat are authorised to take the start, if steps are taken to mitigate the adverse effects of this period.

The vet will decide if a bitch may start or not in case of pregnancy.

The vet will verify the age of the dog, which has to be at least 12 months for canicross and at least 18 months for bikejörng. **No derogation will be allowed.**

The vet will order or do the doping controls on a dog if he deems it suspicious.

Chapter 19 : Doping control

- 1) ECF is a member of WASA
- 2) The doping controls can be done at any moment of the event, for humans and dogs (principally on the first 3 of every category). The designated athletes and dogs shall be submitted to doping control.

The controls may be ordered by the vets or the president of the technical commission or by other competent national / international services.

If a person refuses the doping control, she will be automatically declared positive and excluded from the event : **disqualification.**

The list of forbidden products : CIO list.

- 3) Right of appeal :
 - a) An appeal is possible for the person who has been tested positive, the same case applies for the dog.
 - b) The athlete has 30 minutes to appeal against his disqualification. He will address to the president of the technical commission and may request a second control performed by another physician or vet.
 - c) If the outcome of the second control is also positive, another appeal is not possible. The disqualification will be final without appeal. The technical commission may exclude the concerned athlete for a certain period or for the rest of his life.
 - d) However if the second control tests negative, the whole case will be analysed by the technical commission with the reports of the physicians or vets.
 - e) The 2 controls will be charged to the athlete. In every case when the athlete tests positive the charges of all the analyses will be charged to the offender.

Chapter 20 : Trail markings

- a) Procedure to be followed when there is a change of direction, using directionnal arrows on a piquet :
 - « Warning » when change of direction, +/- 20 m in advance.
 - « Indicate » at the place where there is a change of direction.
 - « Confirm » the direction after the change (arrow or banner / plastic bands)

On long straight parts of the trail some bands have to be placed to confirm the direction of the trail.

You can also use neutral coloured bands or bands with sponsors over the whole trail.

- b) The trail markings have to be sufficient on their own : the function of race judge is not to inform the competitor wich route to follow. (see article 15).
- c) The trail has to be completely marked before the opening of the trail for competitors 14.00 h on Thursday.

Chapter 21 : The Trail

- 1) The trail has to be attractive, located in an environment with a lot of trees and if possible on a wonderful place. The trail has to be appealing to both the humans and the dogs. Alternating between easy running/riding parts on larger and long stretches, technical parts on single tracks,.... Every type of dog has to get his advantage on some parts of the trail.
- 2) Dangerous parts, that are too narrow, with big stones and roots have to be avoided. The organiser can be held responsible for an accident if the part of the trail was too dangerous.
- 3) The organiser has to ensure that the soil of the trail is not abrasive for the dogs paws.
- 4) The organiser has to choose the trails in such a way that the soil has to remain in good condition in every situation : it has to be able to cope with heavy rainfall without risking to degenerate.

In case of pooring rain, the organiser or the Techical Commission may close the trails for inspection by the athletes in order to preserve the quality of the terrain.

a) Recommandations for Bikejöring and Scooter :

- a) Like in canicross, the trail should alternate between « technical » parts and « easier » parts.
- b) Take into account that the trail does not get too dangerous for the humans and for the dogs. If this is the case, the bikejöring trail may be slightly different from the canicross trail to avoid dangerous zones. This will be at the responsibility of the organiser wich has to make sure he preserves the physical integrity of the competitors and their dogs.
- c) The organiser has to propose a trail wich can cope with heavy rainfall without loosing its quality : the trail has to stay safe to race on in case of pooring rain.
- d) To preserve the quality of the trail in case of heavy rain, the organiser or the Technical Commission may close the trail for inspection for all bikers (see chapter 4 – n°2 - 1 - page 4).

Chapter 22 : Inspection of the trails :

The inspection/recognition of the trail with a dog is authorised until 1 hour before the first departure of the first race. One hour after the last departure of the last race the trail will be open again for inspection. No dog, even attached with his leash is allowed on the race track during the race and outside the period mentioned before (even if the dog is from a supporter and not running in the event).

If there is a dog on the trail he will be identified and excluded from the whole of the European championships. The same case applies for the competitor whose dog is offending the rules : **disqualification.**

Chapter 23 : departures

1) Starting order: The starting order per discipline is as follows :

1 bike – 2 scooter – 3 canicross.

2) The maximum number of allowed starts is 600 per day, all disciplines and categories taken together. The relays are not taken into consideration in this number.

3) One same competitor cannot take part in all 3 categories. He therefore can only compete in 2 categories. The relays are not taken into consideration in this number.

4) The European Championships currently have 2 types of departures : Individual starts and mass starts

5) In general :

a) For every category the competitor **AND** his dog have to be behind the starting line.

b) A banner « Start » is mandatory.

c) The starter will give the start signal. He may be assisted by a sound clock.

d) Once the starting line is crossed, all the race rules apply.

e) A competitor who is not present for his departure, according to the official schedule and after he has been called may no longer start and **will be eliminated = disqualification.**

f) The organising country has to try to provide a possible timetable for competitors who are registered in 2 categories (canicross + bikejöring).

6) Individual starts :

a) The individual starts are from the type « against the clock ». The starts may be given every minute or every 30 seconds. The starts may also be given in pairs (2 by 2) : every runner individually in his corridor. (so there have to be 2 corridors).

b) The starting list, mentioning the starting time of every participant will be hanged out on the official information pannel so competitors know in advance on wich hour they have to start.

c) In Bikejöring and Scooter, all starts will be individually against the clock :

- On Saturday, they will be given in order of the bib-numbers, every minute.
- On Sunday, starts will be given in order of the realised time on Saturday, the best will start first. The starts may also be given every 30 seconds depending on the choice of the organiser and the Technical Commission. (See chapter 6 – point 4 – page 6)

7) Mass starts :

- a) Mass starts are given per category. For this type of start, it is mandatory to have a starting area of at least 50 meters wide, the zone where all competitors come close together on a smaller trail has to be at least 100 meters after the starting line. After this 100 m long stretch it is advised to avoid a 90° turn, so participants will not fall and there is less chance that they get tangled up with the dogs.
- b) If the terrain can not permit to have a mass start due to lack of space, the departures may be held in waves. The starting hour and concerned competitors of each wave have to be mentioned on the official information pannel.

8) In canicross categories, the athlete has to be at the start with :

- a) His bib-number fixed on his chest or his tissue race number – the electronic chip will be fixed as explained by the timekeeping team.
- b) A leash attached to the harness of the dog and fixed on the runner's belt, a harness or a canicross trouser. The leash has to be a shock absorbing line and may not be longer than 2 m when fully stretched.
- c) It is mandatory for the dog to wear a harness.

In Bikejöring and in Scooter categories, the athlete has to be at the start with :

- a) A plate fixed on the front side of the bike which has to be clearly visible and mentioning the race number of the competitor AND/OR a bib-number fixed on the chest, or a tissue bib-number – the electronic chip has to be fixed as explained by the timekeeping team.
- b) A helmet
- c) Gloves
- d) Glasses are not mandatory
- e) A leash attached to the dogs harness and fixed to the bike, under the steering bar and above the bicycle fork. The leash has to be a shock absorbing line and may not exceed 2.5 m when fully extended.
- f) It is mandatory for the dog to wear a harness.

9) In order to be classified for bikejöring and in scooter, the competitor has to cross the finish line with 3 elements: himself, the dog and the bike or the scooter. These 3 elements have to do the whole trail and have to cross the finish line together.

Note : the changement of mountainbike or scooter or frame is authorised between the Saturday and the Sundays race. In case of any technical defaults the mountainbike or the scooter may be repaired. (see article 24)

Chapter 24 : Finish

This area has to be handled with care to make it attractive and memorable.

This area is often very crowded. As a result, there has to be provided :

- i) Metal barriers for at least 20-50 m on every side.
- j) Banners with sponsors,... attached to the barriers to make the finish area clear for everyone, especially for the dogs to avoid they are getting disturbed.
- k) The flags of the nations have to be present.
- l) A banner with the word « finish » is mandatory.
- m) Enough drinking buckets and bathing shells for dogs have to be present so dogs can rehydrate and cool down. The organisation has to make sure there is enough water provided and refilled if necessary.
- n) Drinks,... for the athletes.
- o) A first aid place nearby.
- p) Animation.
- q) A place where the time / chrono is been taken, not open for the public.
- r) Minimum 2 judges at the finish line, independent from the timekeeping post.
- s) People who keep the finish zone clear and escort / help the athletes catching their breath after the race by holding their dogs.

Remark : Only a standing person has the possibility to encourage orally the competitor and/ or the dog. The encouragement by running or riding with a bike beside the competitor is strictly forbidden!

The commissioners and race judges have to ensure this rule is respected.

Chapter 25 : penalties

Evidence of irregularities can be made by film, photo or simple testimony.

The report of the race judges will form the base of the penalty.

All penalties are cumulative. They can go from a warning up to disqualification.

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As a reminder, only the Technical Commission is competent to assign penalties.

1) Concerning Canicross, Bikejöring and Scooter 1 dog :

- a) Vet control : Every competitor has to present his dog accompanied by the vet book, attesting the required vaccinations. The dog has to be identifiable by an electronic chip or a legible tattoo. The competitors who have not taken the veterinary control are not authorised to take the start.

During the event, the vets and the President of the Technical Commission, have the right to implement vet controls. If a competitor refuses a control : **disqualification.** (see also chapter 18 : veterinary)

b) Remark concerning the school boys/girls category : During the veterinary inspection, the children of the school boys/girls category will be evaluated with their dog in front of the Technical Commission and have to show that they are capable of controlling the dog. If the examiners see any difficulties, the parents will be advised to find another dog. If the child has not the possibility to find another suitable dog, he can still take the start with his dog, but the family will be warned about the possible danger. In other words, the family is advised to choose a suitable dog for their child adapted to his performances.

- c) Trail inspection: see chapter 21

Violations of the rules : **disqualification**

d) Free running dogs : No dog may run free on the trails even in the authorised period for trail inspection. (before, during and after the competitions). In case of official statement, the dog will be identified and excluded from the European Championships. The same rule applies to the competitor who is registered with the concerned dog : **disqualification.**

e) Trails : In case of not respecting the official trail (error in direction, taking short cut,... etc) the competitor will be disqualified following the report of the commissioners : **disqualification.** In case the competitor involuntary takes a longer route, the Technical Commission can decide to not disqualify the competitor.

If a competitor leaves the circuit due to force majeure, the Technical Commission will decide .

f) Early departures :

when a competitor « steals » the start (starts too early), **a penalty of 30 (thirty) seconds will be imposed.**

- g) Missed departures : If the competitor is not present at the hour of his start, the sanction will be given by the Technical Commission.

There are two possibilities :

- First possibility : The competitor will be **eliminated = disqualification** if there has been judged his late start disrupts other competitors or delays the start of the next category.

Or :

- If it concerns an « individual » start : The competitor will start as last in his category. He will be given a **penalty of 1 minute** on top of his race time.

- If it concerns a « Mass start » : The chrono is started,... And the competitor will loose the time of his delay, **plus a penalty of 1 minute**.

- h) Material : If during the race it is observed that the leash is too long or has no shock braker : **penalty of 1 minute**.

During the event, the organiser has the right to do check ups on the material. If this check up is refused : **disqualification**.

- i) Violence adressed to the dog or another competitor : In case of violence of a competitor towards his dog or another dog or another competitor :

disqualification from the first infringement.

- j) Interdiction to pull the dog ahead : It is strictly forbidden to pull the dog when running (canicross) or to ride in front of the dog (bikejöring). The maximal limit is the shoulders of the animal towards the runner. If the dog runs at the same level as the runner, the leash may not be tense. It is **strictly forbidden to pull the dog**, pulling the dog is only allowed to put him in the right direction : change of direction, detangling, inattention due to environmental factors (dog of spectator, wild animals,...). The competitor will slow down if the dog is tired and will adapt his speed to that of the dog.

In case of steep downhill, the dog may be held behind the competitor.

- **first infringement : 1 (one) minute penalty.**

- **second infringement : disqualification.**

On a technical trail or a long trail, we have to admit that it is possible that the runner overtakes involuntary the dog or that the dog may hesitate. In this case the Technical Commission can decide to tolerate the situation if the action is very short and involuntary.

- k) Overtaking : During the competition, a competitor can demand to let him pass, if he says the word « PISTE ». The competitor who is being overtaken has to let the other team pass. He has to hold his dog short against him during the passage. Letting a faster team pass by putting yourself and the dog on one side of the trail and the faster team passing the other side is also forbidden.

First infringement : 1 (one) minute penalty

Second infringement : disqualification.

In the last 200 meters, the competitors do not have to hold the dogs short when there is another team passing, but they may never disturb the other team.

- l) Agressive dogs : The competitor must ensure his dog shows no aggressivity towards other competitors and dogs. Depending on the severity and the circumstances, the penalties are left to the discretion of the Technical Commission.: 1 (one) minute penalty or disqualification.

The President of the Technical Commision may demand a muzzle for aggressive dogs.

If in the starting zone, a dog is showing agressivity or is disruptive even by playing, the President of the Technical Commision may order him to leave the starting zones : disqualification.

- m) It is forbidden to fix any object that makes noise or some kind of bell to the dog.
- n) In addition to the relays, one dog may not take more than 2 departures per day : one short distance and one long distance, or 2 times short distance, but never 2 times the long distance (canicross + bikejöring): disqualification.
- o) Respect towards the dog : This is the golden rule wich is the most important. In addition to all the preceding articles, the competitor has to accept losing time if during the competition the dog has the desire to drink, refresh or has to make a sanitary stop.

First infringement: 1 (one) minute penalty.

Second infringement : disqualification.

- p) And of course , it is strictly forbidden to let the dog absorb any forbidden products (doping) in order to improve its performances.
- q) During the competition, the dog has to wear a harness. The leash has to be attached to the harness and may not be attached to the collar during the race.
- r) Collars of the type chocker, « haltis » and leashes of the rolling type are strictly forbidden : **Disqualification.**

2) Concerning Canicross :

- a) The organiser has to provide an calling chamber and a control service wich tasks are :
 - t) Identifying the dogs by reading the electronic chip or legible tattoo.
 - u) Inspection of the harness (it may not injure the dog)
 - v) Verification of the length of the leash (max. 2,0 m when fully extended)
 - w) Checking the running shoes : No spike shoes
 - x) They have to ensure that the bib-number and the electronic chip are correctly fixed on the chest of the competitor and that they are visible.

If there is any competitor spotted with spike shoes during the competition : **disqualification.**

b) Dogs at the finish: Canicross is a discipline consisting of 2 team members : the athlete and his dog. The competitor will take the start with his dog and will finish the 2 days long competition with the same dog. If this is not the case : **disqualification.**

3) Concerning Bikejöring and Scooter

- a) The organiser has to provide an calling chamber and a control service wich tasks are :
 - Identification of the dog by reading the electronic chip or a legible tattoo.
 - Inspection of the harness (it may not injure the dog)
 - Verification of the length of the leash (max. 2,5m when fully extended)
 - They have to ensure that the bib-number and the electronic chip are correctly fixed on the chest of the competitor and that they are visible.
 - They have to assure that the bike is not equipped with any metallic mud gard
 - Verification of the leash who has to be attached to the frame of the bike, under the steering bar and above the bycicle 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. Note: The leash may NOT be attached to the human.

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- b) Dogs at the finish : Bikejöring, like Scooter, is a discipline with three important elements : the athlete, the dog and the mountainbike or scooter.

The competitor takes the start on Saturday with his mountainbike or his scooter and his dog. In order to be in the ranking, he has to finish the competition on Sunday, with his bike or his scooter and the same dog. If this is not the case the competitor will be **disqualified**.

Note : Between the Saturday and the Sunday race, all elements of the mountainbike or of the scooter may be replaced. In case of any technical issues, the reparations will be authorised.

Swapping the whole bike or scooter is allowed. (see article 22)

- c) If the competitor is inactive and lets himself being pulled by the dog without any help : **disqualification**.

In any case, to be certain, this observation has to be noticed twice.

Chapter 26 : The relay (see also chapter 5 - relays)

The general rules of « canicross » apply.

The team Manager has to register his relay teams within the terms and using the forms that are handed out by the organiser. Modifications are still possible until 15 minutes before the start of the first relay if the organiser is informed.

The organiser will hand out to the team leaders :

- d) The documents to register for the relays (3 competitors)
- e) A set of 3 bib-numbers per team (for example, Switzerland 1a, Switzerland 1b, Switzerland 1c).

There will be raced for the title in the following categories :

- a) Women : 3 women from the same country, starting from the junior category and older, **who have participated in the European Championships in canicross or bikejöring.**

- b) Men : 3 men from the same country, from the junior category and older, who have **participated in the current European championship in canicross or bikejöring.**
- c) **The dogs which are participating in the relays must have also taken part to the current European championship in canicross or bikejöring.**
- d) A nation can register several relay teams. If it is the case, only its best classified team could be rewarded (medals – podium). In other words, only one relay by nation will be rewarded and consequently, the podium will always be composed of three different nations. The organiser is invited to provide an « award » for the teams who will so be excluded from the podium and receive no medal.

(see also chapter Page)

- e) The starts are from the type « Mass start ». In this way, the first team who crosses the finish line will be declared European Champion, except if they did not respect the race rules and are being subject to a protest.
- f) The organiser has the obligation to hang out the ranking of every relay team that participates.
- g) The medals will be given to the first three teams (not mixed) (see Chapter 7 – point 3 – page 9)

Mixed Teams :

- a) Their results will be hung out mentioning « non-ranking ».
- b) A relay team consisting of 2 men and 1 woman will take the start together with the «Men» relay.
- c) A relay team consisting of 2 women and 1 man will take the start together with the « Women» relay.

Chronological order :

- a) The first runner of the team will run the trail. He will give his dog to a helper in the provided zone wich has to be named « relay zone ». This zone will be approximately 30 meters long and will be made visible (by using plastic bands, etc,...) by the organiser.
- b) The athlete will continue without the dog and has to touch the second runner's hand who is waiting with his dog within the relay zone.
- c) The second runner will do the same as the first runner.
- d) The last runner will finish the trail by crossing the finish line with his dog.

Chapter 27 : Formal ceremonies

1) The ceremonies are undeniably special moments of the Championships. They must therefore take a solemn aspect: presence of the local authorities, former champions, the President of the Organization and the office of the ECF (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the technical Commission). A few brief speeches will be delivered by various speakers presented on the podium.

2) The Organisation will ensure a solemn staging: music, flags gathered on stage, etc...

3) It has to be considered that in case of bad weather everything can be held in a room or tent that is big enough for everyone.

4) Only the official national flag of a country is allowed. A regional or club flag will not be tolerated on the podiums of the official ceremonies or during the parade of the athletes.

Sanction : disqualification of the competitor

5) Opening Ceremony

a) This Ceremony will be held on Friday in the late afternoon or in the evening. This ceremony has to have some local folklore and/or a touristical touch.

b) The ceremony will be opened by carrying out the flag of the ECF by a member of the organising country followed by the authorities. Afterwards the athletes by nation in alphabetical order will follow in the parade behind their national flag preceded by a board mentioning the name of the country. The organising country will be the last country of the parade. All the flags will be reunited on the stage.

c) The mayor or another local authority and the President of the ECF will give a short speech : welcoming everyone – wishing succes to all the participants – thanking – etc....

d) The president of the organisation will present his team.

e) The designated person will open officially the event in the language of the country, in French and in English (which are the 2 official languages of the ECF) : « I declare open the European Championships of canicross and bikejöring (+ year and place) ».

f) Hearing of the European anthem.

g) This ceremony is expected to be completed with a welcome drink (glass of friendship).

h) Closing Ceremony

i) The organising country has to ensure that the awards ceremony of the podiums and closure (which is an integral part of the Championships) will take place immediately after the publication of the «official» results.

j) The announcement of the results will be given per category, handing out the three medals (gold, silver and bronze)- the national flag of the 3 winners will be raised- the national anthem of the champion will be played.

k) Award winning athletes have to be present, except in case of force majeure (hospital,...)

If the absence is not justified : **The price will not be delivered – the medal and diploma will be retained**

l) At the end, all the European Champions (24 categories) will reunite on stage and the European anthem will be played.

m) The event will be officially closed by a present authority – short speech..

n) The President of the organisation will hand over the flag to the ECF President, who will give the flag to the organising nation of the next edition.

Chapter 28 : Souvenirs

a) Regardless of the competition aspect and sport event, there is a touristical and psychological aspect of the event. It is wishable that the organising country takes advantage of the occasion to give a souvenir prize to every participant.

b) The organiser offers a T-shirt or something similar to every competitor. The cost of such present is included in the amount of the first registration. This present will be submitted to the nations (as well as the medals for the winners) on the occasion of the last spring GM before the event.

c) On Friday night or Saturday night, the organiser offers a festive meal to every competitor. The cost of this meal is included in the amount of the first registration.

Chapter 29 : Finances

1) The ECF can take some of the expenses for his account, but the expenses of the ECF have to be at the service of EVERY nation, and not beneficial for only one.

2) The organising country will make propositions regarding :

a) Expenses for the registration fees of the European Championships (see article 3).

b) Expenses for the meals

Note. : The price of the registration fee contains 1 **festive** meal for the competitor.

c) The present offered to the competitors. The registration fee includes a present for the competitor.

The decision will be made at the spring General Assembly preceding the event.

d) Later on, the expenses of accomodation with mentio of the offer.

e) Seperate benefits

f) Global offer (full or partial package).

- 3) The costs for food and drinks of the 2 general assemblies (autumn and fall) will be supported by the organising country.
- 4) The organising country has to provide drinks and lunch at noon for the people who work on the terrain.
- 5) The euro (€) is the official currency of the ECF.

Chapter 30 : Registration procedure of the European Championships.

Every nation will register their athletes who wish to participate at the European Championship, by their own criteria of admission (selection and/or invitation). The registrations will be transmitted to the ECF using the official document « entry form ». The entry forms will be put online and will be available for every nation around August, 1st mentioning the bank details for the payment of the amount for the registrations.

The way of payment is at the responsibility of the organising country.

Reminder :

- 1) No athlete may register individually, he has to register via their national secretariat.
- 2) Every athlete has to race for the country the nationality of which he possesses, even if he is currently living in another country and is affiliated there (insurance).
- 3) The document « entry form », must be sent exclusively to the ECF secretariat (not to the organising country).
- 4) The athletes of a nation that would not be in order with the affiliation of the ECF (non-payment of the annual fee) will not be accepted to participate at the European Championship.
- 5) A country that is not affiliated with the ECF, may participate at the European Championship with the status of « guest country ». This only possible for 1 year. This nation will be also invited at the General Assembly for the first year but has not the right to vote. The admission as a member country will be put on the agenda of the next fall General Assembly, provided that this nation presents its candidature for admission.
- 6) **Deadlines**
 - a) The document « entry form » has to be available for all the nations around approximately **August, 1st** and all registrations have to arrive at the secretariat of the ECF during **the first 8 days of September** : The precise date will be given at the spring General Assembly (ex : the 3rd of september at midnight). After this deadline NO registration will be accepted.
 - b) The payments have to arrive on the bank account of the organising country during **the 20 first days of September** : the exact date will be given by the organiser and announced on the spring General Assembly preceding the race (ex : September the 16th at midnight).
 - c) The list of participants mentioning the bib-numbers per category, chosen by lottery by the ECF by means of an electronic system (starting list) will be published on the ECF website **before September, 30th at midnight**. In this way a competitor cannot

choose the discipline in function of the other registered concurrents, because he won't know in advance who is participating.

This starting list will be transmitted to the organiser as soon as possible after the final date of the registration of the athletes.

Notes :

- 1) The dog has to be identifiable and in order with all the vaccinations (see chapter 18). The competitor can still change dog until the veterinary control on Friday.
- 2) Every competitor has to bring his identity card or passport as his nationality, gender and date of birth will be controlled.
- 3) **In case of a discontinuance, even justified, NO refund will be given (meals, entrance fees, etc...). (See chapter 3 – page 2)**

Chapter 31 : Errors and general problems

In case of any error or general problem, only the decision of the Technical Commission is valid and will be without appeal. This will not exclude a good understanding and effective collaboration with the organising team.

Chapter 32 : Disciplinary procedure imposed by an affiliated federation of the ECF to one of its members.

- a) If a nation takes a sanction against one of his members, it has to inform all the nations of the ECF.
- b) An excluded member of his national federation may not enter the European Championships via another federation.
- c) An excluded member of his national federation and of the ECF competitions has the right of appeal before the Disciplinary Commission of the ECF. If he wants to be heard this will be at its own expense. A disciplinary commission will be formed to judge on the appeal. The nation which has given the sanction cannot be part of the commission.

Chapter 33 : Proposal of the model timetable

Thursday

10h.00 : Opening stake-out

12h.00 : Opening of the trail for prospecting

15h.00 : Fall General Assembly (this will take place on Thursday in order to have more time for debate and for the management of the event)

Friday

From 09h.00 until 12h.00 : Handing out of the bib-numbers by the Team Leader.

From 10h.00 until 12h.00 : Veterinary control and control of the competitors (identity + birth year)

From 13h.30 until 16h.00 : Handing out of the bib-numbers by the Team Leader.

From 13h.30 until 17h.00 : Veterinary control and control of the competitors (identity + birth year)

14h.00 : Meeting of the Technical Committee

16h.00 : Meeting of the Team Managers

18h.00 : Opening ceremony + aperitive + festive meal (this meal may also be programmed for Saturday evening **or** restaurant)

Saturday

From 06h.30 until 07h.30 : Vet control and competitor control (identity + birth year)
(only for competitors arrived during the night)

07h.00 : Closure of the trails = trail forbidden for everyone and no more dogs on the trail.

08h.00 : First start Bike-Jöring followed by the Scooter (every minute)

10h.00 : Opening of the bar

11h.00 : First start Canicross – short distance (every 30 seconds)

12h.00 => 15h.00 : Restaurant

16h.00 : Opening of the trails for prospection

16h.00 : Meeting of the Technical commission + team of race judges

17h.15 : Meeting Team managers

18.00h : Festive meal, if it has not been programmed on Friday evening **OR** restaurant

Sunday

07h.00 : Closure of the trails = trail forbidden for everyone – no more dogs on the trail.

07h.00 => 8h.30 : Breakfast

08h.00 : First start Bike-Jöring followed by the Scooter

10h.00 : Opening of the bar

11h.00 : First start Canicross – long distance – Mass starts

From 12h.00 until 15h.45 : Restaurant

14h.30 : Meeting of the Technical Commission + team of race judges

14h.45 : Relay women

15h.15 : Relay men

15h.45 : Meeting of the Technical Commission + team of race judges

16h.00 : Ceremony of the podiums and closure of the European Championship 2015

19h.00 => 20h.30 : Restaurant

Chapter 34 : Nationality

- A. Each competitor has the obligation to compete for the country of his nationality.
- B. If a competitor lives or is affiliated in a foreign country, he has to register via the document « Entry form » of his country. He will be advised to contact the secretary of his country before the closure date of the registrations.

- C. In case of double nationality, the competitor MUST choose the nation for which he wants to compete, this choice will be for the rest of his career.

Chapter 35 : Philosophy

- a) The European Championship is **a place where elite athletes and simple amateurs can meet**. Every athlete is accepted if they are registered by their national secretariat using the official document « Entry Form ».
- b) The event must take place in a warm, sympathetic and friendly atmosphere.
- c) In the races there has to be a good competition spirit, **Fair Play** being the most important value.
- d) Every athlete will run with the dog he has and loves. No pedigree is mandatory. Without our four legged companions, the practice of this sport, which gives us so much pleasure, would be impossible. As a result, the dog will be thanked and the **respect towards the dog will be our GOLDEN RULE ! Complicity must reign between human and dog**.
- e) In canicross and Bike-Jöring the dog will not be the only one making the effort. The effort will be shared by human and the dog. (see article 24 penalties bike)
- f) The total amount of competitors entering the races, all categories taken together, may not be higher than 600
- g) If one day the ECF is victim of its success and is confronted with too many registered athletes, it will apply, together with the organiser, the following rules:
 - Every nation has the right of minimum 10 registrations, which will be increased by a certain percentage of all its licenced athletes. This percentage will be decided on the spring General assembly preceding the event.
 - We can also consider departures on Friday (decision will be made on the spring General Assembly preceding the event.)
- h) Everyone will ensure on the race venue that they **clean up their dogs feces**. (and why not somebody else's mess, if this person is not paying attention) . He will respect the local and natural environment. In case of any problems, the Technical Commission may apply penalties.
- i) Neither the organiser, nor the ECF will be held liable for any decisions made by the Technical Commission which would be perceived as « unfair », « unjustified », « unfounded », « wrong », or « exaggerated », by a penalised competitor and/or its Team Manager.

Chapter 36 : Penalties list

- 1) **All penalties are cumulative**
It can go from a **warning up to disqualification.**
- A. **Dog**
- 2) Forbidden to pull the dog :
1 minute after the first infringement
Disqualification after the second infringement
- 3) Forbidden to run in front of the dog :
Warning after the first observation
1 minute per additional observation starting from the second observation.
- 4) Preventing the dog from drinking – making his needs :
1 minute after the first observation.
Disqualification after the second observation.
- 5) Unleashing the dog : **1 minute.**
- 6) Finishing without dog : **Disqualification**
- 7) Violence towards the dog or another concurrent : **Disqualification** (after the first infringement).
- 8) Dog running to many races (excluding relays) :
(2 times long distance – 3 times short distance: **Disqualification** of the concerned competitor(s)).
- 9) Disruptive dog (even by playing): decision made by the Technical Commission.
On its demand, the competitor has to leave the starting zone.
If the competitor refuses : **Disqualification**
- 10) Agressive dog : **warning** or **1 minute** or **Disqualification** by decision of the Technical Commission.
- 11) Switching the dog at the second day or during the race : **Disqualification**
- 12) Dog running free on the trails : **Disqualification** of the competitor and of the dog with which he is registered. (see page 20)

B. Competitor

13) Not respecting the trail : **Disqualification.**

Note. : In case of force majeure, the Technical Commission will decide.

14) Refusing to let another team pass (or refusing letting the team pass by putting the dog on one side of the road and the competitor at the other side):

1 minute after first infringement.

Disqualification after the second infringement.

15) Prospection of the trails with dog : is forbidden

- during the competitions
- 1 hour before the first start
- 1 hour after the arrival of the last competitor

If these rules are not followed : **Disqualification** of the competitor and of the dog with which he is registered. (see page 20)

16) Early departure : **30 seconds**

17) Missed departure : decision by the Technical Commission :

Disqualification or **1 minute** (see chapter 24 point 1 – h - page 20)

18) Refusing control :

- a) vet : **Disqualification**
- b) material : **Disqualification**
- c) anti-doping : **Disqualification**
- d) identity : **Disqualification**

19) Inactive human (bike-jöring and scooter) : (The driver lets himself being pulled by the dog without helping) : **1 minute**

Note. : before this penalty is given there have to be more than 1 (at least 2) observations.

20) Bike-Jöring and scooter : The human + bike or the scooter (even when carried) + dog have to cross the finish line together. If this is not the case : **Disqualification**

21) Cheating with his age or the age of the dog : **Disqualification**

22) Category School Boys/Girls : The accompanying adult :

a) runs in front of the child : **1 minute** after the first infringement.

Disqualification after the second infringement.

b) Stimulates the child or the dog to improve their performances : **Disqualification**

23) When testing positive after doping control : **Disqualification**

Note : The list of forbidden products is this of the international olympic committee.

Maybe an exclusion for life or for a certain period.

C. Material

24) No bib-number = no start = **Disqualification**

25) Leash too long – absence of shock braker – absence of harness for the dog (if constatated during the race) : **1 minute**

26) The dog wears a « halti » or a choke collar : **Disqualification**

27) Canicross : Shoes with metal spikes :

Forbidden to take the start = Disqualification (for the security of the dog).

28) Bike-Jöring and scooter : a) Absence of the helmet – metal mud guards on the bike :

Forbidden to take the start = Disqualification (security).

b) Absence of gloves: **1 minute**.

D. Miscellaneous

29) Modifying the relay team after the deadline : **Disqualification** (see chapter 25)

30) Carrying out a flag that is not the national flag (Ceremonies – departure zone and finish zone – at the parade) : **Disqualification of the competitor** (see chapter 26)

31) Formalities for lodging a claim (protest) under penalty of non-admissibility :

a) Deadline : 30 minutes after hanging out of the results of the concerning race

b) Written document has to be brought by the team leader to the president of the Technical Commission, accompanied with the amount of 25 € (indexed)

- If the complaint is not succesfull: the 25 € will be payed to the treasury of the ECF

- If the competitors complaint is successful : the 25 € will be returned to the competitor

32) Opposition to a decision of the Technical Commission or against a penalty : idem point n° 28 but the decision of the Technical Commission will be without appeal.

33) Absence at the podium ceremony: the prizes are not given (unless force majeure)

34) The Technical Commission may give warnings based on other criteria and may also modulate the prescribed penalties.

35) The Technical commission is sovereign. Its decisions are without appeal.

Neither the organiser, nor the ECF may be held responsible for the decisions of the Technical Commission which would be perceived as « unfair », « unjustified », « unfounded », « wrong » or « exaggerated » by a penalised competitor or his Team Manager.

Chapter 37 : SPECIAL SCOOTER 1 DOG

Article 1 : General

- a) The amount of the registration fee for the scooter race is identical to the amount of the other disciplines
- b) One same competitor cannot register for the 3 disciplines: solely two different disciplines are admitted.
- c) As a reminder: the same dog may not run the long circuit twice on the same day. Therefore, if a competitor registers for the scooter race and in another discipline, he will have to take part with two different dogs.
- d) The competitor and his dog shall share their efforts. A competitor who is judged inactive by the Technical Commission will be immediately disqualified.

Article 2 : Categories

Three men categories and three women categories are organised:

- Juniors (from 15 to 18 years included) born in 2000-1999-1998 and 1997
- Seniors (from 19 to 39 years included) born in 1996 to 1976 included
- Veterans (40 years and older) born in 1975 and before

Article 3 : Circuit

- a) The distance shall not be longer than 7 km, with a minimum of 5 km.
- b) The distance is the same for all categories.
- c) The scooter circuit is the same as the one for bike-jöring. The circuit shall be negotiable by scooter. It shall be inspected and approved during the Spring GM.
- d) The same circuit shall be used on Saturday and Sunday. However, on the second day, the circuit can be adapted by the Technical Commission.

Article 4 : Starts

- a) On Saturday, the starts are given every minute by category and in the order of the bib numbers.
- b) On Sunday, the starts are given by category, but in the order of the times ran on Saturday, the best time starting in first position. The starts can then be given every 30 seconds, according to the choice of the organiser and the approval of the Technical Commission
- c) The competitor may be helped at the moment of the start by someone who holds the dog or the bike.

Article 5 : Bib numbers

- a) The bib numbers are given at random.
- b) The bibs shall be attached firmly on the competitor's chest. A small plate bearing the same number shall be attached on the front side of the scooter.

Article 6 : Age of the dog

Minimum 18 months, no exception possible

Article 7 : Equipment

- a) The competitor shall compulsorily wear a helmet and gloves. It is advisable to wear glasses
- b) A leash shall be secured to the dog's harness. The other end shall be secured to the scooter, under the handlebars and above the fork.
- c) This leash shall be extensible in order to absorb the shocks, but may not be longer than 2.5 m once extended
- d) The dog shall compulsorily wear a harness
- e) To be ranked in scooter, the competitor shall cross the finish line with 3 elements: himself, the dog and the scooter. These three elements must have gone through the full circuit and all three cross the finish line.
- f) It is allowed to use another scooter to start on the second day.
- g) The competitor is allowed to use a rail or a rod with a ring to let the leash go through it.
- h) It is not allowed to wear shoes with spikes.
- i) Metallic mudguards are not allowed.

Chapter 36 : Translation

The original version of this document has been made in French. In case of differences between the original version and any translation, the French text is the only one to be taken into account.

La version originale de ce document est établie en français. En cas de contestation entre la version originale et toute traduction, c'est la version en français qui doit être prise en considération.
