

## **Chapter 1: Organisation of the European Championships**

The Federation, known as the “EUROPEAN CANICROSS FEDERATION”, hereafter referred to as the ECF, is trustee of the project and shall delegate the organisation to a candidate member country of the ECF.

If no candidate comes forward, a country shall be appointed. In the following disciplines:

- a) Canicross
- b) Bikejöring
- c) Relay

This shall be done each year.

The sprint is run on a Saturday, and the long distance on a Sunday.

The European Championships are a meeting of licensed athletes.

## **Chapter 2: Dates**

Normally, this meeting is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> full weekend in October. In exceptional circumstances, an alternative date may be chosen, but it will be published one year beforehand.

## **Chapter 3: Selection of organising country**

Candidatures for organising the European Championships must be presented to the Annual General Meeting in the spring. A candidate country must submit a dossier of candidature. A deposit of €1,000.00- (one thousand euros) must be paid, which shall remain the property of the ECF. The organisation of the European Championships shall be decided during the Annual General Meeting, which is held prior to the European Championships, 2 years in advance.

The ECF shall sign a contract of organisation, in writing, with the designated organiser.

## **Chapter 4: Technical Committee**

The European Federation disposes of a Technical Committee, composed of two representatives from each country. They act as race stewards during the European Championships.

Each country shall provide the names of its race stewards to the ECF, if possible by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

The ECF designates the Head Steward from the lists of propositions from each country. He may not originate from the organising country. The Technical Committee shall meet on Friday, if possible; but in any event, prior to the start of the competitions.

Each steward shall draft a report, either case by case, or at the end of the day.

A nominative list including all the details of the stewards as well as the Head Steward shall be sent to the representative of the organising country.

The technical steward cannot be a competitor.

The Technical Committee has the following powers:

- a) it can impose penalties;
- b) it can declare disqualifications.

The Technical Committee shall meet to examine the steward's report or the protest lodged by a competitor. After examination, the Technical Committee shall display its decision on the official notice board and inform the head of the delegation of the country concerned.

The athlete, or the head of the delegation, has 30 minutes to appeal.

In the event of an appeal:

The Technical committee will meet once again to examine the arguments of the opposing parties or any possible error in the organisation. If it considers it to be necessary, the Technical Committee can call upon any witnesses. The verdict shall be final.

## Chapter 5: Distances

The distances of races in each category must be clearly indicated, their choice being dependent upon weather conditions.

Above 20 °C, measured at 1 metre from ground level in the start area, the course must be shortened.

The course distance shall not exceed 7 km with a minimum of 5 km for the adults and juniors course.

The distance for the children's course shall not be greater than half of the adult distance.

In the event of very hot conditions, when the temperature at ground level is over 25° measured one hour before the start, it is imperative that the course distance be reduced.

For the sprint race, the maximum distance is 3 km, and 2 km is recommended.

The Relay race takes place over a distance of 1 km to 1.5 km maximum.

## Chapter 6: Categories

### Canicross

Boys from 7 to 10 years old. With title

Cadets from 11 to 14 years old. With title

Juniors from 15 to 18 years old. With title

Men from 19 to 39 years old. With title

Male veterans I from 40 to 49 years old. With title

Male veterans II from 50 years old and over. With title

Girls from 7 to 10 years old. With title

Cadettes from 11 to 14 years old. With title

Juniors from 15 to 18 years old With card

Ladies from 19 to 39 years old. With title

Female veterans I from 40 to 49 years old. With title

Female veterans II from 50 years old and over. With title

### Bikejöring

Juniors from 15 to 18 years old. With title

Men from 19 to 39 years old. With title

Male veterans I from 40 to 49 years old. With title

Male veterans II from 50 years old and over. With title

Juniors ladies from 15 to 18 years old. With title

Ladies from 18 to 39 years old. With title

Female veterans I from 40 to 49 years old. With title

Female veterans II from 50 years old and over. With title

## Relay

3 Men aged 15 years old and older, from the same country, who have participated to the ongoing championship, With title

3 Ladies aged 15 years old and older, from the same country, who have participated to the ongoing championship With title

The reference point to be used when determining the category is the year of birth.

The title shall be awarded in all those categories with at least 3 competitors enrolled.

The weight of the dog is not taken into consideration.

To be awarded the title in the Relay: 3 men aged 15 years old and older from the same country, who have participated to the ongoing championship and 3 ladies aged 15 years old and older from the same country, who have participated to the ongoing championship.

Any other formation (mixed, from several countries, etc.) may participate, but this will be outside the competition and will not be classified at the European Championship level.

For the Bikejöring: the minimum age is 15 years old, without exception.

## Chapter 7: Medals

The ECF chooses the medals or mandates the organising country to supply the medals.

On the medals shall be marked:

European Championship, the year, and the ECF (in German, French or English).

The cost will always be born by the organiser.

The organising country shall submit the selected medals for approval.

The first three competitors in each official category shall each receive a medal.

## Chapter 8: List of results

The organiser shall display the lists of the results by category 30 minutes after the end of the race, at the latest.

Complaints must be addressed to the Head Steward; if they are based on documents displayed officially, they must be made within 60 minutes at the latest after the time they were displayed.

All documents on display shall show the time at which they are displayed.

## Chapter 9: Official notice board

An official notice board shall be erected where it can be seen easily by all participants.

This notice board shall show:

- the start times for the various categories;
- the race rules;
- the temperature recorded at the start of the races;
- the name, telephone number and position of the Head Steward during the meeting;
- lists of results already recorded with the remark that the list is not yet official;
- the decisions of the Technical Committee;
- any decisions concerning disqualification or penalties;
- the full text of the ECF Regulations in French and in English.

## Chapter 10: Court of Appeal

### Function

The head of the delegation (Team Leader) is obliged to confirm to the Court of Appeal, in writing, the list of participants from his country, at the latest 15 minutes before the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> category. This list shall give the names of each competitor and their dog.

### Conclusion

If the participation of a competitor has not been confirmed, they shall be quite simply eliminated from the race.

## Chapter 11: Insurance

Accident and third party insurance covering the runner and his dog is compulsory.

The organiser shall in no way be held liable for any accident or damage caused by a competitor or his dog.

## Chapter 12: Race numbers

The organising country shall supply the race numbers.

The race numbers are to be attached firmly to the front of the chest. Self-adhesive race numbers are not allowed.

For the Bikejöring: a panel with a rigid frame is to be used.

## Chapter 13: Timing

Timing is obligatory. The system adopted must be reliable and incontestable. A system of double timing with a checking printout is compulsory.

Sensing elements shall be positioned at the start and finish line.

Timing shall be based on the dog.

The start and the finish must be situated in the same area.

## Chapter 14: Race stewards

Race stewards shall be positioned along the length of the various courses, especially in the more difficult sections.

The race stewards are under the orders of the Head Steward of the meeting. They shall report any irregularities that they observe from their position on the course of the competition.

Each country must provide a race steward who shall be made available to the Head Steward.

Technical equipment (camera, video camera, etc.) will be of great assistance when discussing the various faults observed. The race stewards do not make any decisions, only the Technical committee can rule on any disputes or faults that are observed.

## Chapter 15: Safety

The whole of the course must allow access for emergency vehicles in the event of an accident. An official vehicle may be driven on to the course in the event of an accident or technical problems.

## Chapter 16: First-aid

A permanent first aid, or medical, post must always be available on site.

Measures shall be taken to ensure that the nearest hospital is informed that the competition is taking place. A vehicle shall be available should it be necessary to provide assistance in the field.

## Chapter 17: Veterinary surgeon

In view of the fact that the meeting requires veterinary checks to be carried out, it is imperative that one or two veterinary surgeons are available on site at the meeting.

They may carry out unannounced checks on dogs, on their arrival or during the meeting.

Should a participant in the competition refuse to submit his dog to a veterinary check, he shall be disqualified and excluded from the meeting. Bitches in heat are allowed to compete, provided that measures have been taken to diminish the negative effects of this period.

The veterinary surgeon shall decide whether a bitch in gestation is allowed to compete or not.

All dogs taking part in a race must be at least 12 (twelve) months old.

From 01 January, 2011, dogs must be at least 12 (twelve) months old for the Canicross and at least 18 (eighteen) months old for the Bikejöring.

Each participant in the European Championship must present his dog for the veterinary check:

with the vaccination certificate certifying that the necessary vaccinations have been given within the required period

The dog shall have either an electronic chip or a legible tattoo;

Strangulation collars and extending leads are strictly forbidden;

Any dog that does not comply with the veterinary checks shall not be allowed to compete

Bitches in heat shall be allowed to race at the end of the races.

## Chapter 18: Anti-doping checks

Anti-doping checks may be carried out at any time during the meeting; designated athletes and their dogs must submit themselves to the anti-doping tests. Anybody refusing to submit himself or herself, or who is declared positive shall be disqualified and excluded from the meeting.

The 3 leaders in each category may be checked routinely.

An appeal procedure is available according to Chapter 19. The list of forbidden products is the same as for the CIO.

## Chapter 19: Right to appeal

Any person having been found to be positive has the right to appeal, the same is true for the dog.

The athlete has 30 minutes to appeal against his disqualification.

He shall apply to the Head Steward and may ask for a second check to be carried out which must be performed by a different doctor or veterinary surgeon.

Should the second check prove to be positive, no further right of appeal is available and the disqualification is final. The cost of both tests will be at the athlete's expense.

On the other hand, should the check prove to be negative, the situation will be examined in its entirety including medical or veterinary reports and Technical Committee reports.

This decision cannot be appealed against any further, it is final, and it may also exclude an athlete for a fixed period or for life.

In all cases, the costs of an appeal are at the appellant's expense.

## Chapter 20: Marking out

The most effective method for marking out the course is to place neutral colour tape or sponsored banners along the length of the course (Rubalise - Bändering).

At corners, or where alleys come together, coloured tape is the most effective; marking may be complemented with official direction panels.

In long, straight sections, it may be simpler to install flags (direction arrows).

The race stewards must only go on to the course to check that it is correctly marked out and to ensure that marks are still in position.



An efficient steward cannot give directions and evaluate the situation at the same time. The marking out must be sufficient in its own right.

The spoken word is not acceptable during a race.

## Chapter 21: Course inspection

Inspection of the course with the dog is authorised until one hour before the start of the first race, and then from one hour after the end of the last race. No dog is allowed to go on to the course for the purposes of inspection during the competitions. If this is observed officially, the dog will be identified and banned from racing for the whole of the European Championships. The same goes for the athlete who is registered with the guilty dog.

## Chapter 22: The Start

The European Championships currently make use of 2 types of start:

a) Individual start against the clock

b) Collective start

a) Individual start

Precise starting times once per minute shall be displayed on the official notice board, category by category so that the athletes can get to know the start time that they have been allocated.

In Canicross:

The children and the cadets start individually against the clock.

In Bikejöring:

All starts must be made against the clock every 2 minutes.

b) Collective start

Collective start or group starts. Collective starts are to be preferred. If the terrain is not suitable for a collective start, the Race Committee shall determine the number of participants in each group. The choice that has been adopted shall be announced before the start of the first race of the European Championships.

For this type of start, the width of the start line must be at least 50 metres, the course may only be narrowed down after a minimum of 100 metres after the start. At the end of the 100 metres straight, it is recommended that there should not be a right-angled corner, which inevitably leads to falls and collisions.

For all categories, the competitor and his dog must be behind the start line.

A “Start” banner is obligatory.

The starter, or the audible timer, shall provide the start tone for the competitor.

Once the line has been crossed, all the rules for the race shall apply.

A competitor who is not present in time for his start, according to the official start time, and who has been called, shall no longer be allowed to run his race. He will be eliminated. The organising country shall make allowances for the possibility of the same athlete being registered for several categories.

In Canicross, the athlete shall present himself for the start with:

- the race number attached to his chest and legible;

- a lead of 2 metres in length when extended;

- the athlete, with their dog in front of them, shall position themselves behind the start line ready for departure.

In Bikejöring, the athlete shall present himself for the start with:

- Their panel with the race number fixed to the front of the mountain bike and legible;

- their helmet;

- gloves;

- a lead of 2.5 metres in length when extended, attached to the mountain bike; if possible with a suitable system;

- the athlete, with their dog in front of them, shall position themselves behind the start line ready for departure.

## Chapter 23: The Arrival

The area must be especially well prepared to make it attractive and memorable.

This area is very often crowded. In view of this, the following should be provided:

- metal barriers for at least 20 to 50 m on each side;
- advertising banners placed on the barriers to diminish the corridor effect and to avoid disturbing the dogs;
- an “Arrival” banner is obligatory;
- relatively large drinking troughs must be provided after the line, positioned well back, which allow maximum hydration of the dogs, and must also include a zone where the dogs can quite simply swim indoors;
- also provide refreshments for the athletes;
- ensure a first-aid post is installed;
- organise a sound system;
- independent timing system closed to the public;
- provide persons to help clear the arrival line; they can also assist the athletes or take charge of the dogs momentarily to allow the competitors to recover.

Remarks:

Only one, stationary person is allowed to encourage the competitor or the dog, outside of the arrival area. The race stewards shall ensure that this rule is observed.

It is strictly forbidden to provide encouragement while running, or riding a mountain bike, alongside.

In the Bikejöring, the competitor must cross the line with his mountain bike. As soon as the start has been given, the cyclist and his mountain bike must complete the whole course if he wants to be classified.

## Chapter 24: Penalties

Proof to be provided by means of video film, by photograph(s) or witness(es).

## CANICROSS

#### a) Veterinary checks

Each competitor must present himself to the veterinary check with the veterinary file;

vaccination certificate certifying that the required vaccinations have been given. The dog must have either an electronic chip or a legible tattoo; competitors who have not performed the veterinary check will not be authorised to start.

The organiser must set up an appeal court or a verification service for which the assignment is:

- identification by electronic chip or legible tattooing;
- check on the harness (that must not injure the dog);
- check the length of the lead (max 2.0 m when extended);
- check footwear (no spikes: disqualification or banned from starting) ;
- check that the race number is firmly attached to the chest and legible.

During the meeting, the organiser has the right to carry out veterinary or equipment checks, if the competitor refuses to comply with these checks, he shall be disqualified.

#### b) Equipment

Penalty: of 1 (one) minute if during the competition it is observed that the lead is too long or is not fitted with a shock absorber.

Disqualification: if it is observed during the competition that the competitor is wearing footwear with spikes.

#### c) Course inspection

Course inspection with the dog is authorised until one hour before the start of the first race, and then from one hour after the end of the last race. No dog is allowed to go on to the course for the purposes of inspection during the competitions. If this is observed officially, the dog will be identified and banned from racing for the whole of the European Championships. The same goes for the athlete who is registered with the guilty dog.

d) Stray dogs

No dog shall be allowed to stray on to the course before or during the competitions. If this is observed officially, the dog shall be identified and excluded from the European Championships. The same goes for the competitor who is registered with the dog in question.

e) Course

If the official course is not respected (mistake in the course, taking a short cut, etc.) the competitor shall be disqualified after a stewards' report.

f) False start

When a competitor makes a false start, a penalty of 30 (thirty) seconds will be imposed.

g) Dog at finish

The Canicross is a discipline composed of 2 partners: the athlete and his dog.

The competitor starts with his dog, he must finish the course with the same dog. If this is not the case, the competitor will be disqualified.

h) Ban on dragging the dog

It is strictly forbidden to drag the dog. Dragging a dog is when the dog is behind the runner and the lead is stretched. It has to be admitted that, during a technical course of several kilometres, it is possible that the runner overtakes the dog, or the dog hesitates. In this case, a certain tolerance will be applied.

Penalty: 1 (one) minute for the first infraction; disqualification for the 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction that is observed. The stewards' report will serve as the basis for the penalty, hence the importance of the precision of the report.

i) Violence towards a dog or a competitor

In the event of any violence on the part of competitor towards their dog or another dog, or even towards another competitor.

Penalty: disqualification right from the 1<sup>st</sup> infraction duly established.

The steward's report shall serve as the basis for the penalty.

#### j) Overtaking

During the competition a competitor can express a request to overtake by shouting out "PISTE". The competitor about to be overtaken cannot oppose this request without being penalised.

1<sup>st</sup> refusal: 1-minute penalty

2<sup>nd</sup> refusal: disqualification

In the last 200 metres competitors are not obliged to make overtaking easy, but the competitor cannot hinder the passage of another competitor.

Allow free passage; positioning the dog to one side of the track and the competitor on the other side will also lead to disqualification (report by steward).

#### k) Aggressive dog

Every competitor must ensure that their dog does not attack another dog or competitor, under any circumstances.

In the event of any aggression towards another dog or competitor, the following penalties are applicable:

According to the gravity of the circumstances, from a minimum of 1 (one) minute of penalty to disqualification right from the very first incident.

An aggressive dog cannot be accepted into the European Championships (Collective start on Sunday).

If a dog becomes aggressive in the start area, the competitor is obliged to leave the start area.

All penalties are cumulative.

## BIKEJÖRING

#### l) Veterinary checks

Each competitor must present himself to the veterinary check with the veterinary file;

vaccination certificate certifying that the required vaccinations have been given. The dog must have either an electronic chip or a legible tattoo; competitors who have not performed the veterinary check will not be authorised to start.

The organiser must set up an appeal court or a verification service for which the assignment is:

- identification by electronic chip or legible tattooing;
- check on the harness (that must not injure the dog);
- check the length of the lead (max 2.5 m when extended);
- check that the race number is firmly attached to the chest and legible.

During the meeting, the organiser has the right to carry out veterinary or equipment checks, if the competitor refuses to comply with these checks, he shall be disqualified.

#### m) Equipment

Penalty: of 1 (one) minute if during the competition it is observed that the lead is too long or is not fitted with a shock absorber.

#### n) Reconnaissance of the course

Reconnaissance of the course with the dog is authorised until one hour before the start of the first race, and then from one hour after the end of the last race. No dog is allowed to go on to the course during the competitions for reconnaissance purposes. If this is observed officially, the dog will be identified and banned from racing for the whole of the European Championships. The same goes for the athlete who is registered with the guilty dog.

#### o) Stray dogs

No dog shall be allowed to stray on to the course before or during the competitions. If this is observed officially, the dog shall be identified and excluded from the European Championships. The same goes for the competitor who is registered with the dog in question.

#### p) Course

If the official course is not respected (mistake in the course, taking a short cut, etc.) the competitor shall be disqualified after a stewards' report.

q) False start

When a competitor makes a false start, a penalty of 30 (thirty) seconds will be imposed.

r) Dog at finish

The Bikejöring is a discipline composed of 3 (three) elements: the athlete, the mountain bike and the dog.

The competitor starts with a mountain bike and his dog, he must finish the course with a mountain bike and the same dog. If this is not the case, the competitor will be disqualified.

Changing mountain bike between the Saturday race and the Sunday race is allowed.

s) Ban on dragging the dog

It is strictly forbidden to drag the dog. In the Bikejöring the risk of overtaking is even greater than in the Canicross. It is also a question of respect for the dog. The competitor must not drag his dog, he must adapt his speed to that of the dog, even when tired; it has to be admitted that, during a technical course of several kilometres, it is possible that the runner overtakes the dog, or the dog hesitates. In this case, a certain tolerance will be applied.

Penalty: 1 (one) minute for the first infraction; disqualification for the 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction that is observed.

t) Violence towards a dog or a competitor

In the event of any violence on the part of competitor towards their dog or another dog, or even towards another competitor.

Penalty: disqualification for the 1<sup>st</sup> infraction duly established.

The steward's report shall serve as the basis for the penalty.

u) Overtaking



During the competition a competitor can express a request to overtake by shouting out “PISTE”. The competitor about to be overtaken cannot oppose this request without being penalised.

1<sup>st</sup> refusal: 1-minute penalty

2<sup>nd</sup> refusal: disqualification

In the last 200 metres competitors are not obliged to make overtaking easy, but the competitor cannot hinder the passage of another competitor.

Allow free passage; positioning the dog to one side of the track and the competitor on the other side will also lead to disqualification (report by steward).

#### v) Aggressive dog

Every competitor must ensure that their dog does not attack another dog or competitor, under any circumstances.

In the event of any aggression towards another dog or competitor, the following penalties are applicable:

According to the gravity of the circumstances, from a minimum of 1 (one) minute of penalty to disqualification right from the very first incident.

An aggressive dog cannot be accepted into the European Championships.

If a dog becomes aggressive in the start area, the competitor is obliged to leave the start area.

All penalties are cumulative.

### TOUTES CATEGORIES

#### w) Anti-doping checks

Anti-doping checks may be carried out at any time during the meeting; designated athletes and their dogs must submit themselves to the anti-doping tests. Anybody refusing to submit himself or herself, or who is declared positive shall be disqualified and excluded from the meeting.

the competitor has the right to appeal;

the 3 leaders in each category may be checked routinely.

#### x) Course distance

For the Canicross and the Bikejöring, once the start has been given, if an incident occurs after the start line, the competitor with his dog, and with his mountain bike for the Bikejöring, must complete the whole course if they want to be classified.

All penalties are cumulative.

#### Chapter 25: Protests

A protest may be made to the Head Steward, accompanied by a deposit of 25 Euros (twenty-five) that are non-returnable.

The Technical Committee shall meet to examine the protest(s); it may call upon any witnesses required if it should so decide.

After scrutiny, the Technical Committee shall display its decision on the official notice board and inform the head of the delegation of the country concerned. The athlete or the head of the delegation has 30 minutes to appeal.

#### Chapter 26: The Relay

Inscriptions for the Relay:

Inscriptions are made by the team leader on Saturday, before the start of the last race; modifications are still possible up until 1 hour before the start of the first Relay on Sunday.

The organiser shall make available to the team leaders:

- registration forms for the Relays (3 people);
- a set of 3 race numbers per team (for example: Switzerland 1a, Switzerland 1b, Switzerland 1c).

The title is contested in the following categories:

Ladies (3 ladies from the same country, aged 15 years old and older), who have participated to the ongoing championship;

Men (3 men from the same country, aged 15 years old and older), who have participated to the ongoing championship.

#### Mixed teams:

Mixed teams are allowed to participate (men, ladies, differing countries), but have no right to a title; their results will be displayed with the remark “unclassified”;

A team comprised of 2 men and 1 lady will start with the “Men’s” Relay

A team comprised of 2 ladies and 1 man will start with the “Ladies” Relay

#### Distance:

from 1 to 1.5 km, to be run once by each competitor.

#### Regulations:

- the minimum age of the dog shall be 12 months completed;
- the lead shall be fitted with a shock absorber;
- the lead shall be a maximum of 2.00 m when extended;
- footwear fitted with metal spikes is forbidden;
- it is strongly recommended that a belt be worn;
- it is strictly forbidden to change dogs during the competition.
- bells and other objects that make any noise are forbidden during the race.

For the Relay, the athlete making the 1st Relay shall present himself or herself at the start with:

- the “Country” race number attached to their chest and legible;
- the competitor, with their dog in front of them, shall position themselves behind the start line, ready to start.

#### Chronology:

The first relay runner shall run his first race of approximately 1 km, he will then hand over his dog to his assistant inside the designated area that shall be clearly indicated. An area approximately 30 metres long shall be clearly marked by the organiser.

On the line indicating the end of the handover area, stewards will prevent those athletes who have not handed over their dog to their assistant from passing.

The athlete continues to run so that he can transfer the baton (touch a shoulder with his hand) to the 2<sup>nd</sup> relay runner, who is waiting behind the start line with his dog in front of him;

the 2<sup>nd</sup> relay runner does the same thing; the last relay runner completes their run with their dog.

The first team to cross the finish line will be declared the winner of the European Championships, except if the team has not observed the rules, and provided it is not subject to a protest.

The organiser must provide a correct classification showing the time for each team that has run.

He may also carry out veterinary and anti-doping checks at any moment.

## Chapter 27: Equipment

### a) Race regulations for the Canicross:

- the minimum age of the dog shall be 12 months completed;
- the dog must wear a harness that shall not protrude or injure the dog;
- the lead shall be fitted with a shock absorber;
- the lead shall be a maximum of 2.00 m when extended;
- footwear fitted with metal spikes is forbidden;
- it is strongly recommended that a belt be worn;
- it is strictly forbidden to change dogs during the competition.
- bells and other objects that make any noise are forbidden during the race.

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### Children:

Children aged from 7 to 10 years old (categories boys and girls - schoolboys and schoolgirls) must run the full distance; attached by a twin lead to an adult as a safeguard.

If the adult is too ambitious and presses the child, or the dog, too much, the child will be awarded a 1-minute penalty.

The adult can never run in front of the child or else the child will be awarded a 1-minute penalty.

He can only intervene in the event of a problem.

Parents shall select a dog for their child that is suited to the possible performance;

b) Regulations for the Bikejöring race:

- the minimum age of the dog shall be 12 months completed;
- from the 01 January, 2011, the minimum age of the dog shall be 18 months completed.
- the dog must wear a harness that shall not protrude or injure the dog;
- the lead shall be fitted with a shock absorber;
- the lead shall be a maximum of 2.50 m when extended (distance between the handlebar stem of the mountain bike and the dog);
- the lead is attached to the front of the mountain bike and not to the person, using a suitable system that must not protrude further than the wheel of the bicycle;
- the dog must run in front of the mountain bike, or level with the competitor as a maximum. Not behind;
- a helmet and gloves must be worn;
- it is recommended that glasses be worn;
- metal mudguards are forbidden;
- it is strictly forbidden to change dogs during the competition.
- bells and other objects that make any noise are forbidden during the race.

Checks:

Equipment checks may be carried out at any time during the competition.

In the event of any irregularities, the designated sanctions are applicable before, during and on arrival at the competition. The competitor is required to respect his dog.

He will slow down if the dog is unable to maintain the pace, and he shall adapt his speed to that of this dog.

No dog must be made to absorb any doping products intended to improve performance during the race.

#### Chapter 28: Presentation ceremony

The organising country shall ensure that the presentation ceremony, which is an integral part of the Championships, takes place immediately after publication of the last results. The winning athletes must be present. This ceremony, which is unquestionably a high point of the Championships, must be perceived as a solemn manifestation (e.g.: presentation of medals by the mayor of the town, or a former champion, or a well-known personality). Plans should be made to ensure that the ceremony can continue indoors should adverse weather occur.

#### Chapter 29: Souvenir prizes

Apart from the competitive and sporting aspects of the meeting, there are the tourist and psychological aspects of any such meeting. It is to be hoped that the organising country takes advantage of this opportunity to offer a souvenir prize to every participant.

#### Chapter 30: Finances

The organising country shall make proposals for:

The cost of inscriptions to the European Championships (races).

The cost of meals.

The cost of accommodation with details of the offer

a) separate items of expenditure

b) all-inclusive price (complete or partial).

The decision shall be taken immediately after the organising country has been designated.

#### Chapter 31: Inscriptions

The organising country receives and manages the inscriptions?? Sent to it by the national federations. Individual inscriptions are not possible. The terms and the method of payment are determined by the organising country.

## Chapter 32: Error or general problems

In the event of an error or general problem, only a decision taken by the Race Committee is valid and is not subject to appeal. The Race Committee shall meet not later than one hour after the end of the last race.

## Chapter 33: Disciplinary procedure imposed by an ECF member federation on one of its members

Whenever a country takes disciplinary measures against one of its members, it must inform all the nations of the ECF.

A member who has been banned from his national federation cannot register for the European Championships via another federation.

Any member who is excluded from his national federation and ECF competitions has the right to appeal to the ECF disciplinary committee. Should the person wish to be heard, he must bear any expenses incurred.

The disciplinary committee that judges the appeal is composed of the Czech Republic, Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.