

Latvian Sighthound and Coursing Club **Regulation for coursing competitions and tests**

1. General regulations

1.1. Aim of Regulation

This regulation aims to standardize the elements of Lure Coursing events for Sighthounds and other breeds mentioned in paragraph 1.4.1. organized within LKF / FCI system. The LKKK Lure Coursing regulations are based on FCI Regulations for International Sighthound Races and Lure Coursing Events.

1.2. Competition rank

1.2.1. International competition (CACIL)

The following certificates are awarded: "Certificats d'Aptitude au Championnat International de Lévrier" certificate (CACIL), "Reserve Certificats d'Aptitude au Championnat International de Lévrier" certificate (R.CACIL), „Candidate for Latvian Coursing Champion" certificate (CACL), qualification certificate (CQL).

1.2.2. Latvian Coursing Winner and Club Coursing Winner (CACL)

May be organized once a year. The certificate and title of "Latvian Winner / Club Coursing Winner", the „Candidate for Latvian Coursing Champion" certificate (CACL), the „Candidate for Latvian Veteran Coursing Champion" certificate (VCACL), the „Candidate for Latvian Junior Coursing Champion" certificate (JCACL) and qualification certificate (CQL) is awarded.

1.2.3. National competition (CACL)

The „Candidate for Latvian Coursing Champion" certificate (CACL), the „Candidate for Latvian Veteran Coursing Champion" certificate (VCACL), the „Candidate for Latvian Junior Coursing Champion" certificate (JCACL) and qualification certificate (CQL) is awarded.

1.2.4. LKKK Club competition

The members of all the LKF club's can take part. No certificates are awarded, but the winners and prized dogs are appointed.

LKKK has rights to organize Club coursing competitions without preliminary coordination with LKF Training Committee.

1.3. Competitions and certificate awarding

1.3.1. The certified coursing competitions are the competitions in which CACIL, CACL, JCACL, VCACL and CQL certificates are awarded and the time and place of event of which is approved by LKF Training Committee.

1.3.2. Applications to organize the certified coursing competitions have to be submitted to LKF Training Committee until the 1st December of previous year.

1.3.3. The organization of competitions can be denied in case the chosen time coincides with another important Kennel organization event.

1.4. Participants

1.4.1. In CACL rank competitions all the dogs from group X (sighthounds), FCI non-recognized sighthound breeds as well as Group V breeds (limited to Pharaoh Hound, Cirnecco dell'Etna, Podenco Ibicenco, Podenco Canario, Basenji), and from Group VI Rhodesian Ridgebacks can take part.

In CACL rank competitions (Club Winner, Latvian Winner, national competitions) Italian Sighthounds and Whippets above the size fixed in the breed standard have separate runs, and titles and CACL certificates are awarded depending on the number of participants.

1.4.2. In CACIL rank competitions all the dogs from group X (sighthounds), FCI non-recognized sighthound breeds as well as Group V breeds (limited to Pharaoh Hound, Cirnecco dell'Etna, Podenco Ibicenco, Podenco Canario, Basenji), and from Group VI Rhodesian Ridgebacks can take part.

CACIL certificates can be awarded only to dogs from group X, except those Italian Greyhounds and Whippets above the size fixed in the breed standard (for Whippets it is: 51 cm for males and 48 cm for females; for Italian Sighthounds: 38 cm). Dogs exceeding the size stated in breed standard have separate runs.

1.4.3. Start requirements:

1. The dog must have FCI / LKF recognized pedigree papers.
2. Qualification card / license.
3. Minimum age: 18 month for large breeds, 15 months small and middle-sized breeds.
4. Maximum age: not older than 8 years (Until the end of the race/lure coursing season during which the 8th year is completed).
5. The application form must be signed by the owner who is on the pedigree paper and who is a member of any FCI /LKF organization.
6. The appearance of the dog must not be artificially modified (for example, the natural coat must not be clipped).

1.5. Qualification / license card of participant

1.5.1. Qualification / license card is issued by LKF Training Committee or it's authorized organization in accordance with this Regulation and the results of qualification tests.

The following data must be stated in qualification / license card:

1. Breed, sex, dog's name, Stud Book number, date of birth and as far as possible tattooing number or chip number, name and correct address of the owner.
2. For Whippets and Italian Sighthounds, certified attestation of the height at the withers.
3. Coursing / racing competition results.

1.5.2. Qualification.

Qualification is the fulfillment of minimum requirements for the dog to be able to take part in further competitions. Based on it, the dog receives the license card which is used in the coursing competitions

Qualification tests can be accepted by one FCI / LKF coursing Judge.

In order to get the qualification the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- a) Dog must have FCI / LKF recognized pedigree.
- b) Dog must be healthy and vaccinated according to the age.
- c) Before qualification runs the dog must be walked and he shouldn't have been fed at least 6 hours before the actual run.
- d) Dog must be taken care of in case of bad weather (rain, wind).
- e) Dog must show the interest in and be enthusiastic when chasing the lure pulled by cable, and the dog should not stop until the course ends (minimum course length is 350 m).
- f) Dog should not be afraid of, interfere or show any aggression against other dogs in the course.
- g) During the course the dog must wear the muzzle and the jacket, and the dog should not protest wearing them.

1.6. Participant separation by classes

1.6.1. Participants can be separated by classes if the organizers determine so:

- Junior class: 15 (18) – 24 months,
- Open class 15 (18) months– 8 years,

- Veteran class 6–8 years.

1.6.2. Dogs may be separated by sex at competitions / tests if the organizers determine so with the condition that each class has a minimum of 3 dogs.

1.7. Rules of organizing the competition

1.7.1. Rules of organizing the competition are subject to LKF approved Competition rules.

1.7.2. The rules of organizing the competition must include:

- a) Event's organizer, place, date, regulation.
- b) Name of the Lure Coursing Director.
- c) Information about the coursing track.
- d) Entry fees.
- e) Entry closing date.
- f) Participants responsibility (1.11.paragraph).

1.8. Excusing of dogs and officials

1.8.1. Information about any dog for which there is a problem preventing it from participating must be given to the event management 7 (seven) days before the beginning of the event.

1.8.2. The officials, who are on duty for an event are bound to inform the event management of any problem 3 (three) days before the beginning of the event.

1.8.3. In all cases, the entry fees have to be paid and is not returned.

1.9. Disqualification.

1.9.1. The Judge or officials may disqualify or dismiss for the day dogs which must be encouraged to commence running or cross the finish by calling, gestures, whistling or other handling thus interfering other participants.

1.9.2. The officials must disqualify dogs which attack, try to attack other dogs or show aggression towards other participants, show low interest in lure or interferes with other participants. In contrary, it is not considered a scuffle and a reason for disqualification when a dog, with no intention of fighting, interferes due to its interest in the lure in order to give itself a clear view during the race/course, as well as immediate defensive reaction on the attack is permitted.

1.9.3. Dog stopping during the course, jumping over the ring fence but not interfering with other participants, is excluded from further competition but is not disqualified.

1.9.4. Disqualification elimination:

- 1st offence in a calendar year: suspension for the day;
- 2nd offence in a calendar year: suspension for 4 weeks;
- 3rd offence in a calendar year: suspension for 8 weeks;
- 4th offence in a calendar year – suspension until the end of the season.

1.9.5 The disqualification must be clearly noted in the license card.

1.10. Doping.

1.10.1. All kinds of doping are forbidden which could manipulate / alter the dog's performance on course.

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

1.10.3. In case the doping is proved the owner of a dog is excluded from the Kennel organization.

1.11. Responsibility disclaimer

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

1.12. Disputes

The judging is definitive and cannot be appealed.

1.13. Dog owner's disqualification

The owner of a dog may get disqualified, excluded and dismissed from the event venue in case he/she does not abide by the orders of the judge or officials, who insults them or behaves improperly, who shows cruelty or rudeness towards the dogs, or who is under influence of alcohol or drugs at the event venue. In such case the participation of the dog in event is stopped at once with mark in the license card accordingly and the earned results of all the owner's dogs at the event are canceled. Registration fee is not returned.

2. Lure coursing regulations

Coursing competitions (rank CACIL and CACL) and tests are based on “Latvian Sighthound and Coursing Club Regulation for coursing competitions and tests” approved by LKF Training committee. The dogs will run in pairs, being slipped simultaneously. During the competition each dog makes two runs. During the tests the dog may participate only in one run. The run is awarded with maximum of 20 points for each criterion: agility, speed, endurance, enthusiasm, follow.

2.1. List of officials and duties of the officials

2.1.1. Judges

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

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

Lure Coursing competitions must be judged at least by one Judge with LKF / FCI issued coursing Judge’s licence. The Judge / Judges may be assisted by one or more field observers.

2.1.2. Lure Coursing Director

The Lure Coursing Director must be a specialist with experience. He/she is the supervisor of the technology and organization. The Lure Coursing Director manages all the technical and organizing services. He/she fulfills all the judge’s instructions.

2.1.3. Field observers

Field observers may be placed on the course in order to help the judges. They must be placed in different course sectors. Their task is to control the coursing process and to report to judges any Regulation breaks during the run. Field observers who dogs are taking part in particular run are replaced by other observers during that run.

2.1.4. Starter team.

Owner/handler together with the dog waits for the start at the specially marked spot. The dog on the coursing field may be accompanied only by one person.

At the start the starter checks:

1. If the dogs are in the correct starting position.
2. If each dog has appropriate collar which is removed right before the start (collars with spikes, show ring leashes or training collars are prohibited).
3. The muzzles which must be approved by the FCI (wire, wire – plastic or plastic) are correctly positioned. The muzzle shouldn’t be too big or too small for the dog.

4. The jacket which must be the model approved by FCI including the colours is correctly positioned. The jackets shouldn't be too big or too small for the dog.

5. No dogs are wearing blinkers.

The preparation for the start, the checking and the placement in running position proceeds promptly, but without any undue hurry.

2.1.5. The Lure machine and the Lure operator

The lure machine operator receives instructions from the Lure Coursing Director and the Judges.

The location of the lure machine should be such that the operator has a clear view of the whole course.

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

2.1.6. Local veterinary surgeon

The organizer will employ a veterinary surgeon for the event to conduct the veterinary monitoring and to carry out appropriate emergency treatment. The veterinary surgeon must be present and ready to intervene during the entire event. The veterinary surgeon should observe the dogs before each run.

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

2.2.1. Terrain

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

2.2.2. Surface

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

2.2.3. Course length

The course length should be:

- From 400 to 700 metres for small and middle-sized breeds .
- From 500 to 1000 metres for all other breeds

2.2.4. Distance between pulleys

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

2.2.5. The course layout

In view of the high physical performance required of the dogs during coursing, the whole course must be clearly visible and free from any danger

The course layout must be changed for the second course of the day in case the second run is performed the same day.

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

2.3. The start

2.3.1. Jackets

The dogs will run in pairs. One will run in a red, the other in a white jacket.

2.3.2. Uneven number of entries

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

2.4. Coursing material

The organizer is obliged to ensure that all the coursing equipment is in perfect working order so that it can run without any failures. Back-up material of sufficient amount and quality to ensure a trouble free coursing event must be cared of in case of mechanical failures.

2.4.1. The lure machinery must fulfil the following requirements:

1. Be able to accelerate the lure rapidly.
2. Respond rapidly to any changes of speed.
3. Has sufficient performance in reserve.

2.4.2. Pulleys must not be of bright colours and have no glittering.

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

2.5. Judging

Lure Coursing Judges will judge the performance of the dogs on the basis of five (5) criteria: agility, speed, endurance, enthusiasm and follow. The maximum amount of points to be given for each criteria is 20 points.

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

There shall be two heats/runs, the points of which shall be added. Should there be no possibility for a second run, the points earned in the first run shall be taken into consideration for the placing.

In case two or more participants get an equal result (taking into consideration the points earned in the two runs), the dog having obtained the higher number of points during the second run will get the better placing. However if the result is still equal, the dog having obtained the higher number of points in the following sequence of importance: 1. – agility, 2. – speed, 3. – endurance, 4. – enthusiasm, 5. – follow.

2.6. Sanctions.

Only qualified Judges can impose sanctions, which must be in accordance with this Regulation.

2.6.1. Pre-slip penalty

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

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

2.6.2. Course delay

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

2.6.3. Excuse (0 points)

Judges may excuse a dog for the day which:

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

3. Certificate awarding regulation

3.1. CACL is awarded to the dog which in accordingly ranked competitions has received the highest points and CQL. If the dog already is Latvian Coursing Champion the CACL certificate is awarded to the next dog with second highest points with CQL.

3.2. If the dog has received his first **CACL**, the last one can be accepted only after the period of **eight (8) months + one (1) day**.

3.3. J.CACL is awarded to the dog which in accordingly ranked competitions has received the highest points in Junior class and CQL. **J.CACL** is not forwarded to the next dog even if the first dog is Latvian Junior Coursing champion.

3.4. V.CACL is awarded to the dog which in accordingly ranked competitions has received the highest points in Veteran class and CQL. **V.CACL** is not forwarded to the next dog even if the first dog is Latvian Veteran Coursing champion.

3.5. Latvian/Club Coursing Winner is awarded to the dog which in accordingly ranked competitions has received the highest points and CQL regardless to the number of participants in the breed.

3.6. CQL is awarded to the dog who has earned 2/3 of maximum of the point possible.

3.7. Numbers of entries and composition of the races

3.7.1. If two one breed dogs are participating 1 CACL (J.CACL, V.CACL) is awarded.

3.7.2. If not less than 6 one breed dogs are participating 2 CACL are awarded.

3.7.3. If not less than 10 one breed dogs are participating 3 CACL are awarded.

3.7.4. If less than two one breed dogs are participating no CACL (J.CACL, V.CACL) is awarded.

3.7.5. Should there be no possibility for a second run due to any reason no certificates are awarded.

4. Title „Latvian Coursing Champion” Regulations

4.1. Title „Latvian Coursing Champion” is awarded to the dog which has received three CACL certificates in the competitions organized according to these Regulations. Between the receipt of the first and the last CACL must be the period of at least eight (8) full months + one (1) day.

4.2. Title „Latvian Junior Coursing Champion” is awarded to the dog which has received two JCACL (no time restrictions).

4.3. Title „Latvian Veteran Coursing Champion” is awarded to the dog which has received two VCACL (no time restrictions).

5. Protection of animals

The safety and health of the animals must always guide all officials and participants during racing and lure coursing events. The notion of the animal's protection must always be observed. Consequently, the owner of a dog is always free to withdraw his dog from the racing or lure coursing event.

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

The use of a muzzle is compulsory for all breeds.