

Differences between FCI's and Swedish agility regulations

*according to the FCI Agility regulations valid from January 1st, 2023,
and the national Swedish regulations valid from January 1st, 2022.*

Compilation for foreign judges judging in Sweden.

The purpose of this compilation is to help foreign judges and Swedish competition organizers in their preparations. It lists the main differences between judging according to Swedish regulations compared to FCI's international regulations. Although all countries may have their own national regulations, hopefully the comparison with FCI's regulations still is useful.

Size categories in Sweden:

- Extra Small (XS): less than 28 cm
- Small (S): 28 cm and more but less than 35 cm
- Medium (M): 35 cm and more but less than 43 cm
- Large (L): 43 cm and more but less than 50 cm
- Extra Large (XL): 50 cm and more

For dogs in categories XS and L the handler may choose to compete in S and XL respectively.

Classes and levels in Sweden

- Individual Agility 1, Agility 2, Agility 3
- Individual Jumping 1, Jumping 2, Jumping 3
- Team Agility
- Team Jumping

The difference between the levels of the individual classes should be the length of the course, the chosen speed to determine the SCT and the degree of difficulty of the course. The team classes should correspond to individual Agility/Jumping 2.

Jumping height (length, depth) in Sweden:

- *Hurdle (wall)*: Class 1, XS 10-15 cm, S 20-25 cm, M 30-35 cm, L 40-45 cm and XL 50-55 cm; Class 2 and 3, XS 10-20 cm, S 20-30 cm, M 30-40 cm, L 40-50 cm and XL 50-60 cm.
- *Spread hurdle*: total depth must not exceed: XS 20 cm, S 30 cm, M 40 cm, L 50 cm, XL 55 cm.
- *Spread hurdle*: difference in height between front and rear pole: XS 5-15 cm, S-M-L-XL 15-25 cm.
- *Tyre*: XS 10-20 cm, S 20-30 cm, M 30-40 cm, L 40-50 cm and XL 50-60 cm, measured to the lowest point at the inside of the ring.
- *Long jump*: length and number of units: XS = 35-40 cm (2 units), S = 40-50 cm (2), M = 70-90 (3), L = 90-120 cm (4), XL = 120-150 cm (4-5).

Course area

- FCI: at least 20 m x 40 m
- Sweden: if possible 30 x 40 m; area at least 600 m²; no side shorter than 18 m

Course length

- FCI: between 100 m and 220 m
- Sweden: not specified.

Distance between consecutive obstacles

- FCI: 5-9 m measured according to the dog's line; the maximum straight-line distance between consecutive obstacles must not be more than 7 m.
- Sweden: 6-8 m, measured according to the dog's line.

Obstacles that must have a straight approach

- FCI: spread jump, wall, tyre
- Sweden: spread jump, wall, tyre, dog walk, see-saw, A-frame

First and last obstacle

- FCI: hurdle, wall, tyre or long jump may be used.
- Sweden: only hurdles may be used.

Specific obstacles on the course

FCI:

- Weave poles, tyre and wall can be negotiated only once.
- The course may include a maximum of 5 tunnel performances.
- An FCI Agility course must have three different types of contact obstacles (except in situations where "force majeure" occurs): a maximum of four contact obstacles may be used in an FCI Agility 2 or Agility 3 course (at the judge's discretion).
- The weave poles must be used on every course.

Sweden:

- Weave poles and tyre can be negotiated only once.
- A specific hurdle can only be negotiated twice.
- The number of contacts is 2-3 in Agility 1 and 2-4 in Agility 2-3; at least two different contact obstacles must be included in all agility classes.

Standard course time (SCT) and Maximum course time (MCT)

- FCI: in international agility competitions the SCT is determined by time of the fastest dog with the fewest course faults + 15% and rounded up to the nearest second; The MCT is determined by dividing the length of the course by 2.5 m/s in agility, 3.0 m/s in jumping.
- Sweden: the SCT is determined by the judge by dividing the course length with a chosen speed in m/s (there are recommendations for the speed in each class); the MCT is always twice the SCT.

Force majeure / Restart in Sweden

According to Swedish regulations the judge may allow a restart due to circumstances beyond the handler's control (no time registered, a pole blown down, the judge realizing he/she has incorrectly called an elimination, etc.)

- *A rerun is judged as a new run* (the dog can be faulted during the whole rerun).
- The result will never be less faults, but may be more faults, than in the first run.
- The result will equal the faults from the run with the most faults, even if the rerun is a clear run.
- The time in the rerun will count as the final time for the dog.

Elimination

These causes for elimination do not exist explicitly in Swedish regulations.

- The handler starts/stops the timing system. [In Sweden only stopping the timing system leads to elimination.]
- Replacing the dog at the start after it has crossed the start line (unless instructed by the judge).
- Dog snapping constantly at the handler.
- The handler trains on the course before/after the run.

According to Swedish regulations no *treats* are allowed in the ring (that is treats cannot be used or be visible). *Toys* are allowed in the ring before the dog passes the starting line and after the dog jumps the last obstacle. Toys cannot be visible or be heard if carried by the handler during the run.

According to Swedish regulations a *short detour by the dog outside of the ring* is allowed, if the handler quickly gets it back in control.

After elimination

- FCI: the handler and dog must leave the ring as quickly as possible, unless the judge decides otherwise.
- Sweden: the handler and dog are always allowed to finish the course within the MCT.

Marking on specific obstacles

A-frame

- FCI: the dog must touch the ascending ramp with all four paws. Failure to do so will result in an elimination.
Sweden: the dog must touch the ascending ramp with at least a part of a paw. Failure to do so is penalized with a refusal.
- FCI: the dog that alights from the obstacle before touching the descending ramp with four paws is penalised with a refusal.
Sweden: the dog leaves the obstacle from the ascending ramp is penalised with a refusal.

Dog walk

- FCI: the dog must touch the ascending ramp with all four paws. Failure to do so will result in an elimination.
Sweden: the dog must touch the ascending ramp with at least a part of a paw. Failure to do so is penalized with a refusal.
- FCI: the dog that alights from the obstacle before touching the descending ramp with four paws is penalised with a refusal.
Sweden: the dog leaves the obstacle before the descending ramp is penalised with a refusal.

See-saw

- Sweden: the dog does not have to touch the up contact on the see-saw.