



REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES FOR MKA INTERNATIONAL GROOMING COMPETITION

1. PREFACE

The purpose of these rules is to encourage the groomers to further develop and extend their skills by participating in grooming competitions.

2. OBJECTIVES OF GROOMING

The objectives of grooming are:

- to maintain a dog's health and cleanliness.
- to prevent illness by maintaining the healthy condition of skin and coat.
- to be able to enhance on the structural and anatomical strength of the dog.

3. WELFARE AND HEALTH OF DOGS

The welfare and health of dogs must be of utmost importance and priority at all grooming competitions. Consequently, the organizers must provide a physically and mentally beneficial environment for dogs (for example, ensuring water is available at all times, dog not to be standing for too long, etc.)

4. MKA GROOMING GENERAL RULES

4.1 Classification of Categories

Five (5) categories are offered in the competition. There are three (3) classes offered within each category.

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
Hand-stripping	Spaniels and Setters	Poodles	Other Pedigree Dogs Scissoring	Pet
Level A – Advanced				
Level B – Intermediate				
Level C – Apprentice				

4.1.1 Recognised Breeds

Category 1 – Hand Stripping

<i>Small Category</i>	<i>Medium Category</i>	<i>Large Category</i>
Cairn Terrier (4) Border Terrier (10) Dandie Dinmont Terrier (168) Jack Russell Terrier (345) Miniature Schnauzer (183) Norwich Terrier (72) Norfolk Terrier (272) Sealyham Terrier (74) Scottish Terrier (73) West Highland White Terrier (85)	Irish Terrier (139) Lakeland Terrier (70) Standard Schnauzer (182) Welsh Terrier (78) Wire Fox Terrier (169)	Airedale Terrier (7) Giant Schnauzer (181)

Category 2 – Spaniels & Setters

American Cocker Spaniel (167) English Cocker Spaniel (5) English Springer Spaniel (125) Irish Setter (120) English Setter (2) Gordon Setter (6)
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Category 3 - Poodles

Poodle – 4 sizes: Standard, Medium, Miniature and Toy (172)

<i>Small Category</i>	<i>Medium Category</i>	<i>Large Category</i>
Toy Poodle Miniature Poodle	Medium Poodle	Standard Poodle

Category 4 – Other Pedigree Dogs Scissoring

Bichon Frisé (215) Bedlington Terrier (9) Kerry Blue Terrier (3) Black Russian Terrier(327) Bouvier des Flandres (191) Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier (40)
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Category 5 - Pet

For all FCI-recognised breeds that are to be groomed. In this class, the candidate may enter with breeds that usually require stripping or scissoring. Salon-clip styling is very much dependent on the creativity of the contestant. There are no restrictive styles. Colouring is not allowed. Artistic clips amplifying the beauty of the dog form the basis of judging. If accessories are being used, they must not harm the dog's health and they cannot be permanent.

4.2 Classification of Classes

For confirmation of entry into a category, participants must provide proof of certificates from an FCI recognised NCO grooming competition and be in good standing with their domestic NCO.

4.2.1 Level C – Apprentice

Apprentice refers to candidates who have less than six-month experience. Dog show experience can also be taken into consideration.

Clippers are only allowed to be used by Level C participants for Category 5. Curved scissors may be used.

4.2.2 Level B – Intermediate

Intermediate Class is for those participants who have achieved a qualification at Level C. The clips attempted must be show clips or clips that are required as stipulated in the FCI breed standards.

Clippers are only allowed to be used for face, feet and ears and in Category 3 of Poodle in Continental clip.

4.2.3 Level A – Advanced

Advanced Class refers to participants who have achieved a qualification in both Apprentice Level C and Intermediate Level B, or those who have attained a qualification in Level A in any other Category. Participants for Level A must have achieved a qualification in Level B, 6 months prior. Those who have achieved a high qualification in Level B are exempted from the 6 month time frame. Participants are also encouraged to have attended at least 3 seminars organized by their own NCO or any other FCI Member/Contract Partner.

Clippers are only allowed to be used for face, feet, ears and in Category 3 of Poodle in Continental clip.

4.2.4 Master Groomer Classification

For Master Groomer, the participant must have achieved a “pass” mark in 3 Level A categories. The participant will then get the title of Silver Master Groomer.

Participants who achieve a “pass” mark in Level A in 4 categories will get the title of Gold Master Groomer.

Participants who achieve a “pass” mark in Level A in all 5 categories will get the ultimate title of Platinum Master Groomer.

4.3 Progress across categories

The qualification mark for each level is 70 points. A Distinction mark for each level is 85 points or above.

After the attaining Level A for a particular category, the participant can move on to take Level A in the categories.

Participants who qualify for Level B, achieving a distinction qualification (85 points and above), are exempted from the required time frame of 6 months to compete at the next level.

5. EXAMINER'S GUIDE

5.1 Score Sheet

A minimum of one and up to four judges will make up the judges panel.

Pictures of the dogs will be taken before and after the competition.

The average scores from these judges for the winners of each category will be taken into consideration to decide for the overall BIS winner.

Suitability of chosen style to the dog	10 points
The difficulty degree of the clip	10 points
Ability to camouflage defects and enhance beauty	10 points
Up to date with today's modern grooming styles	5 points
Respect for today's breed standard	15 points
The quality of scissoring, shaving and or stripping. The details of the groomer's work	20 points
Balance, symmetry, and smoothness	20 points
Presentation of the dog to the judge	10 points

5.2 Notes for Participants about Score Sheets

Suitability of chosen style to the dog <i>Dependent on the balance of the dog, the chosen style should cover up the flaws and amplify the good points.</i>	10 points
The difficulty degree of the clip <i>For example: Descending order of difficulty in Category 3 are ① Saddle Clip, ② Second Puppy Clip (Scandinavian Clip), ③ Continental Clip, ④ Puppy Clip, ⑤ Terrier Clip / German Clip and ⑥ Modern Clip.</i>	10 points
Ability to camouflage defects and enhance beauty <i>For example, if the dog has a dip in the topline, the person who is stripping is able to cover up the fault then extra points is allocated.</i>	10 points
Up to date with today's modern grooming styles <i>For example, the style for grooming miniature schnauzers differs from those that are 10 years ago</i>	5 points

<i>as dogs improve in conformation, "bell bottom" furnishings on the legs are no longer seen as fashionable.</i>	
Respect for today's breed standard <i>Breed standards changes and FCI has made several changes taking into account the health and the welfare of the dog as utmost importance. So groomers need to know the breed characteristics of the breed that they are grooming and are expected to amplify them.</i>	15 points
The quality of scissoring, shaving and or stripping. <i>The details of the groomer's work before grooming and after grooming will gain the majority of the points here. Judges should be looking at how detailed the groomers' work is here.</i>	20 points
Balance, symmetry, and smoothness <i>For example, length of legs must be balanced with the depth of the body, length of body must be balanced with the height according to the breed standard.</i>	20 points
Presentation of the dog to the judge <i>The health of the dog, muscle condition, condition of the coat, whiteness, etc</i>	10 points

5.3 Qualification Requirements

The qualification mark for each level is 70 points. A Distinction mark for each level is 85 points or above.

5.3.1 Tied Mark

In the situation of a tied score the judges will confer and decide who should be the winner. In case the judges are unable to come to an agreement then 2 places for that level will be awarded.

5.4 General Guide for each Level

For Level C, the qualifications would be to be able to do a maintenance clip, i.e. length of coat on the body not to be exceeding 5cm after trim. Coat on the legs and the face should not restrict movement or sight.

For Category 3 Poodles, only Lamb Clip is allowed for Level C. The basic guiding principle for a Level C groomer is the ability to groom dogs to a maintenance level.

For Level B, the qualification would be the ability to do a maintenance clip on the body but with different variations of

styles on the head. Emphasis should be on creating an appealing expression after grooming.

For Level A, participants should be able to do artistic grooming on the head, body and legs. No colouring is allowed. If accessories are used, they must not harm the dog's health and they cannot be permanent, i.e. must be removable.

6. LICENSING OF GROOMING JUDGES

Awarding of Grooming Licenses to Judges shall be solely the responsibility of the MKA

7. ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

Best in Level and Best Groomer in Show Competition

The organising NCO may also choose to offer prizes for the Top participant across each Level and then across each category as follows:

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	
Level A Winner	Level A Winner	Level A Winner	Level A Winner	Level A Winner	Overall Level A Winner
Level B Winner	Level B Winner	Level B Winner	Level B Winner	Level B Winner	Overall Level B Winner
Level C Winner	Level C Winner	Level C Winner	Level C Winner	Level C Winner	Overall Level C Winner

All the 3 Overall Level Winners go on to compete for Best Groomer in Show. The judge's decision shall be deemed final.

8. GENERAL INFORMATION

The minimal use of hairspray is allowed. In this respect the judge's decision shall be deemed final

The use of Powder/Chalk and Volumiser is breed-specific and not allowed for just any breed. Breeds that require it are West Highland White Terrier, Fox Terrier (Wire), Welsh Terrier & Schnauzers (all sizes). Use of those items should be done before the start of the competition.

Any products that change the colour, nature and texture of the coat will not be allowed.

Participants must be older than 18 years old. Those under 18 require parental consent.

Model dogs must not be groomed for 45 days or more prior to the date of the competition except for the Rolled Coated Stripping breeds.

There will be a compulsory 10-minute break for dogs and/or contestants to rest in the middle of the competition.

Model dogs for Poodle Puppy Clip must be under 15 months old.

The contestants must provide their own model dogs and their own grooming tools.

The contestants must ensure that their dogs are duly vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination if required by the organiser.

A grooming arm is allowed. However, the safety and welfare of dogs is of utmost importance. If a dog is found to be short of breath on the table due to the use of a grooming arm, points must be deducted.

Points will be deducted if the groomer is found to be untidy with his equipment.

Contestants need to be in the ring 30 minutes before the start of the competition for prejudging.

Dummy dogs are permitted in Class C only when its use is permitted and stated beforehand.

9. TIMING

Category 1	Small Category	Medium Category	Large Category
Handstripping	2 hrs	2 hrs 30 min	3 hrs

Category 2	
All Setters, American Cockers, English Cockers, Springers	2 hrs 30 min

Category 3	Small Category	Medium Category	Large Category
	1 hr 45 min	2 hrs 15 min	2 hrs 45 min

Category 4	
Bichon, Bedlington	2 hrs
Kerry Blue Terrier, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Black Russian Terrier, Bouvier	2 hrs 30 min

Category 5	Small Breeds	Medium & Large Breeds
With Clippers (Level C only)	2 hrs	2 hrs
Without Clippers (All Levels)	2 hrs	2 hrs

Candidates unsure which size category their dogs fall under must clarify this before the start of the competition and be certified by the judges or show official.

The participating dog in Category 3 is allowed to be clipped in the area of its face, feet, belly and anus before the start of the competition.

10. MICELLANEOUS

From time to time, some changes to these rules may be necessary. Amendments of these Rules and Regulations shall be decided solely by the MKA Central Committee, as and when deemed necessary.

Approved February 2023