



MKA FCI APAC GROOMING CERTIFICATION RULES & REGULATIONS

1. EUROPEAN AND ASIAN GROOMING

Introduction

European Grooming breaks different breeds down into categories as different classes of competition, eg. Scissoring, stripping, thinning, and a different class based on poodle.

In Asian Grooming, the poodle is largely used as a grooming model and Asian Grooming is broken down only into Classes A, B and C.

2. APAC GROOMING COMMISSION ESTABLISH BACKGROUND

The FCI Asia Pacific (APAC) Grooming Commission combines benefits of current Asian Grooming Competitions, together with European Grooming Section's health and beauty considerations.

The APAC Grooming Commission takes into consideration the nature of different types of grooming competitions in the USA, Europe and Asia.

The purpose of the APAC Grooming Commission competitions is that it allows groomers to progress vertically upwards in their course of study as well as laterally across different disciplines as they progress.

American grooming competitions also involves grooming dogs into pet clips, artistic and creative clips.

All grooming breeds are divided into different groups, in order to develop the true all-breed groomer.

It is important to involve groomers from the pet industry and encourage participation from pet owners and professionals in order to ensure sustainable growth of this sport.

Not only is it important to allow an avenue for professionals to be actively involved, we must create a system of education that promotes their continual learning. This will be the only way to achieve sustained participation.

3. APAC GROOMING GENERAL RULES

3.1 Classification of Categories

5 categories will be offered in the competition. There will be 3 classes offered within each category.

Category 1 Handstripping	Category 2 Spaniels and Setters	Category 3 Poodles	Category 4 Other Pure Breed Scissoring	Category 5 Commercial/Pet Breed Grooming
Level A - Advanced				
Level B - Intermediate				
Level C - Beginner				

3.1.1 Recognised Breeds

Category 1

Airedale Terrier
Cairn Terrier
Dandie Dinmont Terrier
Irish Terrier
Lakeland Terrier
Schnauzer (Miniature, Standard and Giant)
Norwich Terrier
Norfolk Terrier
Sealyham Terrier
Scottish Terrier
Welsh Terrier
West Highland White Terrier
Wire Fox Terrier

Category 2

American Cocker Spaniel
English Cocker Spaniel
English Springer Spaniel
Irish Setter
English Setter
Gordon Setter

Category 3

Poodle – 4 sizes: Standard, Medium, Miniature and Toy.

Standard size: Over 45cm up to 60cm

Medium size: Over 35cm up to 45cm

Miniature Size: Over 28cm up to 35cm

Toy size: Over 24cm up to 28cm

Category 4

Bichon Frisé

Bedlington Terrier

Kerry Blue Terrier

Black Russian Terrier

Bouvier

Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

Category 5

For all FCI recognised breeds groomed commercially. In this class, the candidate may enter with breeds that usually require stripping or scissoring. Pet 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 forms the basis of judging. If accessories are being used, it must not harm the dog's health and it cannot be permanent.

3.2 Classification of Classes

3.2.1 Level C – Beginners

Beginners refer to candidates who have less than six months experience. Dog show experiences can also be taken into consideration. The participant will be allowed to compete in this class for the whole year both in his home country and internationally.

From the second year onwards, this participant must move on to the Intermediate Class on the condition that he has passed the Beginners Class. Participants can choose another category for the Intermediate Class.

Clippers are only allowed to be used by Level C participants for Category 5. All participants for Beginner Class (Level C) cannot use curved scissors.

3.2.2 Level B – Intermediate

Intermediate Class is for those participants who have passed Level C 12 months prior, or in the case of those who score more than 85 in the Level C certification they are exempt from the 12 month time frame. The participant will be allowed to compete in this class for the whole year. The clips attempted must be show clips or clips that are required as stipulated in the FCI breed standards.

From the third year onwards, this participant must move on to the Advanced Class on the condition that they have passed the Intermediate class. Participants can choose another category for the Advanced Class.

Clippers are only allowed to be used in other Categories and Levels for face, ears and also for shaving of Poodles in appropriate clips that require shaving.

3.2.3 Level A – Advanced

Advanced Class refers to participants who have passed both Beginners Level C and Intermediate B Class or those who have attained a Level A in any other Category. Participants for Level A must have passed Level B certification 12 months prior, or in the case of those who score more than 85 in the Level B certification they are exempt from the 12 month time frame. Participants must also have attended at least 3 seminars by any recognised or affiliate clubs. The participant can also take into account seminars attended internationally under this scheme.

Clippers are only allowed to be used in other Categories and Levels for face, ears and also for shaving of Poodles in appropriate clips that require shaving.

3.2.4 Master Groomer Classification

For master groomer, the participant must have achieved a pass mark at least Level A in 3 categories. This participant will then be called Silver Master Groomer.

For those participants who achieved a pass mark in Level A in 4 categories they will get the title Gold Master Groomer.

For those participants who have achieved a pass mark in Level A in all 5 categories they will get the ultimate title of Platinum Master Groomer.

3.3 Progress across categories

After the attainment of Level A for a particular category, the participant can move on to take part in Level A of another category 12 months later.

The passing marks for each level is 70 points. If a participant can achieve 85 and above, he can be exempted from the required time frame of 12 months.

3.4 National Teams

From the points accumulated in the whole year, the winners from each category will then form the national team of the country.

3.5 Seminars

Seminars by the organising club have to be conducted in at least 3 different categories. The purpose of the seminars is for continual education of the participants. Before advancing to A class, the Advanced Level, the participant must have attended at least 3 seminars of different categories.

Category 1 Handstripping	Category 2 Spaniels and Setters	Category 3 Poodles	Category 4 Other Pure Breed	Category 5 Commercial/Pet Breed Grooming
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			Scissoring	
A Class - Advanced				
B Class - Intermediate				
C Class - Beginner				

4. EXAMINER'S GUIDE

4.1 Score Sheet

A minimum of two and up to four judges will make up the judging panel depending on each NCO.

In each category, there will be 3 contestants placed per Level.

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 calculation 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	5 points
The quality of scissoring, shaving and or stripping. The details of the groomer's work	30 points
Balance, symmetry, and smoothness	20 points
Presentation of the dog to the judge	10 points

4.2 Notes for Judges & 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: a saddle clip is much more difficult than a second puppy clip. A second puppy clip is more difficult than a continental clip. A continental clip is more difficult than a lamb clip. But doesn't mean that a contestant always chooses the most difficult clip. It has to suit the body balance of the dog as well.</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	5 points

<i>For example, the style for grooming miniature schnauzers differs from those that are 10 years ago 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>	5 points
The quality of scissoring, shaving and or stripping. The details of the groomer's work <i>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>	30 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

4.3 Pass Mark

The passing marks for each level is 70 points. If a participant can achieve 85 and above, he can be exempted from the required time frame of 12 months.

4.3.1 Tied Mark

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

4.4 General Guide for each Level

For Level C, the passing criteria 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 be restricting movement or sight.

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

For Level B, the passing criteria would be to be able to do a maintenance clip on the body but with different variation 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 or accessories can be used.

5. JUDGING PANEL

Judges shall be recommended by APAC's National Canine Organisation (NCO) or nominated by the APAC Grooming Commission. Other than the above two sources, any individual who wishes to obtain the grooming judging license have to sit for the assessment provided by APAC Grooming Commission and have at least completed 3 Categories at Advanced level.

6. ORGANISATION OF COMPETITION

6.1 Entry forms

All participants must fill out the relevant entry forms and make payment for the entry fees. Certification fees are payable upon achieving the pass mark. Certificates will be issued to the participants who make the relevant grade.

6.2. 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	<i>Overall Level Winner</i>				
Level B Winner	<i>Overall Level Winner</i>				
Level C Winner	<i>Overall Level Winner</i>				

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

6.3 Open competition

Should they wish, NCO's may also choose to offer an Open Competition for those not competing for certification to show off their grooming skills and win awards on offer. These competitions and the rules to be determined and published on the entry form by the NCO.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

Minimal use of hairspray is allowed in Level B and A only. This applies to all categories.

The use of Powder/Chalk and Volumiser is breed dependent and not allowed for just any breeds. Breeds that require it are West Highland White Terrier, Fox Terrier (Wire), Welsh Terrier & Schnauzers (all sizes).

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

Model dogs must be over 10 months old.

Model Dogs for Puppy clip must be over 10 months and under 18 months old.

Contestants must provide their own model dogs and their own grooming tools and table.

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

8. TIMING

Category 1	Small Up to 35.5cm in height	Medium Over 35.5cm and up to 46cm in height	Large Over 46cm in height
Handstripping	2 hrs	2 hrs	2 hrs

Category 2	
All Setters, American Cockers, English Cockers, Springers	2.5 hrs

Category 3	Up to 35 cm	35cm - 45cm	Over 45 cm
	2 hrs	2 hrs	2 hrs

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

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

If candidates are not sure when size category their dogs fall under this should be clarified before the start of the competition and agreed upon by the judges

9. MICELLANEOUS

Please take note that from time to time some changes to these rules may be necessary. Amendments of these Rules and Regulations shall be decided solely by the APAC Grooming Commission as and when deemed necessary.

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