INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS

General Aspects

Competitors can register for the following categories:
Handstripping (Stripping), Spaniels and Setters, Poodles, Scissors other pure breeds.

- **Beginner (Principianti)*:** Maximum 2 years of experience. Dog shows also count as experience. Competitors can compete as a "Beginner" in different competitions for 12 months, even in case of victory. In the second year, they must move to the "Intermediate" class, even if they have never won. In this class, all breeds and techniques are grouped together, but organizers may divide the Beginner class into the four main categories. Moving to the Intermediate class after winning a category does not allow the competitor to compete as a Beginner again, even in different categories.
- **Intermediate (Intermedia)*:** All competitors with more than 2 years of experience. Competitors can compete as an "Intermediate" in different competitions for 12 months, even in case of victory. In the second year, they must move to the "Open" class, even if they have never won. In this class, all breeds and techniques are grouped together, but organizers may divide the Intermediate class into the four main categories. Moving to the Open class after winning a category does not allow the competitor to compete as an Intermediate again, even in different categories. Competitors who have already competed in the Open class can no longer compete in the Intermediate class.
- **Commercial (Commerciale)*:** Competitors can enter with any breed recognized by the FCI for commercial grooming: breeds that usually require stripping can be clipped or scissored; long-coated breeds can be clipped or scissored. Poodles are allowed only if groomed in Asian style or shaped like another breed (such as Bedlington or Kerry Blue). Coloring is not permitted. In this category, all breeds and techniques are grouped together.
** These categories do not compete for Best in Show.*

In competitions where "Open" and "Champion" classes are provided, competitors will register for their respective class based on their previous results. For each category, the competitor can compete in one of the following two classes:

- **Open:** Any groomer coming from the Intermediate class or who has not yet competed in the Champion class. Open competitors will need three victories, achieved in a class with no fewer than five competitors, to move to the "Champion" class. Along with the prize, winners will receive a certificate. The three certificates must be shown at the time of registration for the "Champion" class.
- **Champion:** Competitors who have already won their category in this same class, and competitors who have won the Open class three times in the same category (in a class with no fewer than five competitors and only by displaying the three certificates), can be admitted to the "Champion" class.

INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

To participate in the Tournament, competitors must compete in at least three main categories.

Competition Times

- **Handstripping without the use of clippers:**
  - Small and medium sizes: 2:30 hours
  - Large sizes: 3:00 hours
- **Handstripping with the use of clippers:**
  - Small sizes: 2:00 hours

- Medium sizes: 2:15 hours
- Large sizes: 2:30 hours
- **Spaniels and Setters:**
- All Setters, American Cockers, English Cockers, Springers...: 2:30 hours
- **Poodles:**
- Up to 35 cm: 2:00 hours*
- From 35 to 45 cm: 2:15 hours
- Over 45 cm: 2:30 hours
  ** An extra 15 minutes is granted to fix the top knot with hairspray.*
- **Other Coats:**
- Bichon, Bedlington: 2:00 hours
- Kerry Blue Terrier, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Black Russian Terrier, Bouvier: 2:30 hours
- **Intermediate:**
- All breeds: 2:30 hours
- **Beginners:**
- All breeds: 2:30 hours
- **Commercial:**
- Small and medium sizes: 1:30 hours
- Large sizes: 2:00 hours
- **Fantasy Style:**
- Small and medium sizes: 2 hours
- Large sizes: 2 hours 30 min
- **Model Dog:**
- All: 2:00 hours
- **Pair Competition (Gara a Coppia):**
- SPANIEL: 1:30 hours
- STRIPPING: 1:30 hours (small and medium sizes) - 1:45 hours (large sizes)
- OTHER COATS: 1:30 hours
- POODLES: 1:30 hours + 15 min top knot (small and medium sizes) - 1:45 hours + 15 min top knot (large sizes)
  A 5-minute relaxation break must be granted 1 hour after the start of the competition, taking the dogs off the tables to give them a chance to stretch their legs.

Grooming Regulations

Dogs must be washed (except for handstripping dogs). Ears and nails must be cared for; the abdomen, genitals, and hindquarters of the dog may be previously groomed for hygienic reasons, according to the breed standard.

No visible lines or obvious sharp edges should be present. The dog's coat must have at least two months of growth; the hair must be long enough to allow the groomer to make a difference in its final appearance. Competitors competing with dogs showing obvious lines or groomed less than two months prior must be aware that they will have no chance of fighting for victory.

All grooming techniques are permitted, provided that the chosen technique suits the dog's coat type.

Categories

- **Handstripping / Spaniel & Setter:** Stripping knives are allowed. The dog must be groomed according to the breed standard. Colored chalk in powder/block/spray form and creams are permitted. The use of clippers is not allowed except for:
  - **Scottish Terrier:** underbelly, head, and ears.
  - **West Highland Terrier:** chest and ears.
  - **Cockers and Setters:** chest and ears.
  - **Schnauzer:** chest, head, inside of hind legs, and ears.
- **Poodles / Pure Breeds:** The dog must be washed and dried, keeping the coat fluffy. Clipper guard combs (attachments) are not allowed.
- **Poodle Category:** The face and feet of the poodle must be shaved before the start of the competition. Poodles must be groomed in a style recognized by the breed standard. The "Modified Continental" line may be accepted, provided that it clearly derives from the Continental clip, maintains the characteristic profile of the breed, and does not conflict with proper show presentation or the essential requirements of the breed standard. For poodles with a top knot, it is possible to request the help of an external assistant to hold the dog still. Coloring is not permitted.

Competitors

On the registration form, competitors must indicate the breed of the dog to be groomed and, for the Poodle class, also the haircut that will be performed. A signature is required for acceptance of all rules. Competitors must be in the ring 30 minutes before the start of the competition with their dog and equipment.

Competitors are not allowed to talk to other competitors and/or the public during the competition. The use of mobile phones and/or any electronic devices is prohibited during the competition.

The use of chalk is allowed, however, judges must be able to comb through the dog's entire body both during pre-judging and at the end of the competition; no trace must remain on the judges' hands after judging, under penalty of disqualification.

On Poodle coats, hairspray can only be used on the top knot, as the comb must glide smoothly during judging. Excessive use of hairspray and the use of volumizing or texturizing shampoos/conditioners can penalize the "Scissors Pure Breeds" category if the coat cannot be combed smoothly.

The coat thinning comb must be used on Spaniels and Setters without exaggeration. In Handstripping dogs, the legs, abdomen, and ears must not be prepared before the competition.

Any improper or aggressive language used toward the judges, as well as a dog handled roughly or unsafely, can lead to disqualification. Any disqualification will be executed by the Head Judge (President of Giuria).

At the end of the competition, competitors must remove all hair, equipment, and products from the grooming table, moving all material to the floor under the table to allow judges easy approach to the tables for judging. A comb must be placed on the table for the judge's use during evaluation.

Competitors may comb their dogs before and after the jury has evaluated their subjects. Competitors must stack their dog to present it to the judge. Dogs not currently under judgment must not be forcibly kept in a stack position.

Any complaint must be in writing, submitted before the end of the event, and will cost €25.

"Open Class" competitors will need three victories, achieved in a class with no fewer than five competitors, to move to the "Champion" class. Along with their prize, winners will receive a certificate. The three certificates must be shown at the time of registration for the "Champion" class. "Champion Class" winners will receive, along with their prizes, a certificate to keep and attach to any application to become an EGA judge.

Organizers

- **Head Judge (Presidente di Giuria):** Each event organizer must appoint a Head Judge who participates in the judging alongside the assigned judges. The President is responsible for time management and informing competitors, and may appoint a spokesperson.
- **Judges' Accommodation:** Organizers are responsible for providing judges with hotel accommodation, meals (from the evening before the competition until departure), reimbursement of travel expenses, and a daily attendance fee (per diem) of €200.
- **Brand Affiliation:** Judges associated with a particular brand cannot judge competitors sponsored by or working for the same brand.
- **Minimum Number of Competitors:** Each class should have at least three competitors.
- **Equipment Supply:** Organizers must provide grooming tables and use EGA judging sheets. They must also print and deliver certificates proving placement to the winners of the Open and Champion classes.
- **Competition Results:** Must be sent to the EGA Secretariat.
- **Adjustment of Judges Based on Participants:** If fewer than 40 competitors register for the competition, the organizer may opt for two judges instead of three per class.
- **Supply of Dogs for Demos/Seminars:** Dogs provided for demonstrations or seminars must be suitable for showing the judge's skills. Judges have the right to refuse them if the dogs are not appropriate.

Additional Classes

Organizers may add extra competition classes such as "Asian Style", "Model Dog", or "Pair Competition". These can be judged by individuals not included in the EGA judges list, provided they are accompanied by EGA judges.

Workshop Class (Commercial)

Competitors can enter with any breed recognized by the FCI to be commercially groomed: breeds that usually need to be stripped can be clipped or scissored; long-coated breeds can be clipped or scissored. Poodles are accepted only to be groomed in Asian style or in different breed shapes like Bedlington or Kerry Blue. Coloring is not permitted. Single class with all breeds judged together, they can be judged by non-EGA judges as long as they are accompanied by EGA judges.
This category does not compete for the final Best in Show.

Fantasy Style

All groomers can participate. Class reserved for non-standard haircuts, of purebred and mixed-breed dogs, with commercial cuts in Asian, Korean, or Fusion style.
It is divided into two classes: Open and Champion. Only those who have won at least one gold in the Asian Style, Fantasy Style, or Fusion categories can register for the Champion class.
Coloring the dogs is not allowed; glitter and ornaments can be applied, but they must allow the judge to comb the dog freely everywhere.
This category can be judged by non-EGA judges as long as they are accompanied by an

EGA judge.
This category does not compete for the final Best in Show.

Model Dog

The Model Dog Class aims to highlight the maximum expression of creativity, allowing contestants to perform work with their own unique and original style. It is not necessary to follow specific standards, and the Model Dog can be prepared at home, combed, or brought already finished. All decorations must be applied during the competition. Colors, hairsprays, sequins, glitter, decorative glues, and accessories of various types are allowed, while the base color can be applied at home before the competition.
It will be possible to add themed clothes matching your Model Dog. The Model Dog must be provided by the participant, as it is not the responsibility of the organization.
This category also does not participate in Best in Show.

PAIR COMPETITION (Gara a Coppia)

The dog must be groomed simultaneously exactly in half, including the head and tail. The competitor cannot cut, strip, or trim the side of their partner. In such a case, they will be excluded from the competition.
For dogs with a top knot, the rule states that only one competitor can apply hairspray, and an extra 15 minutes is provided.
Partners can talk to each other. Anyone who talks to the public will be eliminated.
The pair that starts the championship must always remain the same in all competitions. If you decide to change partners, you start over from 0 points.
The pair competition will be divided into 4 classes: SPANIEL - STRIPPING - OTHER COATS - POODLES.
A Ring Steward (Commissario di ring) may be present during the competition. There will be two EGA judges to better monitor the progress of the competition.
For judgments and rules, reference is made to the EGA regulations.
This category will not participate in Best in Show.

BEST TEAM COMPETITION (La Gara Miglior Team)

The team must consist of 4 members, communicated to the office.
Each member must groom only one class, and it must be different: SPANIEL - STRIPPING - OTHER COATS - POODLES, in either Open or Champion classes.
Each member must groom only one class and a different one.
There will be two EGA judges to better monitor the progress of the competition.
For judgments and rules, reference is made to the EGA regulations.
The winning team is the one that obtains the highest score given by the sum of the judgments of the works carried out.
This category will not participate in Best in Show.

Beginner and Intermediate Classes

It is mandatory for Beginner and Intermediate classes to be judged by "All-Round" judges. These judges must possess the skills to evaluate various breeds and styles, ensuring a complete and fair evaluation in these categories.

Judges

Three judges will evaluate each category.
Judges cannot judge their own relatives and/or employees.

Judges working for a brand cannot judge competitors sponsored by or working for the same brand.
Judges cannot leave the ring during the competition without the permission of the Head Judge.
The "Champion" class must be judged rigorously.
Individuals not included in the EGA judges list cannot be nominated to judge any main competition class.

Judging

Photos of the dogs will be taken before and after the competition. Judges will examine each dog during pre-judging and final judging, taking into account the following aspects:

- Suitability of the chosen style relative to the dog.
- Degree of difficulty of the cut.
- Ability to camouflage defects and enhance aesthetic qualities.
- Alignment with modern and current grooming styles.
- Respect for today's breed standard.
- The quality of scissoring, shaving, and/or stripping after combing through.
- Balance, symmetry, and smoothness of the work.
- Presentation of the dog to the judge.
  ** International differences in style will be taken into account (for example, American or Scandinavian style).*

Judges may decide, at their discretion, not to award prizes.

Poodles

The quality of clipper work: whether the feet, face, and tail are shaved with the appropriate blade. All clipper work must be smooth and uniform, without tufts of hair around the lips, eyes, and paw pads.

Hand Stripping

There must be no pink areas or visible bald patches. Hair must be removed following the direction of coat growth and without causing pain. The use of a carding tool to remove undercoat is allowed only after handstripping has been performed. "Rolling coats" are acceptable; however, the work done in the ring must be sufficient to allow the groomer to make a distinct change to the dog's appearance.
If clippers are used to trim soft hair on the head or ears, front of the neck, or inside the hind legs, these areas must be neatly adjusted and blended with the appropriate blade. Clipper work must blend harmoniously with the furnishings or feathering rather than separating sharply.
Excessive use of scissors will be penalized.

Pure Breeds and Spaniels & Setters

If thinning shears are used: the thinned areas must blend smoothly and create a natural appearance. The decision of the judges will be final and binding.

SCORES

In the four main categories (Handstrip, Spaniel and Setter, Poodles, and Scissors other pure breeds), the judging system is based on points. Each judge assigns 10 points to the first place, 8 points to the second, and 6 points to the third in each class. Each judge will

have their own ranking. By adding up the points from all judges, the Head Judge will obtain the final ranking.
Only in case of a tie will the Head Judge consult with the judges to establish the definitive ranking.

Handling (Manipolazione)

Judges can issue a warning to any competitor seen handling a dog roughly or unsafely. A second warning will result in disqualification. If the competitor causes clipper burns, nicks, or cuts, they cannot be placed among the winners.

IMPORTANT

Dogs inside the hosting Center must be kept on a leash, and the owner must clean up their animal's waste, both in common areas and outside the building.

In hotel rooms, dogs must be kept inside a crate; they cannot be left free or allowed onto the beds.
Dogs cannot be groomed in hotel rooms, nor can rooms be left dirty with hair, or hotel towels used for dogs, or towels taken from rooms, under penalty of a fine ranging from a minimum of €100.00 to €2,000.00, to be settled directly with the hotel.

A grooming room will be set up at the facility where you can wash your dogs, by appointment to be booked online. You will find a bulletin board displayed on the door of the washing room where your appointment will be noted (washing room open from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturday, and from 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday). Those who do not respect the fixed appointment times are not guaranteed to be able to wash their dog. For washing, the tub cannot be occupied for more than 30 minutes. Towels must belong to the groomer.

Dogs with an Italian Microchip must be vaccinated with normal DHPPi+L vaccines. Rabies vaccination or a passport is not required for Italian dogs. It is recommended to always have the vaccination booklet with you because there will be a health inspection by the USL SANITARIA throughout the event.
All dogs coming from abroad must be vaccinated against rabies and possess a passport in compliance with all vaccinations. The organization advises keeping each animal inside its own crate to avoid any inconvenience.

Participants, visitors, judges, and anyone inside the hosting facility, even as a simple visitor, cannot object to the use of their image and name for advertising, web, print, editorial, or informal purposes.

The organization declines all responsibility throughout the event, including the competition, seminars, and trade fair, for theft, loss, illness, or death of animals caused by bites, or for any reason. Candidates are solely responsible for their belongings, tools, and dogs, and for any accident caused to the hosting structure, the hotel, and other damages caused by their dogs, whether to property or people. The organization is not responsible for any negligence or damage caused by people, animals, or property during the entire event. (It is recommended to bring a crate to keep your dog with you to avoid damaging the premises where the dog will be present).

Dogs cannot be brought into the Restaurant, but can be left inside the hall housed in their crate. There will be no surveillance inside the hall, therefore dogs left behind will be under your total responsibility and will not be guarded by the organization.

By the mere fact of registering for the demonstrations-seminars or the competition, participants and judges imply that they have read all the rules listed above and accept the regulations in their entirety.

The MED CUP is:

- Organized by Grooming Project cultural association.
- Under EGA (EUROPEAN GROOMING ASSOCIATION) regulations.
  In case of dispute over a title already awarded, each of the two bodies will express its opinion, and the majority will determine whether the title is confirmed or not. For all remaining competition rules, the official Regulations of the E.G.A. will prevail.

COMPETITOR'S DECLARATION

As a competitor, I DECLARE that I have read and understood the competition regulations and rules, and I ACCEPT them by the simple fact of registering for the MED CUP and seminars, in the competition, or as a simple visitor. I acknowledge that the organization has the right to use any image of me taken during the event (photo or video) and data (names of competitors or those registered for seminars, whether free or paid) for the purpose of promoting future events or for information.
By participating in the MED CUP, the sole fact of registering for the Competitions, Demonstrations, as a visitor or as an accompanying person, implies that the Class Regulations, E.G.A. rules, Pair Competition rules, Team Competition rules, and all general rules have been viewed and accepted.

On the registration form, whether paper or online, Italian nationals must indicate their Fiscal Code (Codice Fiscale), which the participant must obligatorily have. Beginners must show a certificate of a commercial technical course showing their first approach to grooming. Any damage caused by you is under your total responsibility.

The EGA council and the organization of the MED CUP do not have the means to check the registrations of competitions and competitors, and rely on the good faith of the registrants, which is signed at the time of joining the competition and implied with registration.
The assigned title is automatically revoked if the required rules are not respected.
It is understood that competitors who register for the competition accept all points of these regulations.