



International Search and Rescue Dog Organisation

Guideline for the Execution of an IRO World Championship

First Edition	16.09.2000
Revision / Approved	09.04.2024 (VS 128)
Last Revision / Approved	<p>09.04.2024 (VS 128): 6.3.+6.4. Qualification</p> <p>10.09.2024 (VS 125) 6.14 Increase entry fee</p> <p>24.11.2019 (VS 107):</p> <p>6.3. Qualification period for L-WCH; 7.4. Veterinarian</p> <p>26.11.2018 (VS 98): 4. Costs</p> <p>09.09.2018 (VS 102): 6.14. Cancellation Fees</p> <p>20.01.2018 (VS 99): 7.4. Veterinarian</p> <p>21.12.2017 (VS 97): Eligibility and Registration</p> <p>19.12.2017 (Circular resolution): 4. Costs</p> <p>11.06.2017 (VS 96): 6.13 Registration Fee</p> <p>21.03.2017 (Circular resolution): 2. Duration</p>

TABLE OF CONTENT

- 1. GENERAL..... 3**
- 2. EXECUTION..... 3**
- 3. AWARDING OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 3**
- 4. COSTS..... 4**
- 5. PREPARATION AND EXECUTION 4**
- 6. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS 5**
- 7. TESTING GROUNDS AND SCHEDULING..... 7**
- 8. COMPETITION OFFICE AND RESULTS 10**
- 9. JUDGES AND SUPERVISING PERSONS 11**

- APPENDIX A – PUBLIC RELATION AND COMMERCIALISATION..... 13**

1. General

- 1.1. In general, the rules set down in the IPO-R have authority and are to be adhered to exactly. Hereafter, the rules and regulations are supplemented or rather are defined more precisely and the requirements for the hosting NRO are set down.
- 1.2. In addition to this manual, the rules and regulations of the Guidelines for organising IRO Testing Events are valid, provided that there is no other regulation in this manual.
- 1.3. In cases of doubt and matters concerning the world championship, which are not specified in this manual, these are ultimately decided upon by the President of the IRO along with the Judges concerned and the Supervising Judge for the world championship, who has been designated by the IRO Executive Board.

2. Execution

- 2.1. The execution must always include at least two categories as set down in the IPO-R whereby the hosting organisation selects these. The duration of the competition days shall not exceed 5 days. The announcement has to be in the highest test level of each of the categories.
- 2.2. A minimum of eight dogs must definitely be registered for a category in order for this category to be conducted.

3. Awarding of World Championship

- 3.1. Each National Rescue Dog Organisation (NRO) of the IRO is able to apply to host a championship and an application for the allocation has to be sent to the IRO Office. Applications to host the event have to be received by the IRO Office until the championship of the previous year.
- 3.2. The Spokesperson for Training or a person nominated by him, has to visit the work sites 1 year prior to the WCH to check the vegetation and weather conditions at this season on site and to check other relevant factors of influence of the event (e.g. infrastructure). If necessary, the Scent Supervisor may join, to visit the tracking area.
The Spokesperson for Training has to present a reasoned proposal in regard to an execution of the WCH at an IRO Executive Board Meeting. Should the conditions for a duly realisation appear risky, an alternative has to be proposed.
- 3.3. The awarding is decided on the basis of a majority vote of the IRO Executive Board. In the case of a tied vote, the President of the IRO shall have the deciding vote. The IRO Executive Board assigns the organisation and the execution of the world championship to a NRO or may organise this event itself in cooperation with a partner organisation.

- 3.4. A written agreement on the execution of the world championship is signed with the organising NRO. In this agreement it is stated, what provided services will be financially compensated in which height.
- 3.5. A list concerning the field of activities and responsibilities for the execution of the WCH will be handed over to the NRO from the IRO Office in advance. Should the execution of the WCH show obviously deficiencies, the IRO Executive Board - on request of the Spokesperson for Training - can decide about a reduction of the financial support (based on 3.4.).

4. Costs

- 4.1. The costs for the organisation and the execution of the world championship are to be borne by the NRO. The IRO will cover the costs (travel, accommodation, daily allowances) of the IRO Executive Board, IRO Office Staff, the Judges appointed by the IRO and the Scent Supervisor. The transportation of the IRO Judges and vet to/from the airport or railway/bus station which the IRO Office indicates as arrival and departure venue is in the responsibility of the NRO. The organizer is responsible for their transportation during the event.
- 4.2. Following the successful conclusion of the event, the organiser will receive a one-off support payment. The amount is determined by the IRO Executive Board beforehand.
- 4.3. Gathered earnings from the registration fees as well as from the organising NRO achieved sponsor money will remain with the organiser. The IRO has the opportunity to gather sponsor money independently and for itself, whereby this should be communicated to the organising NRO and IRO should be considerate regarding previously communicated partnerships of the NRO.

5. Preparation and Execution

- 5.1. The preparation and the execution take place in close cooperation and in co-ordination between the host NRO, the Department for Training and Judges, the Supervising Judge as well as the IRO Office. As part of the cooperation, the IRO Office will provide the NRO with documentation as an aid with regards to the administrative work and operational aspects and this documentation must be used.
- 5.2. The world championship has to be announced to the IRO Member Organisations and the umbrella organisations of the neighbouring countries by the IRO Office at least six months prior to the execution of the event. The event has to be announced as the IRO World Championship and the organising NRO has to be stated. At least three months prior to the event, the host NRO must announce the event officially in German and English language.

- 5.3. The minutes of the organising committee meetings need to be forwarded in writing to the Department for Training and Judges as well as the IRO Office in German or English in the week following the meeting. As soon as a Supervising Judge is determined, the minutes also need to be sent to this person via the IRO Office.
- 5.4. The means of communication (e-mail distribution lists, templates etc.) as well as the materials (IRO Flags, IRO Tablecloths, IRO Banners etc.) provided by the IRO must be used. The website provided by IRO is administered by the IRO office and will be maintained through the IRO Office with the information and photos provided by the organizing NRO. All publications must include the host NRO Logo and the IRO Logo. To increase the external effect, the IRO trademark shall be represented as diverse and effective as possible. Relevant guidelines for the use of the IRO logo and the brand IRO are to be found in the attached "Appendix A - Public Relation and Commercialisation ". For visitors at the IRO-WCH, a wide range of commercial exhibitors shall be offered, which shall especially come from the canine and culinary field.

6. Eligibility and Registration of Participants

Due to the limited days of competition during the WCH, a necessary limitation of the amount of participants is needed, in total and as well as in the individual disciplines. The limitation is carried out according to the following criteria and regulations. The exact number of participants in all disciplines will be provided at the latest with the invitation to the event.

Due to economical reasons a WCH in Water and Avalanche should be considered to be combined with an IRO-Test level V and A in the respective discipline. In case there are too few participants, IRO can decide to cancel.

- 6.1. Each dog handler may only participate with one dog in one discipline at the WCH. Dog handlers are to participate in the scent work using their organisation's deployment equipment, if available. Otherwise they are to appear in appropriate clothing for rescue dog work.
- 6.2. In order to be eligible to participate in the WCH, each team (DH with dog) has to have one positive result of at least 250 points from an official International IRO Testing Event in the respective discipline in level B within the Qualification period.
- 6.3. The qualification period (in level B rubble, area, tracking and water) is determined each year and can be found on the IRO World Championship website.
- 6.4. The qualification mode will be adapted annually to the circumstances and will be published on the IRO World Championship website.

- 6.5. The form for the NRO registration is provided by the IRO and sent to all NROs 12 weeks prior to the WCH. The registration procedure is operated by the IRO office.
- 6.6. The registration of rescue dog teams by name must be submitted by each of the NROs to the IRO office no later than eight weeks prior to the world championship.
- 6.7. The actual World Champion Team (Dog handler with Dog) in a discipline is automatically qualified for the upcoming WCH in the respective discipline and is not counted to the NRO applicants.
- 6.8. Nominating reserve participants or changing the registered teams (dog – dog handler) after the registration deadline is possible until a deadline set by the IRO.
- 6.9. Members of the organising committee are not allowed to take part in the event as a dog handler.
- 6.10. Each participating organisation may register one reserve participant for each of the disciplines for the world championship. It is possible to note in the IRO registration form if a rescue dog teams is available as reserve participant in case it could not be considered in the allocation. However, each participant is only allowed to register with one dog in one category. A rescue dog team can only function as a reserve participant if it fulfils all preconditions for the participation of an IRO WCH but could not be considered in the allocation. Participants who were already allocated cannot additionally be registered as reserve participant, neither with a different dog. Reserve participants will also be listed in the catalogue. If a participant is unable to compete, only a registered reserve participant may act as substitute.
- 6.11. Each IRO-NRO will receive 1 slot in each discipline for the best team in the NRO. The team has to have a qualification result. Additionally, each IRO-NRO can receive max. 2 more slots in each discipline. These slots will be allocated according to the rank on the list. One of the allocated slots can be exchanged by the IRO-NRO through another IRO-NRO-member on request. This team as well has to fulfill the qualification level.
- 6.12. In case not all available slots are allocated to IRO-NROs, non IRO-members may apply for participation if their teams fulfill the qualification criteria.
- 6.13. A participants' list including the test disciplines and levels must be submitted to the organiser by the IRO Office by the Wednesday after the official registration deadline.
- 6.14. The registration fee is determined by the IRO Executive Board in consultation with the organiser. A fee of € 150 per dog handler is, however, recommended.

For events when the organizers collect the participation fee (e.g. testing events, WCH) they are free to decide on cancellation fees. The information on these fees is to be published or accessible with the invitation.

7. Testing Grounds and Scheduling

The world championship has to be carried out according to the International Testing Standards for Rescue Dog Tests in its valid version with the following exceptions and additions:

7.1. Catalogue

All participants and reserve participants as well as the timetable have to be published in form of a catalogue. The catalogue needs to be forwarded to the IRO Office for approval at the latest two weeks before the event.

7.2. Infrastructure

For the world championship, in particular for the Obedience and Dexterity work, an appropriate stadium preferably with stands and seating must be provided. The worksites for the individual categories need to be prepared in accordance with the valid International Testing Standards. Suitable rooms must be provided, in consultation with the IRO Office, for the Judges' and Team Leaders' Meeting, for the draw of the start positions as well as a possible festive evening. Throughout the duration of the world championship, sufficient catering/refreshments as well as sanitary rooms must be provided for the participants, spectators and helpers.

7.3. Worksites and Visit

The grounds for the scent work should provide equal conditions for all participants and should conform to the requirements set out in the International Testing Standards (IPO-R). The Supervising Judge is to be shown all worksites and the Judges and Co-Judges are to be shown the respective worksites of each of the categories to be judged before the beginning of the world championship. Qualified Scent Layers and well-oriented victims must be used and must be at least 16 years of age.

The results are to be announced by the Judge using a suitable public address system in the stadium.

7.4. Registration and Veterinary Check

Each participant must hand in his log book when registering and each of the participants will receive a catalogue number, which needs to worn visibly.

In addition, a veterinary check will be carried out by a vet. In addition to the verification of the chip number and the vaccination record, the check must also include a gait test for every dog and a check if female dogs are in heat or not.

The IRO agrees with a local vet to implement IRO veterinary procedures. The organizers will follow the national regulations as well.

7.5. Judges' Meeting

The Judges' Meeting is conducted by the Supervising Judge and all Judges will receive general and specific information about the world championship and the various worksites.

The Judges and Co-Judges, the Scent Supervisor, the Scent Layer, the organisational head of the NRO, Test Organising Officer as well as the IRO Office are obliged to attend the Judges' Meeting. Those IRO Executive Board Members, who will not be competing in the world championship, are also able to take part.

7.6. Team Leaders' Meeting

The Team Leaders' Meeting is to be conducted by the Supervising Judge and all team leaders will receive general and specific information about the world championship and the various worksites.

In order to determine the order, in which the participating organisations are called up to draw the starting numbers, the team leaders will draw numbered lots during this meeting. The team leaders are called up according to the order - according to country and within each country according to the order of each NRO - listed in the catalogue. NROs from the organising country are the last to draw the starting numbers. The organiser will be the very last to draw. The final assignment, the starting procedure and the meeting point for those rescue dog teams who start in the category tracking will be announced by the responsible judge during the Team Leader's Meeting.

The Team Leaders of all participating organisations and, if necessary, an interpreter per organisation, the Judges and Co-Judges, the Scent Supervisor, the organisational heads of the hosting NRO, the Test Organising Officer as well as the IRO Office are obliged to attend the Team Leaders' Meeting. Those IRO Executive Board Members, who will not be competing in the world championship, are also able to take part.

7.7. Schedule

The timetable is to be compiled by the hosting NRO in such a way that the scent work is done on a day other than that of the obedience/dexterity exercise. The obedience/dexterity exercise is to be conducted as individual exercises. The elaborated timetable needs to be forwarded to the IRO Office for approval within two weeks at the latest after the registration deadline.

7.8. Termination

If a test needs to be discontinued due to injury or illness, the dog must be presented to the vet on site. If a veterinary attestation is not provided and the dog is not obviously injured or ill, the dog handler will be disqualified due to gross unsportsmanlike conduct.

7.9. Disqualification

If a participating dog handler inflicts cruelty or excessive pressure on a dog, this must be immediately reported to the IRO Supervising Judge by the organiser. In a subsequent talk with the team leader and the dog handler concerned the facts are clarified. If the accusation is proved to be true, the dog handler concerned will be disqualified.

7.10. Objection / Protest

An objection/protest against a decision taken at a world championship is only possible when the decision is against the constitution or the rules and regulations of the IRO. It has to be lodged by a team leader within 24 hours, at the latest 2 hours after the last testing of the last dog of the world championship begins, to the Supervising Judge.

A fee of € 250 must be set aside, which would go to the IRO if the objection is rejected. The hearing will be chaired by the IRO Spokesperson for Training and Judges or by a substitute from the IRO Executive Board, who is nominated by the Spokesperson for Training and Judges. A committee, consisting of the chairperson, the Supervising Judge, the Judge of the discipline concerned, the Test Organising Officer of the discipline concerned and in the case of tracking work, in addition the Scent Supervisor decide on the objection. In the event of a voting tie, the Supervising Judge shall have the casting vote.

If the objection / protest is accepted, the decision made to the disadvantage of the person concerned has to be withdrawn.

7.11. Test Dog Obedience and Dexterity

Subsequent to the Judges' and Team Leaders' Meeting, a demonstration of obedience/dexterity will be held on the designated worksite for the world championship. This will be performed by a test dog and commented on by the team of Judges allocated for the world championship. The organiser must make sure that two test dogs, which are able to cope with the tasks, are provided for the demonstration.

7.12. Parade and Opening Ceremony

If a public parade should take place, all dog handlers with their dogs are obliged to take part in this parade. The parade's endpoint should, if possible, be the venue for the opening ceremony.

Details about the parade and the opening ceremony need to be agreed upon with the IRO Office. The official opening of the world championship falls to the President of the IRO or a representative from the IRO Executive Board, appointed by him.

7.13. Drawing of Starting Numbers

The drawing of the starting numbers is carried out by the dog handlers personally in public on the evening prior to the world championship in an appropriate room. The draw is conducted by the Supervising Judge and administered by the organising NRO.

For the drawing of starting numbers, the organisations will be called out in the order, which was determined previously in the Team Leaders' Meeting by drawing numbered lots.

7.14. Transport of Participants

Participants are self-responsible for their transport to the work sites.

7.15. Closing Ceremony and Award Ceremony

Flags of all participating countries should be on show at the place where the closing ceremony will take place. During the award ceremony, the results for the individual assessments are announced first of all and then the team results. The participants of the individual and team assessments, who occupy 1st to 3rd place, will each receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal provided by the IRO and these medals are presented to them by an IRO Executive Board Member. The national anthem of the winner's country should be played.

Cups are only allowed to be awarded for actual achievements performed. Age, sex, nationality, NRO membership or similar reasons, do not mean that a participant is entitled to receive a cup. Cups must be provided by the organising NRO. The allocation of bestowed cups is carried out by the organiser in consultation with the Supervising Judge.

In the course of the closing ceremony, the IRO Flag will be handed over by the host NRO to the NRO, who will be organising the following year's world championship. The exact programme details need to be agreed upon with the IRO Office. The official closing of the world championship falls to the President of the IRO or a representative from the IRO Executive Board, appointed by him.

8. Competition Office and Results

8.1. Throughout the duration of the world championship, the organising NRO must provide a competition office space which is centrally located. The electronic compilation of the results will be carried out in the competition office by an IRO Office Staff in conjunction with a member of staff from the organising NRO.

8.2. All Judges will receive the score sheets on waterproof paper, which have been prepared by the NRO. The organising NRO has to pay them and order them in time.

8.3. All results must be publicly posted on a clearly visible scoreboard continuously. The starting number, as well as the catalogue number, must also be listed. For the festive evening the interim results must be prepared and put on display.

The transfer of results from the work sites to the competition office lays in the responsibility of the organiser. Therefore the responsible person will bring the score sheets of the Main Judges in as short as possible periods to the competition office. After entering the results, the score sheets shall be sent back to the Main Judges as soon as possible.

Should a quick and regular transfer of score sheets be not possible due to big distances, the transfer of results can be done via radio / SMS or other electronic transmission options in agreement with the Training Spokesperson.

- 8.4. On each work site has to be a list of starters, in which the Main Judge enters the results after each starter. At the end of each day, the list will be signed by the Main Judge and handed over to the IRO Office staff at the competition office for archiving and controlling.
- 8.5. In the event of tied scores and equal individual results, the participants will be ranked equally.
- 8.6. For the calculation of the team scores, world championship points (WCH points) will only be awarded to those dog handlers, who have received a positive assessment in the overall result of the world championship. In the case of teams with several dog handlers, those three dog handlers, who have achieved the most WCH points, will make up the team. For the final result, only those teams will classify, who have 3 positive results.

WCH points:

1. Place	30 Points	6. Place	15 Points	11. Place	5 Points
2. Place	27 Points	7. Place	13 Points	12. Place	4 Points
3. Place	24 Points	8. Place	11 Points	13. Place	3 Points
4. Place	21 Points	9. Place	9 Points	14. Place	2 Points
5. Place	18 Points	10. Place	7 Points	15. Place	1 Point

Further rankings will be rated with 0 points. Should there be rescue dog teams with equal WCH-Points inside the team, the rescue dog team with the higher individual score points will be prioritized.

- 8.7. The term "IRO World Championship" ("IRO-WCH"), as well as the names of all of the judges who evaluated the dog concerned, must be clearly recorded in the log book of each participant next to the final result and be signed by the Supervising Judge. The organiser must also prepare the rating lists and these will also be signed in their entirety by the Supervising Judge and by the organiser.
- 8.8. Those participants, who achieved a positive assessment, will receive a written confirmation of their participation and the performance achieved at the end of the world championship when they pick up their log books. All those participants, who did not achieve a positive assessment, will receive a written confirmation of their participation.

9. Judges and Supervising Persons

- 9.1. The Spokesperson for Training and Judges basically functions as Supervising Judge. Alternatively the IRO Executive Board designates a Supervising Judge for the world championship from the pool of Judges recognised by the IRO. This person is responsible for ensuring that all regulations of the IPO-R and the WCH Guidelines are adhered to. The organising NRO must follow all instructions given by the Supervising Judge in every respect.

- 9.2. The IRO Executive Board designates, at the suggestion of the Spokesperson for Training and Judges, a person as Scent Supervisor. This person is obliged to check the grounds and the facilities to be used during the tracking work. Further on, he has to check the articles and that the track is laid according to the IPO-R and in regard to the level of difficultness - in a fair manner. The organiser is subject to the directives of the Scent Supervisor in this area.
- 9.3. The IRO Executive Board designates, at the suggestion of the Spokesperson for Training and Judges, a Judge and Co-Judge for each test discipline, they are neither allowed to be a member of the organising NRO nor to be a member of the same NRO or country in the respective category. If necessary, the IRO Office will obtain the clearances for foreign Judges from the respective organisation in good time.
- 9.4. The judges have to wear IRO clothes during their work and during all official events and meetings.
- 9.5. The organiser has to facilitate and ensure the communication in both IRO languages (English and German) at all venues.
- 9.6. After the WCH the score sheets have to be kept for one year by the judges and have to be available for the IRO Office, if needed.
- 9.7. The daily allowances, as well as the costs for travel to and from the world championship, for the Supervising Judge, the Scent Supervisor and the Judges and Co-Judges will be borne by the IRO in accordance with the valid IRO expenses regulation.
- 9.8. The judges have to send a report about their work to the IRO Office within 14 days. A report form is available for download on the IRO homepage.

APPENDIX A – Public Relation and Commercialisation

The rules of action below have been defined to allow a uniform presentation of the IRO, the hosting NRO and of the event itself in the public and the media.

- IRO Logo

The IRO Logo is provided as word/picture mark in the according file formats for the use within the framework of major IRO events. The files have to be used in the form provided and may not be altered or used for other purposes.

- Utilisation

The use of the IRO logo has generally to be agreed with the IRO and copies of publications where the IRO logo has been used have to be sent to the IRO Office.

The IRO logo has to be placed in a way so that the event can clearly be noticed as IRO event. For this the IRO logo can either be used as stand-alone logo, in combination with the logo of the hosting NRO or with a logo specially designed for the event. If the IRO logo is being used in combination with another logo then the IRO logo – in the same size as the event-/NRO logo – has always to be placed as first logo to the left.

- Area of application

The IRO logo has to be used according to the currently valid Guidelines for the respective IRO event (e.g. invitation, catalogue, start numbers, etc.). In any case the IRO logo has to be placed several times and clearly visible at the central event venue (e.g. stadium). Further the IRO logo should be preferably placed in all other areas of the event as well.

- Communication channels

In order to guarantee a consistent and effective communication the communication means provided by IRO (e.g. specific event websites) as well as the media such as the official IRO Social Media platforms, circular letters and Newsletter have to be used. The implementation and use of additional or complementary communication channels is only possible in accordance with the IRO Office.

- Photo- and video material

Basically the compilation of picture- and video material during the event has to be ensured by the hosting NRO. As possible the picture- and video material has to be provided to IRO for royalty free use within the activities as worldwide umbrella organisation. If this is not possible IRO will arrange the clarification of rights of use directly with the originator.

- Commercial rights of use

Any commercial rights of use (e.g. TV, Online broadcast, etc.) for the event lie with the IRO. The realisation of commercial offers in connection with a major IRO event through the NRO as local host has to be agreed with IRO.

The right for the sales of products and articles (e.g. textiles, means of promotion, etc.) which have been branded with the IRO logo (word/picture mark) lies exclusively with the IRO.