

Invitation to the 2026 Annual General Meeting



Dogdance International e.V.

1. Vorsitzende des Vorstandes

www.dogdance.info

Dogdance International e.V. • 1. Vorsitzende
Nina Neumann • Marienstr. 36 • 41844 Wegberg

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Marienstr. 36
41844 Wegberg
Deutschland

Dear members,

We look forward to our virtual general meeting with you.

Email n.neumann@dogdance.info

As we have had such good experiences in recent years, we are confident that we will once again be able to successfully hold our general meeting with you online via ZOOM Cloud Meetings this year.

Voting will take place online via Vote Box, to which all participants will have access.

The planned schedule is similar to last year's:

Friday, 10 April 2026, 8–10 p.m. – Discussion round in English

Saturday, 11 April 2026, 4–8 p.m. – Discussion round in German

Sunday, 12 April 2026, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Annual General Meeting

(break from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

The discussion rounds can be used to discuss the proposals of the Annual General Meeting in advance. However, participation in the discussion rounds is NOT a prerequisite for participation in the Annual General Meeting. However, we would like to avoid discussions during the General Meeting.

The meeting will be held in English. All proposals and topics will be sent to you in advance by email, in German and English. Please feel free to use a translation programme and have the proposals translated into your language so that everyone knows what they are about. We cannot translate all proposals into every language.

Proposals to add to the agenda may be submitted in writing to the Executive Board up to one week (5 April 2026) prior to the meeting so that the Executive Board can still add them to the agenda (Section 10 (3) of the Articles of Association).

**Important elections are coming up:
the election of the 1st Chair and the
Secretary.**

We would be grateful if you could let us know your desired candidate as soon as possible, as we would like to enter the individual items as accurately as possible for the operators of the professional voting tool. However, from a purely legal point of view, it is also possible to nominate candidates at short notice during the meeting.

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Planned agenda:

TOP 1 Welcome to members

TOP 2 Opening of the general meeting

Election of the chairperson

Presentation and approval of the concept for the virtual annual general meeting

Confirmation of the proper invitation

Confirmation of quorum

Approval of the agenda

Nina Neumann

Marienstr. 36

41844 Wegberg

Deutschland

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TOP 3 Reports from the board and acknowledgements

General report of the Executive Board on the past calendar year

Report of the Treasurer

Report of the Cash Auditors

Questions regarding the annual reports

Discharge of the Executive Board

TOP 4 Report of the Advisory Board

Report of the Licence Book Issuing Office

Report of the Membership Officer

Report of the Judges' Officer

TOP 5 Board elections

- 1st Chair

- Secretary

TOP 6 Proposals submitted by members in accordance with the Articles of Association
(attached)

TOP 7 Miscellaneous

TOP 8 Closing remarks by the Board

For technical reasons, we need you to register your participation relatively early so that all relevant data can be entered. Of course, as always, last-minute participation will also be possible, but the less data we have to change at short notice, the better.

We look forward to a constructive exchange and a profitable meeting.

Nina Neumann

Chairperson of the Executive Board

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Proposals GM 2026

Agenda item 6.1

Food in the senior class

Proposed by: Karin Baumann

I propose that the use of food rewards (as in class 0) be permitted during dancing in the official senior class. The senior class should be judged in the same way as class 0 – treats should be awarded during the flow.

Reason: Senior dogs have special needs:

- They tire more quickly
- Age-related motivation and confidence through small rewards
- More animal-friendly and senior-friendly
- More motivation and confidence for older dogs
- Better opportunities for participation
- Promotion of enjoyment instead of pressure to perform

Occasional feeding improves well-being, orientation and enjoyment of dancing. And more participation from teams with older dogs.

Vote: Food in the official senior class

Yes

No

Abstain

Agenda item 6.2

Music length for fun starts

Proposed by: Gisela Schindler

Currently, the maximum music length for a fun start is regulated differently. It is not clear to me why trios and quartets have a shorter maximum time available. These teams need more time to reward well, whether with play or food. In addition, it takes more time to get into position with two dogs. Seniors and handicapped participants also need more time to meet their special needs. Maximum duration does not mean that this time must be used up.

Beginners should also have enough time in the ring. This does not mean that there will be more tricks, but there will be plenty of time to play and have fun as a team and enjoy their first positive ring experiences.

I therefore propose that the maximum music length for all fun classes be 4 minutes. Especially since the entry fees are the same for everyone.

Vote: Should the music length be the same for all fun starts (max. 4 minutes)?

Yes

No

Abstain

Agenda item 6.3

Adjustment of the maximum music duration in the Open Senior class (not applicable if AI

6.2 is accepted)

Proposer: Karin Baumann

I hereby propose that the maximum music duration in the Open Senior class be adjusted to that of the other Open classes and increased from the current 2.30 minutes to a maximum of 4 minutes.

Reason: Senior dogs have special needs due to their age.

They generally need more time to calmly and gently get moving to change positions

For breaks and rewards (food)

As well as for a joint-friendly and stress-free performance in the ring

The current limited music duration puts many teams under unnecessary time pressure and can lead to performances having to be rushed, which is not always conducive to the well-being of older dogs. A longer maximum music duration would make it possible to make the performance calmer, more dog-friendly and adapted to the individual abilities of senior dogs. The adjustment to a maximum of 4 minutes does not mean that the full time must be used, but simply offers more flexibility for the benefit of the dogs' well-being. In my opinion, this change would make the Open Senior class much fairer and more age-appropriate.

Of course, you can start in the Open class with 4 minutes, but it would also be much better for the judges if senior dogs started together in one block.

Vote: Change the music length in the Open Senior class to a maximum of 4 minutes.

Yes

No

Abstain

Agenda Item 6.4

Proposer: Judges Board

Modification of the rule regarding the positioning of the props (6.4) General information about the use of props / costume

Now the 6th item of the rule reads as follows;

"All props must be set up within 90 seconds, this will be checked by the ring steward, this applies to all starts, no matter if fun class or official class"

We, as judges board, would like to suggest to modify it in a way that will be a little less specific regarding who's going to check the timing, as sometimes the ring stewards can be persons that are not into our sport and they can get overwhelmed by their job. On the other hand, if the ring stewards are competitors this task isn't really a problem.

That's why we suggest to change the wording in a more flexible way, so at every competition, the organizers can make a decision regarding who will take the time based on who will be ring stewards.

The item will be as follows:

"All props must be set up within 90 seconds, who will check the time will be decided by the organizers and must be communicated to the head judge, this applies to all starts, no matter if fun class or official class"

Vote: Should the rule be changed?

Yes

No

Abstain

Agenda item 6.5

Proposer: Judges Board

Preventing DDI Championship status to not given to anything lower than Class 3

Championship titles are sometimes awarded to teams competing in lower classes (Class 0, 1, and 2), which devalues the **Class 3** (highest level) champion title

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed on the wording for an **amendment** to the rules:

"Any national **DDI** Championship title must be awarded to competitors in Class 3". This will be presented to the DDI board as an amendment suggested by the Judges Board under rule 10.2, " Clarification: this only applies to the DDI official title ("DDI Champion") and does not prevent any Country clubs (like Italian ACSI/AICS/CSEN) from awarding their own non-DDI titles (club Champion) to lower-class teams.

Vote: National DDI championship title only awarded to teams in classes FS3 and HTM3

Yes

No

Abstain

Agenda item 6.6

Proposal to supplement the DDI regulations

Clarification of the requirements in classes 0–3 as well as Seniors, Beginners, Trio, Quartet, Groups and Open (FS and HTM)

Proposer: Elena Kunde, Annette Seidel-Mißfeldt, Sabine Bräuniger

We propose that a clear and detailed description of the expectations and requirements in the official classes 0, 1, 2 and 3 as well as in the additional categories Seniors, Beginners, Trio, Quartet, Groups and Open be added to the DDI regulations – both for the FreeStyle (FS) discipline and for Heelwork to Music (HTM). As a guide for content and structure, we suggest following the Dutch Dog Dance Implementation Regulations, Chapter IX Routine (from page 23).

This chapter provides examples of how the requirements for each class can be formulated in a comprehensible and practical manner.

Reason: Currently, the DDI regulations do not contain sufficiently precise information on the specific performances, criteria and training levels expected in the individual classes and categories. In practice, this leads to uncertainty among participants, trainers and judges.

2 Examples:

There were several beginner starts in 2025 that ended with participants in tears and saying, 'I'm never going to a dog dance competition again.'

Teams that are not members of the DDI (both from Germany and abroad) would like to compete, but don't dare to because they don't know exactly what is expected in the respective classes.

A detailed description of the expectations for each class and category would:

- increase the transparency and comparability of the evaluations,
- provide the judges with a clear basis for evaluation,
- enable the teams and trainers to work more specifically towards the respective class, and
- contribute to greater consistency and fairness in competition overall.

Proposal for implementation

We propose that the DDI appoint a working group or rules committee to:

1. review the existing rules,
2. formulates the expected performances and evaluation criteria for each official class (0–3) and each category (seniors, beginners, trio, quartet, groups, open) in both disciplines (FS and HTM), taking into account the Dutch implementation regulations (Chapter IX) as a reference, and
4. submits the draft for approval.

In addition, we, Sabine Bräuniger, Elena Kunde and Annette Seidel-Mißfeldt, declare our willingness to actively participate in the development of the described content within the framework of the working group to be established (max. 6 persons) and to contribute to the content.

Vote: Clarification of the requirements in classes 0–3 as well as seniors, beginners, trio, quartet, groups and open (FS and HTM) – Convening of a working group

Yes

No

Abstain

Agenda item 6.7

Entry and exit rules for official classes 5.2.4

Proposer: Verena Verones

Previously

Entry class 0/1-3

Every new competitor in the official classes 0/1-3 starts at the lowest level in the official class 0 or 1. This can be decided by the starter himself.

Exception 1:

Competitors that have already competed in class 3 of one category (FS or HTM) but have not yet competed in the other category can choose the entry level in that category.

Exception 2: Competitors that have so far competed under different rules and compete for the first time under the rules of the DDI can choose their entry level in each category once. The first time competing in the chosen class cannot be a Qualification or Titling competition. As soon as the team has competed for the first time in the chosen class, the normal moving-up rules apply. This applies to both of the above exception rules.

New:

deletion of exception 1 without replacement (delete 2 and both of)

Reason: it is unfair to all other teams that a team that already competes in class 3 can classify itself in class 3 in the other division without having gone through the regular promotion rules. The fact that a team competes in class 3 in one division does not mean that it also meets the corresponding requirements in class 3 of the other division.

Vote: Changing the entry and exit rules in official classes.

Yes

No

Abstain

Agenda Item 6.7

Addition: Misconduct in the ring

Proposer: Debra Bernard

Section 6.2.5, on misconduct in the ring, currently reads:

6.2.5. Misconduct in the ring (max. 20 points)

The following misconduct will lead to deductions. They are counted from the time the team enters the ring until it leaves the ring:

- Verbal-aggressive behaviour: harsh, unfriendly or severe signalling
- Mental pressure: Using severe eye contact with the dog, blocking the dog with unfriendly body language, using intimidation, correcting the dog
- Touching the dog in a manipulating way: Moving / pushing the dog into a position, limiting the dogs movements
- Leaving and re-entering the ring before the start of the music or after the end of the routine by either the dog or the handler will lead to points being deducted. This rule applies from the moment, the team has entered the ring for the first time. The exception to this rule is, if the judges have signalled to the team, that it can leave the ring (for example if there are problems with the music, etc.)
- One point will be deducted for each second that the set-up time is exceeded.

I propose to add a new subparagraph, after " Touching the dog in a manipulating way: Moving / pushing the dog into a position, limiting the dogs movements" to read:

"- Aggressive physical contact with the handler by the dog, such as nipping, biting or tearing at clothes or costume".

Vote: Addition Misconduct the Ring

Yes

No

Abstain