

Minutes of the ordinary online general meeting of Dogdance International e.V. on Sunday, April 12, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 13:20 p.m

Start of meeting: 10.00 a.m

There is an average 62-68 voting members present online.

The Votebox records may be viewed upon request from the Executive Committee.

TOP 1 Welcome of the members

Welcome to the General Assembly by the 1st Chairperson of the DDI Nina Neumann.

TOP 2 Opening of the General Assembly

2.1. Election of the chair of the meeting (10.02 a.m.)

Nina Neumann proposes herself as chairperson of the meeting. There are no further proposals

62 votes from 62 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 56 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 6 votes

Nina Neumann has been elected chair of the meeting.

2.2. Presentation and approval of the concept of the virtual Annual General Meeting Establishment of the proper invitation

The meeting takes place via the Zoom Meeting app. There is a separate voting app for voting, Votebox. Voting takes place anonymously from the Board elections. Requests to speak should be written in the chat or announced by hand signal. It will then be called one after the other. This year, Zoom's automatic translation will be used, contributions are generally written in English and then presented in German, or written in German and presented in English.

According to the articles of association, the general meeting was duly invited. The invitations were published on the DDI e.V. website in good time and announced via the Facebook page. All members were also invited by email. There are no queries.

Voting on the meeting concept: (10.19 a.m.)

63 votes from 64 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 63 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 0 votes

The meeting concept was accepted.

2.3. Establishment of the quorum (10.20 a.m.)

This meeting is quorate by accepting the meeting concept with 63 of the 64 members entitled to vote.

2.4. Accept the amended motions for the agenda (10.22 a.m.)

Vote to accept amended motions regarding the agenda:

63 votes from 64 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 62 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 1 votes

The changed agenda was included.

2.5. Addition to the agenda: applications that were not submitted on time (10.30 a.m.)

Add motions submitted after the deadline to the agenda:

The minimum age for participation in Class 3 is 24 months

64 votes from 64 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 32 votes

No: 26 votes

Abstain: 6 votes

The motion was approved.

2.6. Approval of the amended agenda (10.35 a.m.)

Add motions submitted after the deadline to the agenda:

64 votes from 64 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 63 Votes

No: 1 Votes

Abstain: 0 Votes

The motion was approved.

TOP 3 Reports of the Executive Committee

3.1. General report of the Executive Board on the past year

Dear members,

another year of dog dance with many great tournaments and training moments is behind us. Because of the start authorizations, we were able to sponsor many tournaments and support many organizers.

Every tournament under DDI rules can access the sponsorship on the homepage. This year, each tournament will again have 100 euros per day for every event, whether it is an official or a fun tournament.

Unfortunately, we are seeing a negative trend in the association. Criticism comes quickly and the board's decisions are questioned. Constructive criticism is almost never offered, and problems aren't described.

People just say they are not satisfied. We find this unfortunate, because we always encourage people to write to us directly and explain their problems.

Country representatives were elected for this purpose too. If someone does not want to talk to us, they can contact the country representatives. There will always be issues we cannot solve. But many things can be clarified if you ask.

One issue where we have no decision-making power is the OEC. Last year, we faced a lot of criticism that we were not making the right decisions. It should be noted that we have no say in the OEC. The decision-makers of the OEC are a permanent committee, the organizers of the last and next OEC, and a written set of rules. The DDI board has nothing to do with the OEC and cannot decide who goes there.

We only decide who organizes a qualification, and we must follow the DDI rules. The OEC committee has received applications to admit DDI as an association, which would make it easier for some countries to send teams. In many other areas, the Board must follow the rules, the Articles of Association, and German association law. The rules are decided only by the General Meeting. We only implement them. Besides a lot of work, the Board has no executive power. Everyone can apply for positions, be elected, and actively participate instead of always criticizing.

There are also starters who always help, and when help is needed, people come to assist. A big thank you for that. Administrative work in the association is growing.

By German association law, every volunteer is entitled to a lump sum. If the work exceeds a certain hourly rate per month, this lump sum can be claimed. We have informed our volunteers about this. The board works entirely without pay.

No one is enriching themselves with association funds. Immediately, voices were raised questioning whether this was legally correct, and claims were made that were not true. We would not offer something like this if it were not legally correct. The board works for the DDI, not against it. Please just ask us personally before spreading negative vibes on social media.

We have planned several things to help our starters prepare even better. We have a webinar where all eight categories are described in detail. We hope this will soon be available to all interested starters in German and English. We are working on the translations.

Just send us an email and we will send you the access details as soon as everything is ready. We have planned live webinars on differentiation in the individual classes and explanations of the score sheet. These will be conducted in the national languages of the judges. We hope this will shed more light on the topic.

Lastly, I would like to thank all helpers, volunteers, judges, organizers, starters, and sponsors. Whether it's translating, creating newsletters, maintaining social media, judging and training, organizing events, or keeping the whole administration running—without your help, it wouldn't work, and we are truly grateful to everyone who can contribute to keeping the DDI active for many more years. A big hug to you all. We look forward to the next year. Perhaps with a little less drama and more back to dog dancing.

3.2. Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer's report - cash report for the financial year 2025

Dear members,

at the general meeting, the members of the DDI must be given an annual report on the association's finances for the past financial year.

This is the report for the year 2025:

The account balance on 31.12.2025 was € 28.473,45.

In total, there was **income** of € 16.489,33 for 2025, which is broken down as follows:

- Membership fees	€ 10.990,00
- Paypal fees	€ 10,52
- License fees	€ 2.720,00
- annual starting authorizations	€ 2.220,00
- Judge training	€ 525,00
- Spreadshirt shop	€ 32,81

The **expenses** totaled € 16.831,77 as follows:

- Costs of the general meeting	€ 338,75
- Postage	€ 276,70
- general office expenses	€ 370,64
- Software / Internet presence	€ 1.873,84
- Legal and consulting fees	€ 433,47
- „Thank you“ – gifts for voluntary helpers	€ 1.850,00
- volunteer allowance according to § 3 Nr. 26a EStG / § 3 (2) DDI e. V. statutes	€ 1.780,00
- instructor's fee according to § 3 Nr. 26 EStG / § 3 (2) DDI e. V. statutes	€ 2.105,00
- Judge training and further education	€ 1.979,72
- bank account costs	€ 282,10
- Tournament Sponsorship	€ 4.000,00
- License management costs	€ 52,95
- Advertising	€ 488,60

This results in a **loss** of € 333,44 for the financial year 2025.

Ense, April 6th, 2026,
Jasmin Cheema

3.3. Report of the cash auditors

Audit Report

Audit of Dogdance International e. V. conducted by Katrin Heimsath For the fiscal year 2025

Documents

10.04.2026

The following documents were provided to me for the examination:

- Accounts Journal for SPK Niederrhein and PayPal for the period January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
- Income and Expenditure Statement
- Bank statements and receipts (Paypal@dogdance.info; DE78354500001245017528)

The following were provided to me to help clarify any questions:

- Sparkasse Bank Statement 01/2026
- Cash Book for the period January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
- List of Judges 2025
- List of Vouchers Issued 2025

Heike Vetter had already reviewed the documents before me, and I had her questions as well as the answers provided by the board.

Exam

My audit included the following activities:

- Verification of opening and closing balances for the accounts
- Plausibility check of the cash-based accounting system using bank statements and account summaries
- Random checks of supporting documents

All questions were answered promptly and in full by Jasmin Cheema. The correspondence is attached to the audit report.

Conclusion & Recommendation

The review did not give rise to any objections. The documents were complete and clearly organised. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jasmin Cheema for her work. I recommend that the General Meeting of 2026 grant discharge to the Executive Board for the financial year 2025.

Schöppingen, 10 April 2026

Katrin Heimsath

Enclosure: Correspondence regarding accounting matters

Audit Report

Club: Dog Dance International e.V.
Financial year: 1 January – 31 December 2025
Examiner: Heike Vetter, Am Festplatz 8, 67826 Hallgarten
Date: 11 April 2026

1. Examination documents

All the documents relating to the 2025 calendar year were sent to me by post by Jasmin Cheema on **19 February 2026**.

The following documents were provided for review:

✓ **Bank statements & payment/invoice documents:**

- PayPal account
- Bank account or bank statements from Sparkasse Niederrhein
- Ledgers for all transactions relevant to 2025
- Income and expenditure statement for the period 1 January–31 December 2025

2. Procedure for the audit of the accounts

The audit began on **10 March 2026**. I systematically checked all the documents provided to me for completeness and plausibility. The documents were sent by post to Katrin Heimsath on 27 March 2026.

Result:

✓ All account transactions could be plausibly traced!

Any uncertainties and questions were fully addressed by Jasmin Cheema and Nina Neumann, and the lists requested subsequently were added to the documentation. The relevant email correspondence is attached to Katrin Heimsath's report.

3. Conclusion & Acknowledgements

The accounts for 2025 were prepared using the **NetXP** accounting software. All the documents provided are clear, neatly filed and organised in a logical manner.

A big thank you to Jasmin for her careful and conscientious work! Many thanks to Nina and Sandra for your prompt responses to our queries! And a special thank you to Katrin for the dialogue and the great teamwork!

Hallgarten, 11 April 2026
Heike Vetter

3.4. Questions on the annual reports

Enquiry from Claudia Moser regarding the account balance at the end of December 2025. The enquiry was answered promptly and included in the treasurer's report by Jasmin Cheema.

zu 3.5 Report from the Executive Board – Responsibilities, Activities and Recent Developments

The DDI Executive Board is responsible for a wide range of organisational, administrative and strategic tasks that are essential to the day-to-day running of the association.

The key responsibilities and duties of the Executive Board include:

- Organising and arranging appointments with a solicitor, particularly following changes to the board of directors or amendments to the articles of association
- Processing of official correspondence
- Management and maintenance of the website
- Organising day-to-day operations and supervising volunteers
- Development and implementation of projects (e.g. digital licences, organising multilingual online general meetings – taking into account the financial constraints)
- Communicating with members on a day-to-day basis
- Drafting of minutes (meetings, general meetings, etc.)
- Collecting and analysing ideas, requests and suggestions from members
- Financial control and monitoring

Distribution of responsibilities within the Executive Committee in voluntary roles:

- **Licence management and launch permissions:**
Jasmin will take on these tasks. It makes sense to consolidate these responsibilities, as she also has access to online banking and can manage incoming payments directly.
- In 2025, the following services were provided:
221 licence booklets issued (approx. 37 working hours)
985 flight authorisations processed (approx. 82 working hours)

These times relate solely to processing and do not include additional **administrative tasks**, such as email correspondence, follow-up work or clarifications regarding incorrect applications and payments.

- **Digital licences and technical developments:** Regina is working intensively on implementing digital licensing systems, as well as assessing a potential switch from Zoom to Microsoft Teams and the associated benefits for potential translation opportunities without significant additional costs.
- **Judging and Membership Administration:** Sandra is responsible for judging administration, member communications and the membership software.

What's more, all members of the executive committee are actively involved in dog dancing themselves, and most of them also organise competitions. We therefore do more than just carry out our executive committee duties; we are actively involved in the life of the club.

International Focus – A Review and Analysis

In recent years, various measures have been taken to strengthen international cooperation and participation:

- **Introduction of country representatives** →
Result: little to no feedback or active participation
- **Establishment of an international panel of judges** →
Result: International exchange and a broadening of perspectives yielded positive results, but also entailed a significant additional administrative burden. Unfortunately, there are no international efforts to continue this body (only one international application so far)
- **Launch of country pages on the DDI website** →
Result: used almost exclusively by Austria

Conclusion: Despite ongoing efforts, it has not yet been possible to establish sustained and active international participation. This is often due to difficulties with practical implementation and a lack of long-term commitment from volunteers.

As a general rule:

- Every member – **regardless of their country** – has the opportunity to get involved on the Executive Committee.
- Any member may submit motions and actively seek support to put them to a vote at the general meeting.
- Any member can take on voluntary roles to play an active part in the association's development.

Currently, around 50 of the more than 400 members are taking part in the online general meeting, which represents just over 10% of the membership. This suggests that the majority of members do not make use of – or do not wish to make use of – the opportunities available for participation.

However, greater involvement is essential if we are to play an active role in shaping the club and driving forward developments that benefit the community and promote international engagement.

Financial Outlook – Review and Analysis

volunteer allowance:

Under German association law, there is provision for a flat-rate allowance for voluntary work. In recent years, the administrative burden behind the scenes has risen sharply – we have therefore decided to allow volunteers in roles involving a significantly increased workload to apply for this allowance. All official voluntary roles have been granted this option. The framework conditions have also been defined as follows:

We consider a voluntary commitment of around **4 hours a month** to be appropriate, i.e. **48 hours a year**.

221 licence booklets (approx. 37 working hours) & 985 flight authorisations (approx. 82 working hours) add up to 119 hours; including administrative tasks such as email correspondence etc., this amounts to approx. **140 hours**.

At the same time, these areas generate significant additional revenue (see financial report), which makes it possible to provide **tournament sponsorship for all events**. Previous sponsorship deals, such as the Animonda sponsorship (€0,000 annually), were limited to Germany.

Due to the transition of judge training to an annual cycle and predominantly in digital form, everything in the administrative department had to be overhauled. This involved new forms, new certificates, new lists and data transfers from old lists, a year-end review of the entire list of judges—including processing all applications—as well as training in Net XP to ensure everything could be managed effectively. Here too, the hours of voluntary work were significantly exceeded – but further administrative support will be available for 2026, and as the system is now well-established, the workload will return to a normal level.

In return, the costs of in-person training courses will be reimbursed; these costs are generally much higher than the flat-rate amount claimed.

In addition, lump-sum payments were requested to cover the increased workload associated with representing the federal states and with the organisation of the event, as well as for the preparation and follow-up work for the judges' discussion panels.

Digitalisation and cost optimisation:

The general meeting will continue to be held online. Although the cost of the voting system is higher, there are no travel or venue hire costs. In addition, support services have been scaled back and are now being handled by the board.

Costly translation tools have also been discontinued. Instead, the meeting is conducted in English, supplemented by a privately organised German translation. Other languages may be organised independently by the member states.

Non-profit status:

As a non-profit organisation, we are not permitted to generate a profit; all income must be reallocated. This is done through sponsorship, allowances for volunteers, training allowances for judge trainers, infrastructure costs, and the association's running costs. There are still funds remaining from Animonda that could never be paid out. This constitutes the reserve fund, enabling us to undertake projects such as digital licences. So, if savings are made, they must be allocated elsewhere where possible.

3.5. Vote of Confidence:

The Executive Committee feels compelled to call for a vote of confidence due to certain developments within the club, motions that have been tabled, and statements made by members.

Since the last General Meeting, we have faced increasing criticism and doubts regarding our commitment, our transparency and our working methods. This places a considerable strain on our voluntary work. We are receiving threats regarding matters over which we have no say (selection of teams for the OEC), we are being threatened with legal action, we are being attacked on social media, there are doubts as to whether we are carrying out our work correctly, and we currently have motions which, in our view, have been tabled directly against the Executive Board or its work.

Agenda Item 6.10

Further development of the structures of DDI e.V.

Proposer: Verena Verones on behalf of the GDS
and

Agenda Item 6.12

Introduction of an annual budget

Proposer: Gisela Schindler

A proposal for the DDI Executive Committee to attend the GDS General Meeting in order to address issues directly was rejected.

We feel personally attacked and would like to ensure we have the support of the members before electing the Chair and the Secretary.

The Executive Committee invests a great deal of effort in the further development of the club. We are always open about our work and invite all members to get actively involved or take on responsibilities. The further development of the club is the responsibility of all members. Commitment at an international level and taking on roles are crucial for the future.

The Executive Committee does not make substantive decisions regarding regulations or sporting matters. These are decided exclusively by the General Meeting. The Executive Committee is responsible for the administration of the club within the framework of applicable German association law.

Given that the club is based in Germany and the associated costs involved with a German notary and German authorities such as the tax office, etc., it makes sense for the Chairperson to be from Germany. The rest of the Executive Committee can be made up of international members; however, there is a lack of volunteers willing to stand for election.

Given the current situation, we are asking ourselves whether we are still the right board, or whether new elections might bring about an improvement within the association.

Vote of confidence:

Do the members fully support the board and its actions? (10.55 a.m.)

65 votes from 65 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 50 votes

No: 5 votes

Abstain: 10 votes

90.9% of members support the Executive Board.

The explanatory statement on the vote of confidence is appended to the minutes.

Sandra Schneider moves that all votes from this point onwards be taken by secret ballot.

3.6. Discharge of the Executive Board (11.00 a.m.)

Election to discharge the board:

65 votes from 65 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 50 votes

No: 2 votes

Abstain: 13 votes

The Board is thus discharged

TOP 4 Report of the Advisory Board

4.1. Report of the Licensing Office

Dear Nina,

attached you will find my report on license management for the general meeting 2026.

I evaluated the period 01.01. - 31.12.2025.

In total we received 221 license orders.

19 booklets were not sent out because they have not been paid yet.

The orders are divided into the following:

Belgium	= 1	Poland	= 7
Germany	= 44	Portugal	= 4
France	= 34	Switzerland	= 30
Gibraltar	= 1	Slovakia	= 1
Italy	= 55	Spain	= 7
Latvia	= 8	Czech Republic	= 8
Mexico	= 1	Ukraine	= 4
Netherlands	= 3	Hungary	= 7
Austria	= 6		

Members = 140

Non-members = 81

Also, in 2025 a total of 985 annual starting authorizations were created and sent out to members and non-members.

Kind regards,

Jasmin

17.02.2026

4.2. Report of the Membership Officer

Membership statistics

Country: Argentina	(Quantity: 1)	Country: Poland	(Quantity: 6)
Country: Belgium	(Quantity: 2)	Country: Portugal	(Quantity: 3)
Country: Germany	(Quantity: 183)	Country: Russian Federation	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Estonia	(Quantity: 1)	Country: Switzerland	(Quantity: 91)
Country: France	(Quantity: 51)	Country: Slovakia	(Quantity: 5)
Country: Greece	(Quantity: 1)	Country: Spain	(Quantity: 16)
Country: Italy	(Quantity: 59)	Country: Czech Republic	(Quantity: 8)
Country: Mexico	(Quantity: 1)	Country: Ukraine	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Netherlands	(Quantity: 4)	Country: Hungary	(Quantity: 4)
Country: Austria	(Quantity: 22)		

Overall members: 480

Entries since the last general meeting

Country: Belgium	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Germany	(Quantity: 22)
Country: France	(Quantity: 20)
Country: Italy	(Quantity: 17)
Country: Mexico	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Netherlands	(Quantity: 3)
Country: Austria	(Quantity: 4)
Country: Poland	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Switzerland	(Quantity: 17)
Country: Slovakia	(Quantity: 2)
Country: Spain	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Czech Republic	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Hungary	(Quantity: 1)

91 new members in 2025 from 13 countries

Resignations since the last general meeting

Country: Belgium	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Germany	(Quantity: 8)
Country: Italy	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Latvia	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Netherlands	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Austria	(Quantity: 1)
Country: Switzerland	(Quantity: 4)
Country: Czech Republic	(Quantity: 1)

18 departures in 2025 from 8 countries

22 memberships will be cancelled with retroactive effect from 31 December 2025 in accordance with Article 6(4) of the Articles of Association, as the membership fees have not been paid or have been paid only in part. 12 memberships are still under review.

4.3. Annual report from the judges representative

Report DDI-Judges

2025 was again an eventful year for our DDI-judges with many competitions and judging opportunities. In the name of the DDI and also of all organisers I would like to thank all judges for their time and effort. Without you, there would be no Dogdance!

As in the last years the judges also participated in their updates. We had the monthly discussion rounds under the lead of Jessy Lang. Thanks to her efforts and with the help of other judges there were many interesting discussions about the rules, special cases and topics coming directly from our judges. They also regularly used videos to judge different routines and then discuss their results with each other.

There were also several online Update-Workshops, this year the focus was on HTM (Heelwork to Music) and how these classes should be judged. The goal of these yearly updates is to enable the judges to dive deeper into a specific topic and at the same time bring all judges up to the same level of information.

The next dates for Online-Updates (compulsory for ALL judges):

29.11.26 at 18.00 - 21.00 p.m.

4.12.26 at 17.00 - 20.00 p.m.

28.12.26 at 18.00 - 21.00 p.m.

In 2025 we also had new shadow judges finishing their education and they are now able to support the organisers as new judges. We also had new interested Dogdancers that have started their judges education. We wish all of you a lot of fun, interesting moments and success with your shadow judging or official judging in the future!

The judges board has met 6 times in the last year and I would like to use this space to thank Cristina Tirelli & Jessy Lang, who took over the lead of the judges board this year and who fulfilled this job brilliantly

Besides the discussion of open questions from the membership meeting and from the DDI-Board we also discussed topics that were brought up by our judges and/ or during the discussion rounds.

Thank you to all members of the judges board for your time and all the very constructive discussions.

As every year I would like to thank the judges admin team with Sandra Schneider and Annette Kronic (and some additional support Nina Neumann) who make sure that the oversight is there in the background and who deal with all the organizing.

And last but not least a bit Thank You goes Sonja Scheurer and Katharina Henf, who supported me this year in many areas in the judges education and the judges with their knowledge and ideas and who are always there when any questions or problems turn up

The judges board will be voted this year for the next 2-year period. Applications can be made until the end of April, then there will be a vote for a member from each country.

I am looking forward to many good discussions on the judges tables, in the board, during judges updates or just at the next Dogdance competition.

Claudia Moser

TOP 5 Elections of the Executive Board

You can choose from:

- 1st Chair (re-election of Nina Neumann)
- Secretary (candidacy of Maren Heinrich)

No volunteers or interested parties have reported so far. As requested by the meeting last year, the vacant posts were communicated via several channels. Of course, the board of directors thought about filling the offices and asked around internally. Nevertheless, everyone is of course free to make suggestions or to get in touch. Nobody reports.

Nina Neumann, a member of the current Executive Committee, remains available to serve as First Chair.

Voting: Board elections 1st Chair: Nina Neumann (11.23 a.m.)

67 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 57 votes

No: 7 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

Nina Neumann was re-elected. Nina Neumann accepts the election.

Maren Heinrich briefly introduces herself to the members in a few sentences.

Voting: Board elections Secretary: Maren Heinrich (11.26 a.m.)

67 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 59 votes

No: 3 votes

Abstain: 5 votes

Maren Heinrich was chosen. Maren Heinrich accepts the election.

TOP 6 Proposals of the members

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 (11.32 a.m.)

67 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 27 votes

No: 33 votes

Abstain: 7 votes

The motion was rejected.

6.2. Music length for fun starts (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)? (11.36 a.m.)

67 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 44 votes

No: 15 votes

Abstain: 8 votes

The motion was adopted.

6.3. Adjustment of the maximum music duration in the Open Senior class (by Karin Baumann)

This motion is withdrawn following the adoption of item 6.2.

A 5-MINUTE BREAK TO HAND OVER THE VOTEBOX FROM TIM HAMANN TO REGINA GERSON.

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

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: Timekeeping, set-up and props to be decided by the organiser (11.47 a.m.)

66 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 61 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstain: 5 votes

The motion was adopted.

6.5. DDI Championship status to be accorded only in Class 3 (by Judges Board)

The Judges' Board agreed on the following wording for an amendment to rule 10.2, to read: „Any national DDI Championship title must be awarded to competitors in Class 3.“

„Clarification: this only applies to the official DDI title („DDI Champion“) and does not prevent any national clubs that are subdivisions of DDI (like Italian ACSI/AICS/CSEN), or countries that by law have no subdivisions of DDI (like Germany), from awarding their own non-DDI titles to teams in classes lower than Class 3.“

Vote: National DDI championship title only awarded to teams in classes FS3 and HTM3 (11.57 a.m.)

66 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 36 votes

No: 18 votes

Abstain: 12 votes

The motion was adopted.

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) (by 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 (12.00 p.m.)

67 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 22 votes

No: 42 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

The motion was rejected.

6.7. Entry and exit rules for official classes 5.2.4 (by 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 rules in Class 3 (12.03 p.m.)

66 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 38 votes

No: 16 votes

Abstain: 12 votes

The motion was adopted.

6.8. Misconduct in the ring (by 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:

„- Physical contact with the handler by the dog with teeth contact, such as nipping, biting or tearing at clothes or costume“.

Vote: Addition Misconduct the Ring (12.06 p.m.)

66 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 59 votes

No: 3 votes

Abstain: 4 votes

The motion was adopted.

6.9. Entry and promotion rules from other associations (by Kirsten Vrancken)

5.2.4. Entry and promotion rules for the official classes / licence booklets

Entry to Classes 0/1 - 3

Every newcomer to the official classes 0/1-3 starts in the lowest official class 0 or class 1. The competitor may decide this themselves.

Exception 1:

Competitors who are already competing in class 3 in one category (FS or HTM) without officially competing in the other category at the same time may choose their entry class in the new category.

Exception 2:

Competitors who have previously competed under different regulations and wish to compete in tournaments under these regulations for the first time may assign themselves to a class for their first competition. The first competition following self-assignment must not be in a qualifying or championship class.

Once the first start following self-assignment has been made in both exceptional cases, the team is subject to the currently valid promotion rules.

Removal of Exception 2

Reason:

Competitors from other federations who would classify themselves in Class 3 should be able to achieve the required promotion points through the regular route with a minimum number of tournament appearances. Furthermore, this ensures that the intended performance level of Class 3 meets the DDI's standards.

Vote: Change the entry rules for participants from other federations (12.09 p.m.)

66 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 26 votes

No: 25 votes

Abstain: 15 votes

The motion was adopted.

6.10. Further Development of the Structures of DDI e.V. (by Verena Verones on behalf of GDS)

Background

GDS benefits from the well-established foundations and framework conditions of DDI e.V. that have proven themselves over the years. We are committed to continuing our collaboration with DDI e.V.

The greatest merits of DDI e.V. are:

- There is a very well-founded and nuanced set of rules that can be adjusted annually by DDI members if a majority votes in favor of the proposed change at the DDI general meetings.
- The rules are applied uniformly in many countries and enable the exchange and participation of teams across national borders (In 2025, over 40 tournaments were held according to DDI regulations)
- DDI referee training is standardized, and continuing education for referees is mandatory and organized. Proof of completion must be provided annually. If the required criteria are not met, the referee loses their referee license
- Currently, 50 DDI referees are available to tournament organizers. Each of these judges can be contacted directly.
- There is a website that provides an overview of tournaments and results in Europe. Everyone also has access to the list of judges.
- Membership administration is handled centrally

Need to adapt current club structures

Since the founding of DDI international e.V. in 2009, dog dance has evolved significantly as a discipline and has gained enormous recognition. This is evident both in the number of members and in the diversity of countries that have joined DDI. However, the DDI's organizational structure has remained unchanged since 2009 and no longer reflects international realities or the needs of member countries.

The association's leadership and many decision-making processes continue to be shaped by DDI's German origins, which hinders the equal participation and sense of belonging of all member countries.

We hereby wish to openly inform the DDI Board of Directors of the growing dissatisfaction and encourage them to discuss possible solutions and next steps together.

We are aware that the current structure has evolved historically and that separating national and international responsibilities involves significant organizational and legal effort. Nevertheless, we are convinced that a clear and timely adjustment of the structures is now urgently needed to sustainably strengthen the international orientation of Dogdance International and to secure the trust of all member countries.

An important and appropriate step toward greater internationality was the introduction of country representatives by DDI e.V. Unfortunately, implementation has stalled. While the country representatives were appointed, there have been only isolated interactions between them and the DDI Board. This mechanism continues to offer great potential for intensifying the exchange between the Board and member countries and should therefore be further developed and strengthened collaboratively.

Our Motion for the DDI e.V. General Assembly 2026

Subject: Further Development of the Structures of DDI e.V.

Submitted by Verena Verones, President of GDS, as a representative of the GDS Board and on behalf of the GDS members

Justification:

The current structure is heavily influenced by the origins of DDI e.V. in Germany, which no longer meets the needs of today's international membership structure.

Motion:

We propose that Dogdance International be organized as an independent, international association whose Board consists of representatives from various member countries.

To this end, a working group composed of representatives from various member countries shall be established. This working group shall develop concrete proposals for the legal, organizational, and structural development of the international board by the next General Assembly in 2027 and present them for discussion.

Vote

At the GDS General Assembly on March 29, 2026, the GDS members mandated the GDS Board to submit and advocate for the motion "Further Development of the Structures of DDI e.V." at the 2026 DDI e.V. General Assembly:

DDI e.V. is requested to establish a working group to examine this matter - the further development of the structures of DDI e.V. - at all levels and to develop corresponding recommendations.

Vote: Establishment of a working group on "Further development of DDI structures" (12.13 p.m.)

66 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 31 votes

No: 24 votes

Abstain: 11 votes

The motion was adopted.

6.11. Leashes are compulsory on the entire show grounds (by Maren Heinrich, Karin Götting, Carsten Möhlenbrink)

We request that the respective tournament organizer determine where on the tournament grounds a leash is compulsory. This must be stipulated in writing in the announcement of the tournament.

The dogs must be kept on a short leash in these areas in a controlled manner and distance must be kept from the other dogs.

The background to this is that conflict and stress situations often arise, which significantly affect dog and owner before they start. This also applies to protect insecure or reactive dogs and to prevent future behavioural problems. This application is also intended to prevent or reduce the risk of dogs jumping into the ring or preparation ring from the outside.

It is recommended to attach a yellow ribbon to the leash of the dog that needs distance.

Vote: Leash requirement on the competition grounds (12.18 p.m.)

67 votes from 67 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 55 votes

No: 5 votes

Abstain: 7 votes

The motion was adopted.

NOTE: The lunch break has been cancelled at the request of the participating members.

6.12. Introduction of an annual budget (by Gisela Schindler)

The motion was withdrawn.

The Executive Committee will prepare a financial plan for the next general meeting.
There were communication difficulties due to differing interpretations of the word 'budget'.

6.13. annual starting authorization for non-members: Equal treatment of official and recreational starters (by Regula Albisser Strom)

At present, there is unequal treatment between official starters and recreational starters, even though both groups make equal use of the DDI's infrastructure, resources and the services of its judges. It is not clear why higher hurdles apply to official starters than to fun starters, even though both benefit from the same services. Differential treatment contradicts the principle of equal treatment.

Furthermore, the annual starting authorization causes a significant administrative burden, both for the DDI and for tournament organisers. However, the actual financial benefit of this regulation cannot be adequately assessed without access to the relevant budget. Nevertheless, I doubt whether the costs and benefits are in a reasonable proportion.

It is proposed that clear and uniform regulations be implemented:

Vote a:

The annual starting authorization for non-members is to be completely abolished. (12.28 p.m.)

68 votes from 68 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 22 votes

No: 39 votes

Abstain: 7 votes

The motion was rejected.

Vote b (deemed void if 6.13a is adopted): All non-members require an annual starting authorization, whether they do fun or official starts. (12.31 p.m.)

67 votes from 68 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 35 votes

No: 24 votes

Abstain: 8 votes

The motion was adopted.

If neither of the two options is adopted, the existing regulation remains unchanged.

6.14. Motion to amend the DDI Articles of Association regarding the cash auditors (by Regina Gerson)

Motion to amend the DDI Articles of Association regarding the election of cash auditors as follows:

(5) The General Meeting shall, in particular, decide on:

- a) the discharge of the Executive Board
- b) the election of the Executive Board
- c) the election of 2 cash auditors
- d) the election of the Advisory Board members
- e) amendments to the Articles of Association
- f) amendments to the tournament regulations
- g) the setting of membership and contribution fees
- h) motions from the Executive Board and members
- i) motions regarding appeals by rejected applicants for membership
- j) the expulsion of members
- k) the dissolution of the association

(6) The cash auditors shall be elected by the General Meeting for a term of two years. They may not be members of the Executive Committee or be employed by the Association. The cash auditors shall, at least once a year, verify the correctness of the accounts and supporting documents, as well as the use of funds in accordance with the Articles of Association. A written report on the results of the audit shall be submitted to the General Meeting. NEW: The election shall be conducted in such a way that only one cash auditor is newly elected at a time, on an alternating basis.

The following lists will be adjusted accordingly.

Reason: For years, we have had two truly excellent cash auditors who scrutinise the DDI accounts with great meticulousness. Thank you very much for that. I do not wish to discredit this work.

Limiting the term of office of the cash auditors to two years serves to safeguard their independence and objectivity. A regular change prevents the establishment of fixed auditing routines and potential conflicts of interest, thereby contributing to effective financial oversight. At the same time, the two-year term ensures that the cash auditors are properly trained. The staggered election ensures the necessary continuity of the cash audit.

Furthermore, I regard the role of cash auditor as an excellent opportunity for members to get involved in the work of the DDI Executive Committee.

Vote: Amendment to the election of cash auditors (12.35 p.m.)

A qualified majority of 75% of the valid votes is required.

68 votes from 68 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 25 votes

No: 23 votes

Abstain: 20 votes

The motion was rejected.

6.15. Application for the Restructuring of Judges' Responsibilities (by Sandra Schneider)

I hereby submit a proposal to restructure the responsibilities related to judges by establishing a three-member committee with extended international involvement through committee applicants.

Composition of the Committee:

1. Person responsible for judges (elected by the general assembly)
2. Person responsible for judges' administration (volunteer position)
3. Person responsible for organizing judges' discussion rounds (volunteer position)

Extended Participation:

Applicants to the judges' committee will continue to be responsible for international matters, particularly topics related to judging practices and their interpretation. However, decisions regarding implementation and execution must be made by the three-member committee. In the case of multiple applicants, selection will be carried out by the judges of the respective country.

Rationale:

The current committee structure is no longer viable in an international context. The number of applicants is unfortunately very limited (4 applicants from Germany, Switzerland, and Italy). Decisions made by the committee have often proven difficult to implement or have resulted in significant additional workload. The original goal—promoting international exchange and better addressing country-specific requirements—has only been partially achieved. In particular, it remains unclear who will implement the new regulations in the area of qualification tournaments.

The restructuring aims to create a functional committee composed of actively engaged individuals who take responsibility and implement decisions efficiently, even if international participation is, unfortunately, limited.

Objectives:

- Faster and more efficient decision-making processes
- Shorter communication channels
- Ensuring the practical feasibility of decisions
- Continuing international exchange through regular meetings (at least three per calendar year)
- Direct handling of topics arising from discussion rounds

Vote: Restructuring of Judges' Responsibilities (12.53 p.m.)

67 votes from 68 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 31 votes

No: 8 votes

Abstain: 28 votes

The motion was adopted.

6.16. after Deadline

Proposal for Rule Change – Minimum Age for Entry to Class 3

(by Saša Vavrová, Lusy Imbergerová, Chiara Meccoli, Melissa Munoz, Barbara Castelli, Mary Alicia Alberico, Šárka Krutová, Mallegrì, Rita Ruberto, Fabiana Lussignoli, Corinne Basco, Luciana D'Arrigo, Domenico Stazione, Rachele Tulli, Ilaria Opromolla)

We would like to propose a modification of the current rule stating that dogs may enter Class 3 only after reaching the age of 3 years to 2 years / 24 months.

Current Issue

In many countries, qualification competitions for major championships are held up to 10 months before the final event (such as European or World Championships). Under the current rule, dogs that are almost three years old at the time of qualification cannot compete in Class 3 qualifiers. As a consequence, these dogs may be ineligible to qualify, even though by the time the championship itself takes place they may already be close to four years old. Every year this rule prevents several competitors from participating in qualification events and ultimately from competing at the highest level.

Consistency with Major Events

It is also important to note that all major championships – such as EOC, OEC, and WCH FCI – allow dogs to compete from 18 months of age. Therefore, the current age restriction for entering Class 3 appears inconsistent with the eligibility rules of the very competitions for which many teams are qualifying.

Considerations Regarding Dog Welfare and Readiness

Handlers should have the right to decide when their dog is ready to move to a higher class.

At 24 months of age, dogs are already considered mature enough in many contexts:

- They can be used for breeding and have their own litters.
- They can compete in significantly more physically demanding sports, such as IGP, agility, or frisbee.

Compared to these disciplines, dogdancing is generally less physically demanding, making the current age restriction difficult to justify. Practical experience in our sport shows that competing at the highest level before the age of three does not negatively affect dog welfare. Several handlers who trained and competed with their dogs at this level before three years of age later achieved the highest international titles with the same dogs and even more times, including Sandra Roth, Saša Vavrová, Monika Olšovská or Ludmila Eibogina.

Vote: Rule Change – Minimum Age for Entry to Class 3 (13.10 p.m.)

I propose revising the rule to allow dogs to enter Class 3 earlier - after they reach 24 months, enabling teams that are ready to progress to do so and allowing fair participation in qualification events for major championships.

68 votes from 68 registrations in the vote box

Yes: 28 votes

No: 37 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

The motion was rejected.

TOP 7 Miscellaneous

Objection by Katrin Heimsath: The compatibility of the GDPR and the Articles of Association must be examined.

Katrin Heimsath has asked that the wording of the questions in the Votebox be made clearer next year, so that people do not have to read through the entire motion again.

Info from Sandra Schneider:

Country representatives will be elected shortly; anyone who wishes to stand for election is welcome to do so.

Outlook: Revenue in 2026 is expected to be on a par with that of 2025.

Outlook: Costs for translations and technical support are set to rise, as are the costs for webinar trainers.

Urgent assistance is required with managing start licences, particularly due to the additional workload caused by start authorisations for the Fun classes.

Another call for volunteers.

Karin Götting has offered to set up and manage a DDI Instagram account.

Nina Neumann will no longer be available as First Chair from 2028 onwards.

TOP 8 Closing words of the Executive Board

Nina Neumann thanks her for the good cooperation, the good meeting and for adhering to the time schedule. Many thanks also to Tim Hamann from the Votebox.

The meeting ends at 13.20 p.m.

Explanation of the Vote of Confidence

Announcement of the selection process for the OEC by an FCI association after the award by the DDI – supported by a DDI judge

The board only became aware of the selection announcement by chance through Facebook and was disappointed by the allocation, although it had been carried out fully in accordance with the regulations. The decision was not made by the board based on personal preferences, but strictly according to the rules.

Several hours were spent trying to find a solution between the DDI and the FCI association, but unfortunately without success.

Several individuals also tried to work with the FCI association to find a solution in the interest of the OEC organizers. The aim was to avoid confrontation, especially since there is no clear regulation for this situation within the country. Other than the DDI giving in and relinquishing the qualification process, no workable solution could be found.

Sanction against the judge due to disloyal conduct (imposed by the board because of time constraints)

To prevent the judge in question from also officiating at the tournament that was intended to serve as a competing selection event against the DDI, the board decided on a sanction. The judge was informed directly. No public statement was made, in order to handle the matter discreetly and respectfully toward her.

Massive pressure on the board and threats of legal action

This discretion was later used against us. We were publicly criticized and attacked on social media, pressured into making statements, and accused of acting out of personal motives. We were also threatened with lawyers and legal consequences. This was the first point at which we began questioning whether we still had the trust needed to continue.

Board members being played against each other by third parties

Private messages were forwarded in order to create tension. Minor disagreements within the board were deliberately exploited to create discord.

Subtle accusations of personal enrichment by the board

Given the very limited room for action allowed to us under German association law and our non-profit obligations, we currently find ourselves accused of seeking personal financial gain. At no point did anyone ask who received what amount or why. Opinions were formed without any background knowledge.

Dissatisfaction with the board's work – without constructive suggestions

Based on the current atmosphere and the feedback reaching us, there appears to be a general dissatisfaction with the board. Much of it feels rooted in personal grievances, yet it is projected onto the entire board and is undermining our motivation to continue giving 100%.

Lack of communication with the board

Unfortunately, none of the dissatisfied members have approached us directly for discussion, clarification of open questions, or understanding of the background circumstances. We deliberately do not make every step public—not because we have anything to hide, but because we want to avoid unrest within the association.

There will be no social media witch hunt initiated by us simply because a judge made a mistake—that alone would already violate the regulations. We are also always willing to explain matters repeatedly if misunderstandings arise, including those caused by translation errors.

We always act in the best interests of the association, within the framework of the regulations, and we understand that not every decision will please everyone. There are rules we personally may not always agree with either, but we still apply them and act according to the will of our members.

Every member has the opportunity to propose changes to the regulations if they disagree with something. We as a board make use of this possibility as well whenever we believe improvements can be made. Whether such proposals are accepted is decided by the members—not by the board.

Association law, our statutes, and the regulations define what we must do, how decisions must be made, and how much discretion we have.

Regarding the volunteer compensation allowance, we were aware that this might raise questions, and that is entirely legitimate. We can explain that in 2025 unexpected additional expenses arose for us, while other costs were reduced because we took on this work ourselves and were able to introduce tournament sponsorship in return.

Since judge instructors have for years had a financial entitlement for their work (also regulated under German association law), and this has always been fully accepted, we assumed this expense would likewise be understood. Here too, only one direct question was raised, yet the atmosphere suggests that opinions were again formed without proper background knowledge. No one specifically asked who received which payments.

Disappointment of all board members about the current atmosphere

This situation affects us personally and makes us deeply sad. We only want to continue if that is truly desired, and if we can return to working together instead of against each other.

An association does not live through its board alone, but through its members and what they are willing and able to contribute.

Perhaps it is simply time for new leadership, fresh energy, and new ideas to find a better way forward. Perhaps our critics really can do it better—and if so, we do not want to stand in their way.

All of us could then simply devote ourselves once again “just” to our free time and to the sport we love, together with our beloved dogs.