**Introduction of FCI Obedience**

The current rules are held by Federation Cynologique International (FCI) for Obedience Trials (Competitions) for Classes 1 & 2 & 3.

<https://www.fci.be/en/Obedience-46.html>

To propose the introduction of FCI Obedience to Australia under the controlling body of the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd (Dogs Australia)

The FCI Obedience Rules and Guidelines are to be followed, except where the National country can make subtractions and/or additions to suit their conditions, ethics and guidelines.

The FCI Obedience competitions allow competitors to teach good contact between dog and handler and on achieving the dog’s willingness to obey even when at a distance from the Handler. The Handler and dog should display a good overall relationship.

FCI Obedience Competition trials for Classes 1 & 2 & 3.

If Dogs Australia offers a totally new type of obedience category (FCI Obedience), this will allow people to enter and perform obedience with their dogs that is somewhat different from our current obedience exercises.

Our current obedience members also have a chance to learn new and exciting exercises and gain more titles for their dogs - therefore keeping them in the obedience ring for longer.

Obedience numbers have declined over the years. The reasoning for this is not known, but it seems that dogs are acquiring titles in higher classes at a much younger age (information gained from facebook) and this would also give purpose to those dogs to continue on in obedience competition.

Monetary gain to the State Canine organisation for judges licences and dog titles, but also to clubs to hold additional competitions without too much additional work and of course to gain additional titles to the dogs and their owners.

1. Judging

Initially all Obedience judges that currently hold a UDX Licence, have the opportunity to undergo Judges Training which will involve inviting a representative from FCI to train judges in the areas of FCI Rules and guidelines.

A further ongoing training scheme will take place under the Obedience Chair where an authorised FCI accredited judge/s, train and educate the new interested judges.

This will also give our obedience judges another licence to be maintained, but also an opportunity for invitation to judge overseas.

2. Competitions

Our current sport clubs will hold these competitions (1-2 rings) in conjunction with their obedience competitions.

This will also gain additional income for the club for entries gained for FCI obedience.

It is also the chance for the state organisation of Dogs Australia to include an FCI as a national event for all states to participate. This can also be in conjunction with the current National events.

3. Competitors

All competitors will require an eligibility to participate in FCI Obedience Classes.

Competitors will be able to gain additional titles in obedience which is added to the dog’s registered details. This title will be recognised internationally.

Competitors will have the opportunity to grow in areas of obedience by teaching new exercises. Competitors will also have a new challenge they can move onto once completing the ANKC obedience.

Classes 1 & 2 & 3 are offered which will allow a progression of skills to be acquired as they move through the classes.

Class 3 is also a National event to be included in ANKC National Obedience competition.

Class 3 is an international recognised level and qualifies the person and dog to compete internationally if they so desire. Breed clubs and Dogs Australia will need to authorise.

3. Rules and guidelines

FCI Rules and guidelines will be the foundation for ANKC members to follow, however an obedience /sport committee may adjust these rules to suit our Australian conditions.

This will include Bitches in season and bitches in breeding - as these rules differ from our current ANKC Obedience from FCI Obedience.

Eligibility to participate will also be defined by the obedience committee (Classes 1 & 2 & 3), including age of dog and current level of obedience.