OEC Meeting 25. August 2017 in Balen, Belgium

Start at: 19:15 End at: 20:45

Sporthal Bleukens, Hoolsterberg 36, Balen, Belgium

Chairman: Dr. Petra Funk (Switzerland)

Counting votes: Esther Niemeijer (Netherlands)

Minutes: Barbara Feldbauer (Germany)

Voting Participants:

- **Argentina**
  - Marysol Ray
- **Belgium**
  - Simonne Lauwers (leaving at 19:50)
  - Luc Daems
- **Finland**
  - Minna Yrjana
- **France**
  - Sophie Perez
  - Chantal Charron
- **Germany**
  - Dr.Uta Opel
  - Barbara Feldbauer
- **Great Britain**
  - Karen Sykes
  - Kath Hardman
- **Italy**
  - Chiara Meccoli
  - Marina Locatelli
- **Japan**
  - Lucie Plevova

- **The Netherlands**
  - Nikky Goes
  - Wendy Coersen

- **Russia**
  - Polina Ilina (joining in at 20:06, leaving at 20:25)

- **Slovakia**
  - Monika Olsovska
  - Sasa Vavrova

- **Sweden**
  - Eva Andersson (leaving at 20:25)
  - Kerstin Eklund (leaving at 20:25)

- **Switzerland**
  - Sandra Schneider
  - Therese Vifian Pulver

1. Address of welcome

Dr. Petra Funk welcomes to the OEC Meeting and tells some points to have a good, fair and helpful meeting. Her words:
1. Voting representative please sign the attendance list, which is circulated. We need this information to determine the numbers of votes during the meeting
2. Before the meeting, I have been asked, why "non-members" are allowed to submit items for the agenda - I want to make sure, everybody here understands the nature of the OEC currently: it is an assembly of competitors meeting once a year for the competition, the dogs, the sports, and for the people to connect with. But, as of now, we are not a club or other formal organization- we are open, for anyone. Therefore I think it is valid to accept any item for discussion from anyone, willing to present it to the chairperson
3. Thirdly: we may come to difficult discussions which may be emotionally trying.
• Please keep a cool head,
• Please stay polite and fair, even if you feel your item of passion is not being treated well.
• Please try to help to find a compromise
• Please accept decisions made here
4. Lastly, I would like to state and important aspect: the OEC and the OEC meeting is not able to solve differences and difficulties in Nations, about who is allowed to compete. This has to be done by each nation separately, and if there are internal quarrels and debates going on, it is

not possible for the OEC to solve it. It is up to each human being in that country to seek helpful and constructive solutions before asking the OEC for decisions. Thank you, please keep this in mind during the meeting, I may need your help there.

2. Procedure about the agenda points 2 and 3:

Dr. Petra Funk says that before the discussion about these two points starts, she would like to take the chance and suggest another course of action.

Dr. Petra Funk reads out the agenda points 2 and 3.

Agenda point 2. Preference of national teams, part 1 (Wies Wies Koelewijn, President of NDDB, Netherlands)
Suggested addition to the rules:
"Instead of the FCI clubs, who had the preference position before, the preference position will go to the clubs who have sent their National teams to the OEC in the previous 5 years the most number of times (if not all the time). And that a list of these clubs will be made and published publicly for every future OEC host country to see, and help them accept the team of preference."
Justification:
We feel this addition needs to be added to the rules, otherwise it might very likely lead to chaos. In the Netherlands we had huge problems, due to FCI clubs losing preference position. We hope to prevent this chaos for the other countries, with our proposal.

Agenda point 3. Preference of National Teams, part 2 (Esther Winkels and Marina Krohm, Netherlands)
Suggested addition to the rules:
"In case more organisations of a country fulfil the rules to enter the OEC, each organisation has the right to sign in an equal amount of participants despite their history and earlier results and without an organised external selection between the organisations."
Justification:
Last year we have been busy with trying to find an entrance in the OEC for our members. Since our organisation is IFCS based the OEC is the only opportunity for our members to participate in an international competition. There are two equal dogdance organisations in the Netherlands, both organisations fulfil the entrance rules. There was a proposal by the OEC commission to solve the issue by organising a video contest but both organisations rejected that proposal. Then the OEC commission decided we could not take part at the OEC but also concluded the rules are unclear: "We are aware that these rules, as it is written, are not clear enough

and can causes disagreement and have to be looked up again at the next OEC meeting."
Therefore we want to discuss this again. It's clear that there is a wish to have open international competitions (think of the pedigree issue at the World Championship). We truly believe that making the OEC open for all dogdancers of a country is worthful and will improve the sport.
By taking the history of both organisations as a prior any other new organisation wanting to compete at the OEC will never get a change to do so: "The OEC committee is aware that either decision they take, there will be all ways disappointed persons but tried to make a decision in good conscience. Seeing at the past will teach us that the NDDB is the institute which content the most on this criteria (organizing the OEC in the past, have had judges and players on many OEC's, Crufts, World Championships and other International competitions) Therefore the comity has decided that the NDDB may represent Holland at the next OEC in Balen, Belgium."

After reading out, Dr. Petra Funk says that because in her view, none of the two suggested additions to the rules are required, she has the following proposal:

"The items 2 and 3 are taken off the agenda and not discussed or decided on today, because the current rules are sufficient for selecting the respective national team."

Justification:
In the current rules we have the following paragraph (which was only added last year). Cite from the meeting minutes 2016:
In case more teams are presented, the priority must be given to the team who qualified under the National Organization which meets the following requirements:
Organization or institutions that for more years, in that country, recognizes and promotes Dogdance and organizes international competitions;
It has played selections with a team of judges recognized internationally, with proven experience;
That the selection is open to each dog with and without any pedigree.
In my view, these rules should have been sufficient for the selection of the national teams also this year.
How come then, that we had this confusion and the discussions for the selection of the team for the Netherlands?
Last year we have created to OEC committee to help finding solutions.
Still, we did not form immediately after the OEC in Krieglach- we only started out after Luc needed support for solving the admission conflicts for the Netherlands Team.

After discussion:

Voting 1:

The items 2 and 3 are taken off the agenda and not discussed or decided on today, because the current rules are sufficient for selecting the respective national team and in the current rules the following adjustment will be made: "*Organization or institutions that for more years…..*" will be replace with "*Organization or institutions that for the most amount of years….*"

Results:

- Yes: 20
- No: 1
- Abstentions: 0

3. Discussion about proposal: Dogs and the competition venue (Helle Larson, Denmark)

Suggested addition either to the rules or somewhere else for the OEC organizers:
"The venue must be big enough for all competing dogs to stay indoors in the same building during the competition? "
Justification:
It is a bit stressful to go to an important competition and have to leave the dog outside out of sight. If the weather is dog friendly, it is not a problem, but if it is very hot or maybe thunder and lightning, it is not nice to leave dogs outside in a tent.
I also worry about dog theft - people know there is a competition going on and that the dogs travelling there are well trained, talented dogs. I think it will be difficult to relax and enjoy the show indoors, if I cannot keep an eye on my dog, as it is left outdoors in a tent and could easily be stolen. It is a shame to travel a long way to take part in a championship and then have to take turns guarding dogs outside behind the venue.

Voting 2.1:

The venue must be big enough for all competing dogs to stay indoors in the same building during the competition.

Results: (- 1 voting participant)

- Yes: 0
- No: 20
- Abstentions: 0

Voting 2.2:
The venue should at best be big enough for all competing dogs to stay indoors at the same venue during the competition, where ever possible.

Results:
- Yes: 20
- No: 0
- Abstentions: 0

The meeting participants would be pleased about a marked area for bitches in season, if possible.

4. Discussion about the organisation of the OEC in 2020:

Sweden doesn´t have a suitable venue.

Great Britain will discuss in the future their possibilities to carry out an OEC.

The Netherlands are already discussing about carrying out an OEC, and will make a decision at their national meeting in December.

Polina Ilina from Russia tells in the meeting, that they will carry out the OEC in 2020 and they already have saved a venue in Moscow.

The meeting participants are thankful for this offer.

5. Short report about the OEC Committee (Dr. Petra Funk for the OEC Committee)

The current OEC committee (period 2016/2017) consists of:

- Organizer OEC 2014 – Carmen Schmid
- Organizer OEC 2016 – Monika Fritz
- Organizer OEC 2017 – Luc Deams
- Organizer OEC 2018 – Dr. Petra Funk
- Organizer OEC 2019 – Lusy Imbergerova

The next OEC committee (period 2017/2018, after the OEC 2017 in Balen) consists of:

- Organizer OEC 2016 – Monika Fritz
- Organizer OEC 2017 – Luc Deams
- Organizer OEC 2018 – Dr. Petra Funk
- Organizer OEC 2019 – Lusy Imbergerova
- Organizer OEC 2020 - **Polina Ilina**

The committee was created for a probation phase for 2 years and supported Luc Deams when he had questions, organizing the OEC 2017 and is helpful, if there are unclear points.

6. Information about the OEC 2018 in Switzerland (Dr. Petra Funk, Switzerland):

The OEC in Switzerland will take place from 12th of October 2018 to 14the of October 2018. Training day is the 11th of October 2017.
The competition will be held in Münsingen at the brandnew Swissdogarena. This is a dog training and event hall, which is currently under construction. It is built to host national and international competitions. The owner of the arena is very happy to support OEC 2018 by giving us the opportunity to hold the event there.

There will be a website and a Facebook site for this event, to give all further information.

7. Discussion about Official Website of the OEC (Fruzsi Wilhelm, Hungary):

Fruzsi has set up a website, that collects general information about the OEC and host the current set of rules. She would like to have general acceptance of this site, as the official website of the OEC.

Addition: OEC webpage
Proposition for http://oec-htm-freestyle.weebly.com/ to be accepted as an official resource for all documents related to the Open European Championship. The new edition of the rules/judging sheet/etc. after every meeting would be published on this page, available for everyone to download.
Fruzsina Wilheim volunteers for updating this page regularly, working together with for example OEC meeting leaders and organisers when creating new documents.

OEC organisers can of course create their own website for each individual event, this webpage is strictly for general information about the OEC.

Voting 3.1:

Proposition for http://oec-htm-freestyle.weebly.com/ to be accepted as an official resource for all documents related to the Open European Championship. The new edition of the rules/judging sheet/etc. after every meeting would be published on this page, available for everyone to download.
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OEC organisers can of course create their own website for each individual event, this webpage is strictly for general information about the OEC.

Results: (+ 1 voting participant)

- Yes: 21
- No: 0
- Abstentions: 0

Voting 3.2:

The OEC committee must approve publications of all content of this website.

Results: (- 1 voting participant)

- Yes: 20
- No: 0
- Abstentions: 0

8. Discussion about Points of the qualifications and the finals (Fruzsi Wilhelm, Hungary):

Fruzsi suggests, that the. final points should not be added to the qualification round points, they should stand on their own.

Addition: Points of the final
The suggestion is that the points that finalists receive during the Finals on the last day of the OEC stand alone and are not added to the points that they received

during the qualification rounds. This way there is a chance for the final to completely change the ranking of the qualification round, and make a clearer competition.
Many times in previous years we have seen that the qualifications have a big influence and may determine the ranking regardless of the points the competitors receive during the final, even if their points are lower.
If the qualification points were deleted, and the finalists would receive only the points of the final, start with a clean page, there is a chance for a clearer competition.

Voting 4:

The suggestion is that the points that finalists receive during the finals on the last day of the OEC stand alone and are not added to the points that they received during the qualification rounds.

Results: (- 2 voting participants)

- Yes: 0
- No: 15
- Abstentions: 3

9. Discussion about Judging of the OEC (Dr. Petra Funk, Switzerland):

Last year at the OEC meeting a change in judging was proposed. The decision of the meeting was, that the judges from OEC 2014 and OEC 2016 should

„discuss the problem and come up with options until March 2017" (citation from last year's meeting minutes)

So far, there were no suggestions given. This is may be due to the fact, that for the judges it is not easy to come together and discuss.
If the will is still there to reform the judging system, then we should rethink the way of getting it started.
May be it would be a good ideas, to ask the OEC committee to follow up this task together with the active judges of the last OECs?

The meeting participants decide that the OEC committee should ask the judges to discuss the adaptation needs of the OEC rules.

10. OEC Meeting organisation (Dr. Petra Funk, Switzerland):

Is it possible to decide at this year's meeting, who will prepare next year's meeting? Until now this has been a rather informal process, depending on individual dedication or desire to get things done. Deciding on the next organiser of the meeting will help to prepare it in an organised manner.

After discussion, following voting:

Voting 5:

The country carrying out the OEC the year after the current OEC is organizing the OEC meeting of the current OEC .

Results:

- Yes: 18
- No: 0
- Abstentions: 0

Chiara Meccoli and Marina Locatelli will organize the OEC meeting in Switzerland.