Regulations copied on August 22, 2026, from the official EGA website.
https://www.europeangroomingassociation.eu/rules.php

EUROPEAN GROOMING ASSOCIATION

- Important Notice – Official EGA Regulations

- The EGA regulations available on this page in PDF format are **a complete copy of the regulations published on the official European Grooming Association (EGA) website as of 22 August 2026**, the date on which the www.mastershow.it website was launched.
- This document is provided for information purposes only and **may not include any amendments or updates introduced after that date**.
- As it is not possible to guarantee daily updates to the PDF copy, we strongly recommend that all participants regularly consult the **official EGA website**, which is the authoritative source for checking the applicable regulations and any subsequent updates:
- **https://www.europeangroomingassociation.eu/rules.php**
- In the event of any discrepancies between the PDF published on the Master Show website and the official EGA regulations, **participants should refer to the official EGA version applicable to the event**, taking into account the relevant effective dates and any applicable transitional provisions.
- The Master Show organisation is not responsible for the publication or updating of EGA regulations by the European Grooming Association.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION RULES

General

The contestant can apply for the following categories:

Handstripping

Spaniels and Setters

Poodles

Other pure breeds scissoring

- Beginner *– not more than 2 years' experience. Dog shows also counts as experience.

The contestant can compete as "Beginner" in several contests for 12 months even if winner. The second year he/she must enter "Intermediate" class even if not winner. In this class, all breeds and techniques are confused but Contest Organizers can divide the Beginner class into the four main categories. Moving to Intermediate after winning in one category does not allow the contestant to compete again in Beginner, even not in different categories.

- Intermediate* - all contestants with more than 2 years' experience

The contestant can compete as “Intermediate” in several contests for 12 months even if winner. The second year he/she must enter “Open” class even if not winner. In this class, all breeds and techniques are confused but Contest Organizers can divide the Intermediate class into the four main categories. Moving to Open after winning in one category does not allow the contestant to compete again in Intermediate, even not in different categories.

Contestants that already have been competing in Open cannot compete in Intermediate anymore.

Commercial * - Contestants may enter with any FCI recognized breed to be groomed commercially: breeds that usually need stripping can be clipped or scissored; long hair breeds can be clipped or scissored. Poodles are accepted only to be groomed in Asian style or groomed in different breed shape as Bedlington or Kerry blue. Colouring is not allowed . In this category all breeds and techniques are confused.

* *These Categories are not eligible for best in show*.

In Competitions where “Open” and “Champion” class are scheduled, contestants will enter the one they belong considering their previous results

Per category, the contestant can compete in one of the two following classes

- Open –Any groomer moving from Intermediate class or that has not yet competed in Champion class. Open competitors will need three victories, obtained in a class with no less than five contestants, to move up to “Champion”. Along with their award, winners will receive one certificate. The three certificates must be shown when registering for “Champion”.
- Champion – Can be admitted in “Champion” class contestants that already won their category in that class and contestants that won three times Open Class in the same category in a class with no less than five contestants and only if showing the three certificates.

EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

To participate in the Tournament contestants have to compete at least in three main categories.

Timing

Handstripping without clipper use

Small and Medium sizes 2 : 30 hours

Big sizes 3 hours

Handstripping with clipper use

Small 2 : 00 hours

Medium sizes 2 : 15 hours

Big sizes 2 : 30 hours

Spaniels and Setters

All Setters, American Cockers, English Cockers, Springers,... 2 : 30 hours

Poodles*

Up to 35 cm 2 : 00 hours

35 to 45 2 : 15 hours

Over 45 cm 2 : 30 hours

* ***15 minutes extra time is allowed to spray up top knot***

Pure Breeds

Bichon, Bedlington 2 : 00 hours

Kerry Blue Terrier, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier,

Black Russian Terrier, Bouvier 2 : 30 hours

Intermediate

All breeds 2 : 30 hours

Beginner

All breeds 2 : 30 hours

Commercial

Small and medium 1 : 30 hours

Big 2 : 00 hours

5 minutes comfort break must be given 1 hour after the start competition making the dogs get off the tables giving them the opportunity to stretch their legs

Grooming regulations

The dogs will need to be washed (except for the handstrip dogs)

The ears and nails need to be groomed and the dog's underbelly, genitals and hind quarters may be previously groomed for reasons of hygiene, according to the breed standard.

Any evident line or pattern should not be visible. Dog's coat must have, at least, two months' growth; the hair must be long enough to allow the groomer to make a difference in its appearance.

Contestants competing with dogs showing evident line or groomed less than two months earlier should be aware that they will not have any chance to compete for victory.

All grooming techniques are allowed, as long as the chosen technique suites the type of the dog's coat.

Category Handstripping / Spaniels & Setters

Stripping knives are allowed

Dog needs to be groomed according to the breed standard

Colored Chalk powder/block/spray and cream is allowed.

It is not allowed to use clippers except:

Scottish Terrier – chest, head and ears.

West Highland Terrier - chest and ears.

Cockers and Setters - chest and ears.

Schnauzer - chest, head, inside of back legs and ears

Category Poodles / Pure Breeds

The dog needs to be washed and fluffy dried.

Clipper guide combs are not allowed.

Category Poodles

Poodle muzzle and feet should be shaven prior to the start of the competition.

Poodles must be groomed in a style recognized in the breed standard. The Modified Continental Clip may be accepted, provided that it remains unmistakably derived from the Continental Clip, preserves the characteristic breed outline and does not conflict with correct show presentation or the essential requirements of the breed standard.

In order to give all poodles the same opportunity despite of their sizes, it was decided to separate the class in “Mini Dwarf and Toys” and “Standards”. That way we will have two Poodle classes. Each class should still have no less than five competitors

Poodles with top knots may ask for help from an outsider to hold the dog.

Coloring is not allowed

Contestants

On the entry form contestants must add the breed of the dog to be groomed and, for Poodle class, also what cut will be done. Signature in acceptance of all rules is required.

Contestants must be in the ring 30 minutes prior the start of the competition with their own dog and tools.

Contestants are not allowed to talk to other contestants and/or the audience during the contest.

Contestants are not allowed to use mobile phone and/or any electronic device during the competition.

Chalk use is allowed, however Judges must be able to comb the entire dog's body during prejudging as well as at the end of the competition and no trace of it should appear on judges' hands after the judgment, as a disqualification can occur.

On Poodle hair spray can be used only on topknot, as the comb must slide smoothly during the judgment .

Too much hair spray and the use of texturing shampoo / conditioners can penalize Purebred Scissoring that cannot be smoothly combed..

Coat thinning comb should be used on Spaniel & Setter without exaggerating.

On Handstrip dogs, legs, underbelly and hears should not be done previous the competition.

Any indecorous or aggressive language used towards the judges as well as a dog handled in rough or unsafe manner may lead to disqualification.

Possible disqualification will be executed by the President of the Jury

When competition ends, Contestants should remove all hair, equipment and products from the grooming table as well as moving all stuffs on the floor under the table, to allow the judges an easy approach to the tables for the judgment

A comb should be placed on the table for the judge to use during judging.

Contestants may comb their dogs before and after the judging panel has evaluated their dogs.

Contestant should stack his/her dog to present to judge. Dogs not in judgment must not be kept stuck

Any possible complaint must be in written, presented before the end of the event and will cost 25€

“Open Class”” competitors will need three victories, obtained in a class with no less than five contestants, to move up to “Champion”. Along with their award, winners will receive one certificate. The three certificates must be shown when registering for “Champion”.

“Champion Class” winners will receive, along with their awards, one certificate to keep and attach to any application to become EGA judge.

Organizers

Jury President: Each show organizer must appoint a Jury President who participate in the judging alongside assigned judges. The President is responsible for the timing and informing contestants and may appoint a spokesperson.

Judges Accommodations: Organizers are responsible for providing hotel accommodations, meals (from the night before the competition until departure) travel expense reimbursements, and an attendance fee of 200 € per day for judges

Brand Affiliation: Judges associated with a brand cannot judge contestants sponsored or working for the same brand.

Minimum Competitors: Each class should have at least three competitors.

Equipment Provision: Organizers are to provide grooming tables and use EGA judging sheets - Print and give to Open and Champion classes' winners certificates proving their placements.

Competition Results: must be sent to the EGA Secretary

Adjusting Judges Based on Participation: If fewer than 40 contestants enter the competition, organizer can opt for two instead of three judges per class.

Provision of Dogs for Demos/Seminars: dogs provided for demos or seminars must be suitable for showcasing judges' ability. Judges have the right to refuse if the dogs are not appropriate.

Additional Classes: Organizers may add extra competing classes like, "Asian Style", "Model dog" or "Pair competition". These can be judged by individuals not on the EGA judges list, provided they are accompanied by EGA judges.

Beginner and Intermediate Classes: It is mandatory for the Beginner and Intermediate classes to be judged by all-round judges. These judges should have the expertise to assess various breeds and styles, ensuring a well-rounded and fair evaluation in these categories.

Judges

Three judges will judge each category

Judges cannot judge their own relatives and /or employees.

Judges working for a brand cannot judge contestants sponsored or working for the same one.

Judges are not allowed to leave the ring during the competition without the permission of the President of the Jury.

"Champion" class must be strictly judged.

Persons not included in the EGA judges list cannot be appointed to judge any main competing class.

Judging

Pictures of the dogs will be taken before and after the competition

The judges will examine each dog during prejudging and final judging and will take in consideration the following issues:

Suitability of chosen style to the dog.

The difficulty degree of the clip.

Ability to camouflage defects and enhance beauty.

Up to date with today's modern grooming styles.

Respect for todays breed standard. *

The quality of scissoring, shaving and or stripping after passing a comb.

Balance, symmetry, and smoothness.

Presentation of the dog to the judge.

*Allowance to be made for International differences in styling for example USA or Scandinavian styles.

Judges can withhold awards at their discretion

Poodles

The quality of the clipper work whether the feet, face and tail are clipped with the appropriate blade. All clipper work should be smooth with no tufts of hair around the lips , eyes, pads of the feet.

Hand Stripping

There should be no visible pink of bald patches. The hair must be removed with the lay of the coat and without causing pain. Removing the undercoat by a carding tool is allowed only after the handstripping has taken place. Rolling coats are acceptable; however the work done in the ring must be sufficient to allow the groomer to make a distinct change in the dog's appearance.

If clippers are used to trim the soft coat on the head or ears, the front of the neck, or on the insides of the back legs, these areas must be trimmed neatly and smoothly with the appropriate blade. The clipper work should blend smoothly with the furnishing or feathering rather than stick out. Excessive scissors use will be penalized.

Pure Breeds and Spaniels & Setters

If thinning shears are used: the areas that are thinned should blend smoothly and create a natural appearance.

The judges' decision will be final and binding.

POINTS

In the four main categories (Handstrip, Spaniels and Setters, Poodles, and Other pure breeds) the judging system is based on points.

Each judge awards 10 points for the first place, 8 points for the second, 6 points for the third in each class.

Each judge will have his/her own place list. Adding up the points of all judges, the President of the Jury will obtain the final place list. Just in case of tie the President of the Jury will discuss with the judges to establish the place list.

Handling

Judges may give a warning to any competitor who is seen handling a dog in a rough or unsafe manner. A second warning will constitute disqualification.

If the competitor makes clipper burns, nicks or cuts he can't be placed as a winner.

It is understood that contestants entering the competition accepted all the items of these rules.

WORLD TEAM GROOMING CHAMPIONSHIP

RULES

1. Four competing classes: Purebred Scissoring – Spaniel & Setter – Handstripping – Poodle

2. Four groomers will compose a team: 1 groomer per competing class

3. Only one team per Country will be accepted

4. Dogs must have a minimum of 8 weeks' hair growth. Any evident line should not appear.

5. Poodles must have a minimum of 5 centimeters hair growth. Any evident line should not

appear. The hair on the muzzle and feet should be shaven prior to the start of the competition. Clipper guide combs are not allowed.

6. Dog's hair must be long enough to allow the groomer to make changes to its physical

appearance

7. Dogs must be freshly washed and dried, have no tangles in their hair. Ears must be cleaned, nails clipped, before the competition

8. Dog's underbelly. Genitals and hindquarters may be previously cleaned for reasons

of hygiene, according to breed standard

9. All grooming techniques (Scissoring, Clipping, and Handstripping) are allowed

10. For Poodles, dogs must be groomed in a style recognized by the standard. German clip allowed

The Judge must be notified of the type of cut to be performed before the competition starts.

11. All competitors must be in the ring 30 minutes before the start of the competition.

12. In Purebred Scissoring class clipper guide combs are not allowed.

13. Allowed Breeds:

PUREBRED SCISSORING - Bichon, Kerry Blue Terrier, Wheaten Soft Coated Terrier,

Black Russian Terrier, Bedlington Terrier, Bouvier.

SPANIEL & SETTER – All Setters, American Cocker, English Cocker, Springer, etc.

HANDSTRIPPING – Fox Terrier, Lakeland Terrier, Scottish Terrier, West highland Terrier,

Sealyham Terrier, Welsh Terrier, Schnauzer. Etc.

POODLE – Standard, miniature and toy.

14. TIMING

Purebred Scissoring: Bichon and Bedlington 2 hours

Other breeds 2 hours and 30 minutes

Spaniel & Setter: Spaniels 2 hours and 30 minutes

Handstripping: Breeds needing clipper use 2 hours

Others breeds 2 hours and 30 minutes

Poodle .

up to 45 cm. 2 hours

Over 45 cm. 2 hours and 30 minutes

15 minutes extra time is allowed to spray up top knot

HOW TO BECOME EGA JUDGE

Applicant judges must send application along with the certificates of their victories to the EGA Council.

The applicant judge must have won at least 4 golden medals in Champion class, with a minimun of 5 contestants, of international competitions in the competing class he/she wishes to judge as follows:

“Spaniel & Setter” with at least 2 different breeds.

“Handstripping” with 2 different breeds: 1 long legged + 1 short legged.

“Poodle” with 3 different cuts.

“Purebred Scissoring” with 2 different breeds.

The EGA Council will evaluate the validity of the request.

After the Council’s approval the applicant judge must carry out at least 5 assistantships in the competing classes he/she wishes to judge.

MASTER GROOMER CERTIFICATE

Groomers wishing to be evaluated on their professional skills and get a certification can ask the Association they belong to organize "Master classes" that will be judged by EGA President.

National Associations must inform the EGA secretariat about dates and name of the Examiner they would have giving the exam.

National Associations must inform all their own members about the date and the location of the exam, giving everybody the opportunity to attend the event in case they wish to.

The location can be a grooming salon.

The exam runs like a grooming competition. All people work at the same time (all categories confused, if different categories) on appropriate timing.

Candidates have to work on two different breeds per category:

Handstripping - one short legged + one long legged;

Spaniels - American Cocker + English Cocker or any Setter;

Purebred Scissoring - Bedlington + Bichon or any other;

Poodle - two different cuts accepted in dog show. Dogs must be groomed in respect of the standard.

Pet - one flat hair breed (Yorky, Maltese etc) and one curly hair (Poodle, Portuguese, etc. or any mixed breed or a terrier)

Candidates can pass or fail the exam. Taking the exam does not mean to get the certificate.

The "Master Groomer Certificate" is issued by the National Association,signed by its President and Countersigned by EGA President

Groomers not belonging to a National Association can ask the EGA President to take exams to get a Master Groom certification. If the request is accepted the President has the assignment to examine the candidates and issue the certificate.