

International organizations

Name and link [FCI](#) Federation Cynologique Internationale

Breeds Most breeds

Country Worldwide

Purpose Registration, conformation, sport

FCI is the largest international federation of national and purebred registries. Primarily a registration and conformation organization, it also deals with the major dog sports through a series of Commissions. See their website for a list of commissions. IGP rules at <https://www.fci.be/medias/UTI-REG-IGP-en-2025-19768.pdf>

More Information https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F%C3%A9d%C3%A9ration_Cynologique_Internationale

Name and link [IRO](#) International Search and Rescue Dog Organization

Breeds Most breeds

Country Worldwide

Purpose Search and rescue team certification and rescue dog sport

Partners with FCI to issue rules for rescue dogs. Dogs who earn RH titles at USCA championship (under an IRO/FCI recognized judge) are eligible to go to the IRO championship.

More Information https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Search_and_Rescue_Dog_Organisation

Name and link [FMBB](#) Fédération Mondiale Bergers Belges

Breeds Malinois -all 4 varieties

Country Worldwide

Purpose Registration, conformation, various sports

A member of FCI, follows FCI rules for sport.

Name and link [WUSV Weltunion der Vereine für Deutsche Schäferhunde \(World Union of German Shepherd Clubs\)](#)

Breeds German Shepherd Dog

Country Worldwide

Purpose Registration, conformation, various sports

Once a member of FCI, WUSV is no longer affiliated with that organization. That means that most GSD breed clubs are not affiliated with FCI, unless they have an affiliation through another organization (for example USCA is affiliated through AWDF).

National organizations

Name and link [ARSA](#) American Rescue Dog Sport Association

Breeds Many working breeds and mixed breeds

Country US

Purpose IPO-R (rescue dog sport)

Member of AWDF. Follows FCI rules. Can send entries to the FCI IPO -RH Championship, through AWDF.

Name and link [AWMA](#) American Working Malinois Association

Breeds Malinois (other breeds can join)

Country US

Purpose

Member of AWDF. Follows FCI rules.

Name and link [AWDF](#) American Working Dog Federation

Breeds 11 working breeds and several multi-breed sports club – see website

Country US

Purpose

Federation of working dog clubs – single breed clubs (like AWMA and USCA) and single sport clubs (like ARSA, USMRA, DVG). Designated by FCI as the US organization authorized to send teams to FCI championships in IGP, Mondioring, and IPO-R. AWDF member clubs follow FCI rules. Can send entries to FCI IGP Championship and FH Championship.

Name and link [DVG America](#)

Breeds Many working breeds and mixed breeds

Country US

Purpose IGP

American “region” of DVG Germany. Does only IGP. Member of AWDF. Follows FCI rules. Can send members to DVG (Germany) IGP Championship.

Name and link [DVG Germany](#)

Breeds Many working breeds and mixed breeds

Country Germany

Purpose IGP and various other sports – agility, rh, rally, obedience, others

Parent of DVG America. Operates only in Germany and the US. Follows FCI rules. Member of VDH and its relationship to FCI is through VDH.

Name and link [GSDCA German Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

Breeds GSD

Country US

Purpose Registry, conformation, IGP

Affiliated with American Kennel Club. Generally follows FCI rules. Because of its affiliation with AKC, can send teams to FCI championships – the only US organization other than AWDF that can do so.

Name and link [KNPV Koninklijke Nederlandse Politiehond Vereniging \(Royal Dutch Police Dog Association\)](#)

Breeds Many working breeds

Country Netherlands, but their trial rules are used widely in other countries.

Purpose Originated to promote certification of dogs for Police, Military, and other Protection Services.

More Information <https://www.europrosk-9.com/breedingtrainingarticles/knpvstyleprotection.html>

Name and link [SV Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde \(German Shepherd Association\)](#)

Breeds GSD

Country Germany

Purpose Registry, conformation, some sports including IGP

The SV has an IPO-R (Sniffer Dog) World Championship which USCA earned RH can be shown in the International Division. Must be earned at USCA RH National Championship or by SV Rescue Commission Judge (which ALL are also FCI recognized judges). Participation at the USCA RH National Championship requires USCA membership. An ARSA member with a GSD and USVCA membership could make the team (if one is being formed that year).

More Information https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verein_f%C3%BCr_Deutsche_Sch%C3%A4ferhunde

Name and link [USMRA](#) US Mondioring Association

Breeds Many working breeds, mixed breeds

Country US

Purpose Mondioring

Member of AWDF. Follows FCI rules. Can send entities to FCI Mondio Championship.

Name and link [USCA United Schutzhund Clubs of America](#)

Breeds GSD, US (other breeds can join)

Country GSD, US (other breeds can join)

Purpose Conformation, registration, sport - mainly IGP

Member of AWDF, represents the GSD breed in the IGP sport. Generally follows FCI rules. Does IPO -R but most club trials use USCA judges whose results are not recognized by FCI or AWDF. National championship generally uses a recognized judge. USCA recognizes ARSA RH titles (which are always under an FCI recognized judge).

Name and link [VDH German Kennel Club](#)

Breeds Most breeds

Country Germany

Purpose Conformation, registration, many sports

German Kennel Club, it includes sport organizations and breed organizations. SV and DVG are both members.

Sports

Name IGP Internationale Gebrauchshund Pruefung

Comment Formerly called Schutzhund and then IPO (Internationale Prüfungs-Ordnung). FCI uses the term “utility dogs”

Description Three phases, tracking, obedience, protection. Rules issued by FCI - <https://www.fci.be/medias/UTI-REG-IGP-49-2020-en-15701.pdf>

More info <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schutzhund>

Name KNPV

Comment Sport based on the rules of the Dutch Police Dog Organization

Description

More info https://leerburg.com/knpvbob1.htm?srsId=AfmBOoma9c_FIOvU_nkfb-BYEDKuUGRF6NiaIHjLSs8UFNuaKlszvS

Name Mondioring

Comment Formed in the 1980 by combining elements from French Ring, Belgian Ring, IPO (SchH) and KNPV

Description [Rules issued by FCI - https://www.fci.be/medias/UTI-REG-MON-en-4624.pdf](https://www.fci.be/medias/UTI-REG-MON-en-4624.pdf)

More info <https://mondio.org/international/>

Name RH, IPO-R, SAR

Comment RH is for rettungshunde - rescue dog. The official FCI name has been IPO-R but as of 1/1/25 the name of the sport (as well as of operational search and rescue) is SAR.

Description Two phases, scent work and obedience/dexterity. Options for scent work, called disciplines, include tracking, area search, rubble search, mantrailing. An FCI sport since 2003. Rules issued jointly by FCI and IRO - https://www.iro-dogs.org/fileadmin/user_upload/FCI_IRO_International_Trial_Rules_IPO-R.pdf