



Dobermann Club Deutschland e.V.

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Honorary Council Regulations

Adopted by the General Meeting 2025, registered with the Local Court of Apolda on 5 June 2025, amended by the General Meeting of October 2025.

Preamble

These **Honorary Council Regulations** of Dobermann Club Deutschland e.V. (DCD e.V.) are based on the **VDH Association Court Regulations** (version dated 1 September 2024, registered with the Local Court of Dortmund on 21 May 2025) and are recognised as binding by all members of DCD e.V.

General Provisions

These Honorary Council Regulations form an integral part of the **Articles of Association** of DCD e.V.

They shall enter into force upon registration in the Register of Associations.

Pursuant to **Section 7 of the Articles of Association**, the Honorary Council serves as the independent internal arbitration tribunal of the Club and shall be subject solely to the applicable law and these Regulations.

The Honorary Council shall decide upon all violations specified in the Articles of Association.

Expulsion from the Club may be imposed either for a specified period or permanently.

All violations subject to disciplinary action shall become statute-barred after **three years**.

The limitation period shall commence on **1 January** of the year following the violation.

No internal appeal shall lie against decisions of the Honorary Council.

The unsuccessful party shall be entitled to refer the matter to the competent civil court within **one month** of service of the Honorary Council's decision.

Such legal proceedings shall **not** have suspensive effect.

Proceedings before the Honorary Council shall be conducted in accordance with these Honorary Council Regulations, which are adopted by the General Meeting pursuant to **Section 7 of the Articles of Association**.



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Section 1 – Rules of Procedure

The Honorary Council shall consist of **three permanent members**.

The permanent members shall conduct the ongoing business of the Honorary Council independently and on their own responsibility.

At the beginning of each term of office, they shall elect, by majority vote, a **Chairperson** and a **Deputy Chairperson** from among their members and shall determine the allocation of administrative responsibilities.

The Deputy Chairperson shall act on behalf of the Chairperson whenever the latter is absent or otherwise unable to perform the duties of office.

These Regulations shall simultaneously constitute the **Rules of Procedure** of the Honorary Council.

The Chairperson shall coordinate and direct the ongoing work of the Honorary Council and, where necessary, conduct oral hearings with the parties.

The seat of the Honorary Council shall be the location from which the Chairperson conducts the official business of the office.

The current seat of the Honorary Council shall be published on the official website of DCD e.V.

The Executive Board shall provide the Honorary Council with the financial resources and administrative support necessary for the proper conduct of its duties.

The amount of financial resources allocated to the Honorary Council shall be determined by the General Meeting.

The use of these funds shall be accounted for to the **Third Chairperson** immediately after the end of each financial year.

The proper use of such funds shall be audited exclusively by the auditors elected by the General Meeting, who shall report to the General Meeting at their discretion.

Individual case files shall be anonymised.

Exceptions may only be authorised by resolution of the General Meeting.



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Section 2 – Composition of the Honorary Council

The Honorary Council shall decide cases under the chairmanship of its Chairperson together with its two permanent members.

Where a permanent member is excluded from participating in a particular case, the Chairperson shall appoint one of the alternate members in the order in which they were elected.

A permanent member or alternate member shall be disqualified from participation where:

- a) the member is personally involved in the matter or has a legal relationship with one of the parties as a joint holder of rights, joint obligor, or person subject to recourse;
- b) the matter concerns the member's spouse or former spouse, or a person related by blood or marriage in the direct line, related by blood up to the third degree, or related by marriage up to the second degree;
- c) the member has acted or is entitled to act as authorised representative, adviser, or legal representative of one of the parties;
- d) the member has directly or indirectly participated in the decision that forms the subject matter of the proceedings before the Honorary Council.

In each of these cases, the Chairperson shall appoint an alternate member in the order of election.

Section 3 – Recusal of Members

Where the impartiality of a member of the Honorary Council is challenged on grounds of suspected bias, the Honorary Council shall decide upon the application without the participation of the challenged member.

If the application is upheld, the challenged member shall be replaced by an alternate member in the order in which the alternates were elected.

Section 4 – Disqualification or Recusal of the Chairperson

Where the **Chairperson of the Honorary Council** is challenged on grounds of suspected bias, the remaining members of the Honorary Council shall decide upon the application.

If the application is upheld, the Chairperson shall be replaced by an alternate member in the order in which the alternate members were elected.



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Section 5 – Duties and Obligations of Members of the Honorary Council

Before assuming office, and at the beginning of each term of office, the Chairperson shall require every member of the Honorary Council to sign a written declaration undertaking to perform the duties of office faithfully, in accordance with the Articles of Association, these Regulations and all other applicable Club Rules, solely in accordance with the law and the facts of the case, to the best of their knowledge and conscience, and without regard to the persons involved.

Members shall be equally bound to maintain strict confidentiality concerning all facts and circumstances that become known to them, directly or indirectly, in connection with their activities as members of the Honorary Council.

The obligation of confidentiality shall continue after a member has left the Honorary Council and shall also survive termination of membership in DCD e.V.

The written declarations shall be retained by the Chairperson and, upon a member's retirement from the Honorary Council, transferred to the Club Office for permanent safekeeping.

Members of the Honorary Council shall serve in an honorary capacity and shall be entitled only to reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the applicable regulations of DCD e.V.

Section 6 – Commencement of Proceedings before the Honorary Council

6.1 Initiation of Proceedings

Proceedings before the Honorary Council shall be initiated by submitting a written application to the **Chairperson of the Honorary Council**.

The application shall include:

- the name of the applicant;
- the name of the respondent;
- the decision being challenged or the subject matter of the dispute; and
- the specific relief sought.

The application should also include a statement of reasons.

Where the applicant is represented by a third party, the original written power of attorney shall accompany the application.



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6.2 Written Proceedings

The Chairperson shall serve the application upon the respondent and set a deadline for the submission of a written response.

At the same time, the Chairperson shall request the Club Office to submit, within a specified period:

- the challenged decision;
- the complete correspondence relating to the matter;
- any minutes of meetings; and
- any statements issued by Club bodies relevant to the proceedings.

Upon receipt of all submissions and procedural documents, the Chairperson shall set a final deadline for additional written observations and determine the date on which the decision will be rendered.

Before deciding the case, the Honorary Council shall first endeavour to achieve an amicable settlement between the parties.

If such settlement is rejected or cannot be reached, the Honorary Council shall deliberate and decide the matter by majority vote.

Unless otherwise provided, decisions shall be rendered in written proceedings.

6.3 Oral Hearing

An oral hearing shall only take place if requested by one of the parties.

Upon receipt of such request, the Chairperson shall require payment of an advance on costs in the amount of **EUR 250.00**, specifying a payment deadline.

Failure to pay the advance within the prescribed period shall be deemed a withdrawal of the request for an oral hearing.

Following receipt of the advance on costs, the Chairperson shall schedule the hearing.

Notice of the hearing shall be given at least **three weeks** in advance.

6.4 Termination of Membership During Pending Proceedings

If a member resigns from DCD e.V. while proceedings before the Honorary Council are pending, any advance on costs already paid shall be forfeited.

The resignation shall result in the proceedings being deemed withdrawn.



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Section 7 – Oral Hearing

The Chairperson shall conduct the oral hearing, introduce the factual and legal issues in dispute, and provide each party with an opportunity to present its case.

Minutes shall be taken of the hearing and of any taking of evidence.

The minutes shall include, in particular:

- the place and duration of the hearing;
- the names of all persons present;
- the applications submitted by the parties; and
- the essential course of the proceedings.

The minutes shall be signed by the Chairperson and one additional member of the Honorary Council.

Copies of the signed minutes shall be provided to all parties.

Oral hearings shall, as a general rule, **not be open to the public**.

Upon written application by the parties, the Honorary Council may permit members of DCD e.V. to attend as observers.

Section 8 – Taking of Evidence

Except in proceedings concerning the imposition of disciplinary measures, the Honorary Council shall order the taking of evidence only upon application by one of the parties and only where the disputed facts are material to the decision.

In all other cases, the Honorary Council shall not conduct investigations on its own initiative but shall base its decision solely on the submissions made by the parties.

The following shall constitute admissible forms of evidence:

- documentary evidence;
- witness testimony;
- expert opinions; and
- inspection of persons, objects, or other relevant evidence.

As a general rule, witness statements shall be obtained in writing.

The oral examination of witnesses shall be ordered only upon the express request of one of the parties.

The Chairperson may make the summoning of witnesses conditional upon payment of an advance on costs.



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Compensation of witnesses shall be governed by the applicable statutory provisions relating to the remuneration of experts and witnesses.

Where the Honorary Council orders the taking of evidence, it may require the party bearing the burden of proof to pay an advance on the anticipated costs within a specified time limit.

If the advance is not paid within the prescribed period, the party concerned shall forfeit the right to rely upon that evidence.

In such case, the Honorary Council shall decide the matter on the basis of the existing case file without further hearing.

This consequence shall be expressly stated in the order directing the taking of evidence.

Where a party is represented by a third party, any failure of that representative shall be attributed to the represented party.

Section 9 – Interim Measures

Upon application, the Honorary Council may issue **interim measures** before rendering its final decision where the applicant demonstrates that:

- serious disadvantages would otherwise arise; and
- the application appears to have sufficient prospects of success in the main proceedings.

The Honorary Council shall not be bound by the precise wording of the application and may make the granting of interim relief subject to conditions or the provision of security.

As a general rule, applications for interim measures shall be decided without an oral hearing.

In cases of particular urgency, interim relief may be granted before the respondent has been heard.

Where an interim measure has been issued without prior hearing of the respondent, the respondent may lodge an objection with the Honorary Council at any time.

The Honorary Council shall decide upon such objection before determining the principal proceedings unless the main proceedings are already ready for decision.

Apart from this, interim measures shall not be subject to appeal and shall automatically cease to have effect upon the final decision in the main proceedings.



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Section 10 – Referral Back in the Event of Procedural Defects

If the Honorary Council determines that the challenged decision suffers from procedural defects, it shall set aside that decision at any stage of the proceedings.

The matter shall then be referred back to the respective Club body that issued the challenged decision for reconsideration and a new decision.

Section 11 – Decision by Judgment

The Honorary Council shall conclude contested proceedings by issuing either a **Judgment** or a **Decision**.

The written decision shall contain:

- the names of the parties and, where applicable, their authorised representatives;
- the names of the members of the Honorary Council participating in the decision;
- the date of the decision;
- the operative part of the decision;
- the findings of fact; and
- the reasons for the decision,

unless the parties have expressly waived the requirement for a statement of facts and reasons.

The Chairperson shall formally serve the written decision upon the parties.

The Executive Board and the Club Office shall each receive an official copy of the decision.

Section 12 – Appeals

No internal appeal shall lie against decisions of the Honorary Council.

Further details are set out in the **General Provisions** of these Regulations.

Section 13 – Loss of the Right to Challenge

Once the Honorary Council has rendered a decision on an application, or where an application is deemed to have been withdrawn, the same matter may not be brought before the Honorary Council again.



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Any subsequent application concerning the same subject matter shall, after the respondent has been given the opportunity to comment, be dismissed by the Honorary Council as inadmissible in written proceedings.

Reinstatement of procedural rights may be granted by analogy to **Section 233 of the German Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO)**.

Section 14 – Publication of Decisions

The conclusion of proceedings before the Honorary Council shall be published on the official website of **DCD e.V.**

For this purpose, the Chairperson of the Honorary Council shall notify the Club Office that the proceedings have been concluded.

In addition, the Honorary Council may resolve that the operative part of its decision shall also be published on the official website of DCD e.V.

The Chairperson shall provide the operative part of the decision to the Club Office for publication.

Section 15 – Proceedings Concerning Disciplinary Measures and Monetary Penalties

Where proceedings before the Honorary Council concern disciplinary measures or monetary penalties, the Honorary Council shall **not** be bound by the applications submitted by the parties.

Within the scope of such proceedings, the Honorary Council may conduct its own investigations and obtain evidence on its own initiative whenever this appears necessary to establish the truth.

The Honorary Council shall assess all evidence according to its own independent judgment, based upon the entirety of the proceedings and, where applicable, the oral hearing.

If the Honorary Council concludes that the facts of the case give rise to a reasonable suspicion of a criminal offence which cannot be adequately addressed by disciplinary measures under Club law, it shall, at any stage of the proceedings, refer the entire matter to the competent criminal prosecution authorities.

The Honorary Council may, at its own discretion, reduce disciplinary measures or monetary penalties imposed in previous proceedings if it considers them to be disproportionate or inappropriate.



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However, the Honorary Council shall **not** be entitled to impose more severe disciplinary measures or increase an existing monetary penalty.

Section 16 – Decisions on Costs

The Honorary Council shall determine responsibility for the costs of the proceedings.

In contested proceedings, the decision on costs shall form part of the Judgment.

Where proceedings are concluded by any other form of decision, the costs shall be determined by separate Decision.

The allocation of costs shall be based on the principles set out in **Section 91 of the German Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO)**.

The decision on costs shall relate solely to:

- the procedural costs of the proceedings;
- the costs of any oral hearing; and
- any costs incurred in connection with the taking of evidence.

Neither the applicant nor the respondent, nor any authorised representative, shall be entitled to reimbursement of their own legal or personal expenses.

Following completion of the proceedings, the Honorary Council shall prepare a final statement of costs, taking into account any advances already paid, and shall notify the parties of any amount to be refunded or additionally payable.

Any outstanding costs shall be paid within **one month** after service of the notice of costs to the bank account specified therein.

Should payment not be made within the prescribed period, the Chairperson of the Honorary Council shall notify the Executive Board accordingly and provide a copy of the notice of costs.

The Executive Board shall be responsible for recovery of the outstanding amount and shall take any measures required under the Articles of Association, including, where applicable, the removal of the member from the membership register.



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Section 17 – Application of Statutory Law

In all matters not expressly governed by these Regulations, the provisions of the **German Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO)**, as amended from time to time, shall apply mutatis mutandis to proceedings before the Honorary Council.

This shall also apply in the event that any provision of these Honorary Council Regulations is or becomes invalid or unenforceable.

For reasons of readability, gender-neutral terminology is used throughout these Regulations.

Last updated: October 2025

The German version of these Breeding Approval Regulations shall constitute the sole authentic and legally binding text. The English translation is provided for information and convenience only. In the event of any discrepancy, inconsistency, or ambiguity between the two versions, the German text shall prevail.