

WST Qualification Rules: Belgian National Team 2027

Article 1 – Purpose

These rules set out the conditions of participation and the selection method for the Winter Sheepdog Trial (WST), which is used to form the Belgian national team. This team will compete in the BELGIUM – FRANCE final, to be held in Belgium in 2027.

Article 2 – Organisation

The qualifiers are organised under the auspices of the SBSDS in Noordpeene on 6 and 7 February 2027 (venue to be confirmed).

Article 3 – Conditions of participation

3.1 *Residence.* The qualifiers are open only to competitors residing in Belgium. At the organiser's request, the competitor may be asked to provide proof of residence (identity card, certificate of residence).

3.2 *Level.* The number of participants is limited to 40 dogs. Class 3 dogs have priority. If there are insufficient entries in this class, Class 2 dogs will be admitted to fill the field. The course will be of Class 3 level.

3.3 *General conditions.* The competitor and the dog must meet the general conditions set by the SBSDS: the dog's vaccinations and compliance with the animal welfare charter.

Article 4 – Composition of the national team

The national team consists of a maximum of 20 dogs, selected after the qualifying weekend in accordance with Article 8.

Article 5 – Entries

5.1 *Procedure.* Entries must be made exclusively online via the form on the SBSDS website: [\[REGISTRATION\]](#).

5.2 *Deadline.* Entries are open from 4 January 2027 to 22 January 2027. No entries will be accepted after the closing date.

5.3 *Fees.* The entry fee is €25 per dog and per run and must be paid 15 days before the date of the qualifiers into the SBSDS account: BE37 7320 8836 4728.

5.4 *Validity.* An entry is valid only if the form is fully completed, the conditions of Article 3 are met and the entry fee has been paid.

Article 6 – Limit on the number of dogs

6.1 The trials take place in daylight only. The maximum number of runs possible over the weekend is calculated by the organiser based on the available daylight, the maximum time per run and the changeover time between two runs.

6.2 If the number of entries exceeds this maximum, each competitor is limited to a maximum of 2 dogs.

6.3 If this limit is not sufficient, the dogs accepted are determined by order of receipt of entries, with a competitor's additional dog being removed first.

6.4 The competitors concerned will be informed before the qualifying weekend.

Article 7 – Conduct of the qualifying weekend

7.1 *Trial.* Each dog runs a Class 3 course in accordance with the SBSDS rules – ISDS Rules 2025.

7.2 *Sheep.* The sheep are provided by the organiser. The same type of livestock is used for all competitors.

7.3 *Time and penalties.* The maximum time per run is 12 minutes. The points scale and penalties are those of the SBSDS Class 3 rules [ISDS Rules 2025].

7.4 *Running order.* The running order is drawn by lot and published before the start of the qualifiers.

7.5 *Judge.* The runs are judged by an international judge.

7.6 *Weather conditions.* In the event of fog, heavy rain or frost making the course dangerous or unfair, the judge may suspend or stop the trial. Runs not completed will be rescheduled according to arrangements decided on the day of the qualifiers.

7.7 *Number of runs.* The ranking is based on the sum of two runs (one per day).

Article 8 – Selection

8.1 At the end of the qualifying weekend, the 20 best results are selected to form the national team.

8.2 *Tie-break.* In the event of a tie, the following criteria apply in order: [1. best total of handling points (outrun, lift, fetch); 2. best total of handling points (outrun, lift, fetch, drive).

8.3 *Several dogs from the same competitor.* A competitor with two dogs in the top 20 may keep both places.

8.4 *Replacement.* If a qualified competitor withdraws or cannot take part in the final, they will be replaced by the next dog in the qualifiers ranking.

8.5 *Publication.* The list of qualified dogs will be published on the SBSDS website.

Article 9 – Commitment of qualified competitors

Selected competitors undertake to take part in the BELGIUM – FRANCE final and to comply with the obligations of the national team (call-up, schedule).

Article 10 – Complaints

Any complaint must be sent by email to the SBSDS secretariat (secretariat@south-belgian-sheepdog-society.be) within 48 hours of publication of the results. The SBSDS's decision is final.

Article 11 – Final provisions

The organiser reserves the right to modify or cancel the qualifiers in the event of force majeure (weather, safety, etc.). Any case not covered by these rules will be decided by the SBSDS. Participation implies acceptance of these rules.