

Regulation DOG 2018

“Swimming”



ENTE DI PROMOZIONE
SPORTIVA
RICONOSCIUTO
DAL CONI

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CATEGORIES in the RACES and REGULATIONS

The swimming activities are part of a bigger project, and Pet-Partners Surface and Water Activities (APPAS) created and managed by the Federazione Italiana Cinofilia Sport e Soccorso (FICSS).

These activities are preparatory for the Canine Unit nautical rescue.

These sportive activities / competitions have several objectives:

- Propose alternative activities in cooperation and synergy with the 4 paws partners
- To promote the physical wellbeing of the dog and the conductor
- Prepare / Train dogs for nautical rescue while having fun

GENERAL REGULATIONS

The wellbeing of the dog is top priority during all games hosted by FICSS.

During all the contests the dogs belonging to any classes **MUST** be given the opportunity to leave the water at any time.

The pair will not be eliminated but the stopwatch will not be stopped, the conductor may try to call back the dog for 1 minute, it is strictly forbidden to push or force the dog into the water, this will result in the elimination from the race.

At the beginning and at the end of each race the dog must always be conducted by the owner and kept on a leash.

The conductor may use exclusively verbal and gestural encouragement and guidance, without direct intervention on the dog.

Prizes, food and any other rewards are allowed only once the competition has ended.

During the match, conductors cannot keep their feet on the bottom of the pool even if the depth of the pool allows them to touch the bottom. If they do, they are eliminated.

The veterinary staff can check the physical conditions of the dog at any time, before and after the competitions or at any time during the day of the race. The staff has to check that the dog is not in pain, under too much stress or etc. The veterinary staff has the right to decide to suspend a dog from competing in all of the races happening on that day.

EQUIPMENT

Conductor's allowed equipment:

Depending on weather conditions the organization hosting the event reserves the right to choose from the following equipment:

- a) short protective wetsuit (short sleeves and knee length) of maximum 5 mm neoprene thickness,
- b) long wetsuit, even if similar to an overall; 2 pieces of maximum 5 mm neoprene thickness
- c) pool shoes;
- d) neoprene socks;

For all the events swimming goggles, no-nose swimming masks, nose clips and caps are allowed.

Conductor's equipment not allowed:

aid to buoyancy, over or under wetsuit clothing, shoes, flippers, snorkel, mask with nose covered, hand paddles, neoprene vest, gaudy bracelets with or without hanging objects.

Also full wetsuit and shoes are not allowed unless instructed of the contrary.

The dog **MUST wear:**

- a) a harness suitable to the weight and size of the dog, not shrinkable in water, with a handle for lifting the dog (this can be substituted by an H shaped harness);
- b) leash for the conduction of the dog before the competition and after, once it is out of the water;
- c) aid to buoyancy to preserve the dog's security; the buoyancy aid can be turtle shaped or wrapping type and it has to be proportional to the race and morphology of the dog. If the committee won't consider such object adequate, the competitor has to substitute it on the spot with a right one or the pair will be eliminated from the race (See Appendix A).

Dog equipment not allowed:

- d) any dog collar (for security reasons in the water);
- e) even small ropes tied either to the harness of the dog or to the aid to buoyancy;

- f) floating rings tied to the harness of the dog or to the aid to buoyancy;
- g) buoyancy aids that are too bulky to conspicuously hamper the dog swimming ;
- h) wetsuit of any size and materials
- i) shoes or socks.

CLASSES

- OPEN CLASS SMALL category for dogs lighter than 14 kg
- OPEN CLASS MEDIUM category for dogs heavier than 14 Kg and lighter than 35 kg.
- OPEN CLASS LARGE category for dogs heavier than 35 kg
- ELITE CLASS SMALL category for dogs lighter than 35 kg
- ELITE CLASS MEDIUM category for dogs heavier than 14 Kg and dogs lighter than 35 kg.
- ELITE CLASS LARGE category for dogs heavier than 35 kg

OPEN CLASS

It is open to all dogs over the age of 9 months and without physical problems that are water lovers, regardless of their swimming experience. The main issue is that dogs are not forced into the activity in the water. The class is divided into weight based categories.

ELITE CLASS

It is open to all dogs that are experts in swimming and in water retrieving, older than 9 months, in good physical health and that are able to follow the conductor's signals while in the water. The class is divided into weight based categories.

When registering the dog, its weight must be specified in the enrolment form. The weight will then be confirmed by the veterinarian staff at accreditation.

The choice between the OPEN or ELITE class is at the conductor's discretion, not tests will be run by the staff to check the preparation of the dog.

TIMED COMBINATION RACE: SWIMMING and SLALOM

SWIMMING (time race)

The pool will be divided into 5 lanes, wide 2.5 m each. The pairs will compete in the two side lanes and the middle one (lane 1, 3 and 5) so 3 pairs will take part in each battery. Lane 2 and 4 are left empty to avoid any interference between the competitors.

The binomial will get ready in the water with the conductor holding on to the steal handle of the starting block (e.g. back stroke start) and keeping the body attached to the wall (with both feet or the side against the wall); the conductor will have to hold the dog with one arm (the other one is on the handle) as close to themselves as they manage to (grabbing it under its belly and holding it through the harness; the dog can rest on the conductor's leg or being held in their arms).

A pre-start signal will indicate to the conductors that everyone is in the right starting position.

After about 3seconds the countdown signaling the start will begin.

At the start signal the dog will be let free to swim and will leave the conductor's grab and they will both start swimming. From this moment onwards and for the execution of the race the conductor won't be allowed to grab the dog voluntarily or drag it, to neither push it or to correct its direction, otherwise the pair will be disqualified. Involuntary contact during swimming between the conductor and the dog, even a push to move the dog if it is hampering the conductor swimming, is allowed.

If in case of danger of the dog's wellbeing it is necessary to grab it or hold it, but the pair will also be disqualified. Touching the dog to fix its harness, if the harness has moved during the race (even if the dog grabs it with its mouth hampering its ability to swim) is permitted, the pair won't be disqualified, after fixing the harness they can both start swimming again and the timer won't be stopped.

During the race the conductor must swim at the dog's side and the dog must always be no more than 1.5 m behind the conductor, the distance is measured from the dog's head to the conductor's.

The dog can indeed swim in front of the conductor.

If the dog swims not on a straight line changing direction, if it hampers the conductor or if it chews on a lane divider, no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

During the race the conductor can verbally encourage the dog.

If the dog invades one of the side lanes, the binomial will be disqualified.

If dog inverts direction during the race, the conductor can stop and call the dog and even catch up to it, no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

Once the first length is finished (ELITE Class) the conductor must touch visibly the pool side while the dog must cross the end-line at 1.5 m from the side; the conductors must not let go of the side until the dog crosses (even partially) the line (detected by the photocell or signaled by the line judge).

Then the pair can invert direction and start the second length (ELITE Class).

At the finish line the conductor must touch visibly the pool side while the dog must cross the end-line at 1.5 m from the side (detected by a photocell).

The stopwatch will be stopped once the dog crosses (even partially) the line.

DISTANCES IN THE RACE

- OPEN CLASS all categories: 1 length of 25m (25m in total)
- ELITE CLASS all categories: 2 lengths of 25m each (50m in total)

SLALOM

There will be 8 poles (7 + 1 starting and finishing pole) made of 2 floating buoys placed 2/2.5 m from each other. Such buoys will be anchored to the bottom of the pool using a non-floating rope attached to a weight if necessary. On the buoy opposite the turn-pole, the number of the pole will be displayed so that the dog can correctly progress between them. The pole will have alternate colours.

The starting pole (which is also the finishing pole) will be placed in the centre of one of the sides of the square, perpendicular to it; the dog and the conductor must stay in the water in the area next to the pole. Once the judge gives the signal, the pair can cross the pole, but the stopwatch will start when both the dog and the conductor have crossed the starting line. Being two the pairs competing at the same time, there will be two stopwatches working, one for each pair.

From this moment onwards and for the execution of the race the conductor won't be allowed to grab the dog voluntarily or drag it, to neither push it or to correct its direction, otherwise the pair will be disqualified. Involuntary contact during swimming between the conductor and the dog, even a push to move the dog if it is hampering the conductor swimming, is allowed.

If in case of danger of the dog's wellbeing it is necessary to grab it or hold it, but the pair will also be disqualified. Touching the dog to fix its harness, if the harness has moved during the race (even if the dog grabs it with its mouth hampering its ability to swim) is permitted, the pair won't be disqualified, after fixing the harness they can both start swimming again and the timer won't be stopped.

The binomial must go through all the poles according to the prefixed numerical sequence; if the pair skips a pole, it may come back and go through it again unless it has already gone through the next pole; in that case the pair will be disqualified.

If either the dog or the conductor (not necessarily both) don't go through one pole, that pole will be considered as if it has been skipped.

While going through the poles the conductor can touch the buoys without moving them or 5 seconds will be added to the time of that pair as penalty; 1 penalty will be given each time a buoy is touched.

No penalties will be given to the dog if it touches the buoys while going through a pole; if the dog tries to grab the buoy with its mouth and/or it tries to take it away, the conductor can intervene and even touch the dog. If this happens, 5 seconds will be added to the total time for each buoy grabbed by the dog.

During the race the conductor must swim at the dog's side and the dog must always be no more than 1.5 m behind the conductor, the distance is measured from the dog's head to the conductor's.

The dog can indeed swim in front of the conductor.

If the dog swims not on a straight line changing direction and if it hampers the conductor, no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

During the race the conductor can verbally encourage the dog.

If dog inverts direction during the race, the conductor can stop and call the dog and even catch up to it, no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

At the finish line the stopwatch will be stopped when both the dog and the conductor will have crossed the starting/finishing pole.

DISTANCES IN THE RACE

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| • OPEN CLASS | all categories: | 7 poles + 1 starting/finishing pole |
| • ELITE CLASS | all categories: | 7 poles + 1 starting/finishing pole |

COMBINED SWIMMING-SLALOM TIMED RACE

The time obtained during the swimming competition and the one obtained in the slalom race (including penalties) will be added to each other to have the total time of the combined race.

The winner is whoever has the lowest time after the summation of the two competitions times.

RELAY

There is only one category in this race and that is composed of teams made up of 4 pairs each.

Each dog or conductor can swim only 1 length during the race.

For this race the pool will have only 2 big lanes.

The starting position of the first pair is the same as the one the pair has to assume in the swimming competition.

At the starting signal (prestart is the same as in the swimming race) the conductor will let go of the dog, take the bumper that is placed near the side of the pool in the target-zone and the conductor will give it to the dog that will grab it with its mouth.

Therefore the pair will start swimming while the dog is carrying the bumper.

From this moment onwards and for the execution of the race the conductor won't be allowed to grab the dog voluntarily or drag it, neither to push it nor to correct its direction, otherwise the pair will be disqualified. Involuntary contact during swimming between the conductor and the dog, even a push to move the dog if it is hampering the conductor swimming, is allowed.

If in case of danger of the dog's wellbeing it is necessary to grab it or hold it, but the pair will also be disqualified. Touching the dog to fix its harness, if the harness has moved during the race (even if the dog grabs it with its mouth hampering its ability to swim) is permitted, the pair won't be disqualified, after fixing the harness they can both start swimming again and the timer won't be stopped.

During the race the conductor must swim at the dog's side and the dog must always be no more than 1.5m behind the conductor, the distance is measured from the dog's head to the conductor's.

The dog can indeed swim in front of the conductor.

If the dog swims not on a straight line changing direction and if it hampers the conductor no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

During the race the conductor can verbally encourage the dog.

If the dog invades one of the side lanes, the binomial will be disqualified.

If dog inverts direction during the race, the conductor can stop and call the dog and even catch up to it, no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

At the finish line the stopwatch will be stopped when both the dog and the conductor will have crossed the start/finish pole.

If the dog lets go of the bumper during the race, the conductor can give the dog the signal to pick up the bumper (the conductor can even decide to stop swimming); the conductor must not touch the bumper at any time.

The next pair will be ready in the water in the starting position. The next pair cannot go into the water until the previous pair in the same lane has started swimming.

When it's time to switch the lane the conductor will have to visibly touch the poolside, while the dog will have to cross the end-line 1.5m from the side (detected by a photocell); therefore the conductor standing with one hand on the side of the pool, will have to receive the bumper from the dog (the conductor can slightly touch the dog's face but not hold it). The bumper will be then placed by the conductor in the target zone near the side. The conductor can now handle the dog; it is possible to hold it to avoid hampering the next pair that is starting swimming.

The conductor of the next pair will have to stay in the starting position: holding on to the side and holding the dog with the other arm until the previous conductor has put the bumper in the target zone. At this point the conductor can let the dog free to swim, grab the bumper and following the right procedure to start swimming with the dog.

At the end of the fourth length, the conductor will have to visibly touch the poolside, while the dog will have to cross the end-line 1.5m from the side (detected by a photocell); therefore the conductor standing with one hand on the side of the pool, will have to receive the bumper from the dog (the conductor can slightly touch the dog's face but not hold it).

The bumper will be then placed by the conductor in the target zone near the side.

The stopwatch will be stopped once the bumper will be placed by the last conductor in the target zone.

DISTANCES IN THE RACE

One category with 4 lengths of 25 m each (100 m in total)

ONE CLASS

RETRIEVING OBJECTS IN SEQUENCE

The pool will be free from any lane dividers and it will be possible to get into the water half way through the long side (side with the cascading water). The spot is signaled by a flag; the target zone on the ground is defined by a 50cm circle around the flag.

The dog and the conductor are on poolside (outside the water).

When the judge gives the signal a bumper will be dropped at about 2m from the side in the other side of the pool (the bumper is about 10m away from the side where the binomial is).

At the start signal the stopwatch will start; the dog and the conductor will dive in the water to retrieve the bumper.

The following retrieving techniques are allowed:

- The conductor swims with the dog to the bumper, the dog grabs it and then they swim back to the starting point; the conductor never touches the bumper;
- the conductor swims with the dog up to a certain point, the dog keeps going, it grabs the bumper and then they swim back to the starting point; the conductor never touches the bumper;
- once the conductor has entered the water, it is not possible to leave until the end of the race; the conductor sends the dog to pick up the bumper; the dog grabs it and takes it back to the conductor, who stayed in the water next to the starting point.

From this moment onwards and for the execution of the race the conductor won't be allowed to grab the dog voluntarily or drag it, to neither push it or to correct its direction, otherwise the pair will be disqualified. Involuntary contact during swimming between the conductor and the dog, even a push to move the dog if it is hampering the conductor swimming, is allowed. If in case of danger of the dog's wellbeing it is necessary to grab it or hold it, but the pair will also be disqualified.

The pair will be disqualified if the dog is put in any dangerous situation.

Touching the dog to fix its harness, if the harness has moved during the race (even if the dog grabs it with its mouth hampering its ability to swim) is permitted, the pair won't be disqualified, after fixing the harness they can both start swimming again and the timer won't be stopped.

During the race the conductor must swim at the dog's side and the dog must always be no more than 1.5 m behind the conductor, the distance is measured from the dog's head to the conductor's.

The dog can indeed swim in front of the conductor.

If the dog swims not on a straight line changing direction and if it hampers the conductor no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

During the race the conductor can verbally encourage the dog.

If dog inverts direction during the race, the conductor can stop and call the dog and even catch up to it, no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

Once the pair is back in starting area the conductor will visibly touch the side and will keep holding on to it. The conductor will then ask the dog to give him/her the bumper (the conductor can slightly touch the dog's face but not hold it). It is possible for the conductor not to touch the side or hold on to it when they receive the bumper, if they are in the target zone.

The conductor must then place the bumper in the target zone, near the flag.

There is a prefix time to retrieve each bumper and it is 1 minute; if the pair exceeds that, it will be disqualified.

At this point, when the judge gives the signal, a bumper will be dropped at about 2m from the side in the other side of the pool (the bumper is about 10m away from the side where the binomial is).

The pair will then start again, this time from inside the water, to go and retrieve the new bumper.

This sequence will be repeated for all the bumpers present in the race.

The stopwatch will stop once the last bumper is placed in the target zone.

DISTANCES IN THE RACE

OPEN CLASS	all categories:	3 bumpers
ELITE CLASS	all categories:	5 bumpers

DIVING

The pool will be free from any lane dividers and it will be possible to get into the water half way through the long side (side with the cascading water).

The dog will be held on the ground by the judge or one of the assistants about 5m away from the pool side.

The conductor can give the dog the signal to wait, and then get into the water and place themselves in the centre of the pool (6/8m from the side).

While the dog is waiting it can be kept by the judge or anyone instructed to do so by the judge.

The dog is allowed to get nervous: barking or moving on the spot or trying to get to the conductor. However, the dog must not show too much discomfort. If the dog attempts to bite the judge, the leash or rope, if it attempts to step back or put too much tension on the leash used to keep it, the dog will be disqualified.

When the judge gives the signal, the conductor will call the dog, that will be let free to dive and it will be given enough space to run-up to the dive.

The dog must get into the water within 20 seconds from the signal given by the judge

All types of dives/water entrances are allowed from whatever point of the side from which the conductor got into the water.

Once the dog gets into the water the competition is over, so the conductor is free to manage the dog.

The jury, made up of 3 experts, will mark the performance immediately giving a grade from 1 to 10.

The sum of the marks will be the final grade of the dog (minimum score is 3, maximum 30).

If the conductor thinks it is necessary, it will be possible to dive a second time; the grade of the second performance will substitute the one obtained in the first one, being the grade higher or lower than the previous one.

The marking system is based on one or more of the following aspects of the dive/water entrance:

- desire to get to the conductor;
- height of the dive;
- length of the dive;
- amazingness of the dive;
- liking of the dive/water entrance.

The behavior of the dog during the waiting phase won't be judged.

In case of a tie in the ranking, the pairs with the same score have to dive again so that the new score will be the one taken into consideration.

ONE CLASS

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

The purpose of this competition is not only to take the shortest time to complete it, but especially it is to maintain the wellbeing of the binomial.

Although most of the pairs would be able to cover the distance in the race, only a pair which is athletically trained and prepared can perform this test in the mutual respect of wellbeing.

For this reason the evaluation of the actual athletic ability of the dog will be carried out by the veterinarian staff. For those who enrol in this race, during the veterinary accreditation the parameters of the vital conditions of the dog at rest (heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature) will be taken.

After the race, the pair will take a seat in an area of relaxation, and after exactly 5 minutes from the end of the competition, the veterinarian staff will detect the dog's vital conditions parameters. The parameters will be similar to the parameters measured at accreditation, even if maintaining a certain degree of error. The judgment of the veterinary staff is final.

Throughout the race, a veterinary surgeon and a lifeguard staff will be present (on a ship when at the sea or lake, or on poolside); at any time the veterinarian staff or the lifeguard can stop the test for new levels of stress or discomfort shown by the dog or conductor.

IN THE SEA

In the race there will be a starting pole 30 metres from the water, a finishing pole 30 metres from the water and a signalling buoys each 50 metres. .

More pairs can compete simultaneously, as long as the next couple starts when the previous binomial is already half way through the race.

The starting and finishing poles will be grounded at a distance of 30 meters from the water with a special launch lane, the pair will have to prepare just before the starting pole, and the dog may be detained through the harness until the start: if the dog is not restrained, it must remain close to the conductor. However, if the dog is not restrained and it crosses the starting pole after the prestart signal, the pair will be disqualified.

A pre-start signal will indicate to the conductor that they have assumed the right starting position.

After about 5 seconds there will be a second signal that indicates to the conductor to start the race.

At the start, the conductor and the dog will cross the starting pole, they will walk along the starting track (the dog cannot exit the track, otherwise the pair will be disqualified), then they will enter the water and have to start swimming along the designated track marked by the buoys, and only after both the dog and the conductor cross the starting line (conductor's head aligned to the head of the dog) the stopwatch will be started by a referee (single time for each pair).

From this moment onwards and for the execution of the race the conductor won't be allowed to grab the dog voluntarily or drag it, to neither push it or to correct its direction, otherwise the pair will be disqualified. Involuntary contact during swimming between the conductor and the dog, even a push to move the dog if it is hampering the conductor swimming, is allowed.

If in case of danger of the dog's wellbeing it is necessary to grab it or hold it, but the pair will also be disqualified. Touching the dog to fix its harness, if the harness has moved during the race (even if the dog grabs it with its mouth hampering its ability to swim) is permitted, the pair won't be disqualified, after fixing the harness they can both start swimming again and the timer won't be stopped.

During the race the conductor must swim at the dog's side and the dog must always be no more than 1.5 m behind the conductor, the distance is measured from the dog's head to the conductor's.

The dog can indeed swim in front of the conductor.

If the dog swims not on a straight line changing direction, if it hampers the conductor or if it chews on a signaling buoy, no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

During the race the conductor can verbally encourage the dog.

If the dog invades the swimming area alongside the pair, the pair will be disqualified (cross the imaginary line of the two trajectories of swimming). If this happens, the other pair can ask to repeat the test alone, with no other competitors alongside.

If dog inverts direction during the race, the conductor can stop and call the dog and even catch up to it, no penalties will be applied (because time will be wasted anyway).

If the race includes going through the same track back and forth, at the end of the first part of the track both the conductor and the dog have to turn around the buoy; if the dog tries to bite the buoy it won't be penalized or disqualified (because time will be wasted anyway). The pair can go around the buoy both in a clockwise and anticlockwise direction and the dog can be on either side of the conductor.

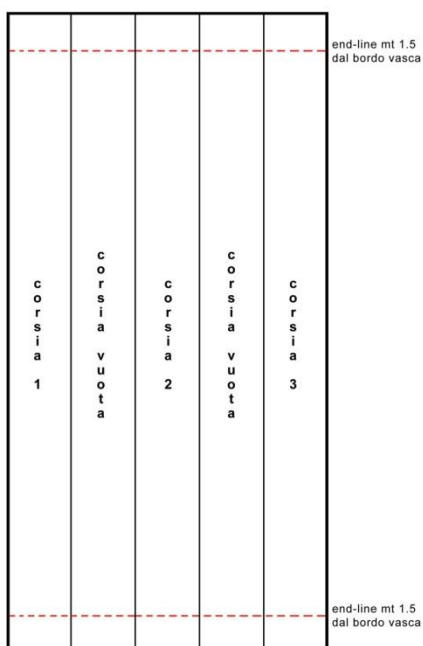
At the finish line the stopwatch will be stopped once both the dog's and the conductor's heads cross the finishing pole line; it can be the same as the starting pole if the track is ring shaped.

DISTANCES IN THE RACE

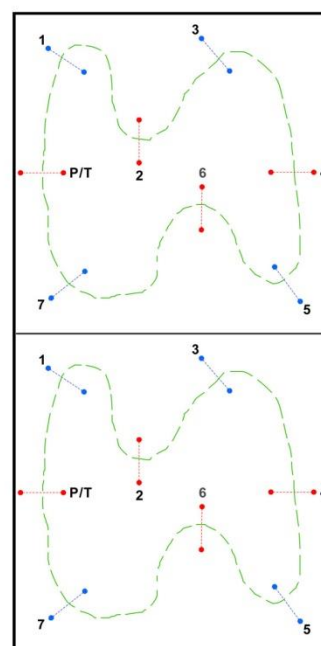
- ONE CLASS, all categories: shortest track 700m

NB. The General Regulation applies to everything not present in this regulation

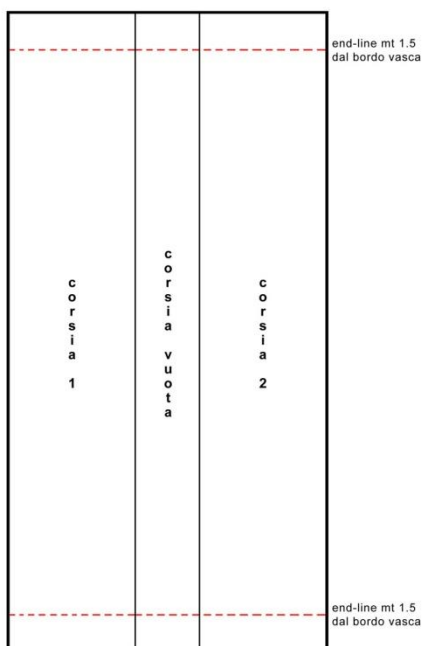
GARA DI NUOTO PISCINA mt 12.5x25



GARA DI SLALOM PISCINA mt 12.5x25 divisa in due quadrati mt 12.5x12.5



GARA DI STAFFETTA PISCINA mt 12.5x25



GARA DI RIPIERTO PISCINA mt 12.5x25

