

## **NKU agility commission meeting, December 2nd, 2023, Helsinki**

### **Place and date**

Helsinki, Finland 2023-12-02

### **Participants**

Thomas Thiesen, Norway (chairman, finishing the meeting minutes after the meeting)

Bonnik Berthelsen, Denmark

Anders Virtanen, Finland

Thomas Juréhn, Sweden (secretary at the meeting)

### **Opening**

The chairman opened the meeting at 12.40.

### **Approval of the agenda**

Accepted

### **Approval of the minutes of last meeting**

Meeting minutes from the previous NKU Agility remote meeting February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, had already been accepted remotely.

### **Sweden's suggestion regarding rosettes to all team members**

Sweden remarked that there was only one rosette to each team this year and would like to make sure that everyone on the team gets one in the future. There was a counter suggestion from Norway, Denmark and Finland to save money and the environment by not having rosettes at all.

The decision was made to take away rosettes as all members of medal winning teams will receive a prize (medal, trophy or similar). The same goes for individual medallists.

### **Sweden's suggestion regarding changing the dates for the NAC**

Until 2028 there is no possibility to change the time for NAC. Norway, Finland and Denmark want to keep the championship at the time of year it is now. It was decided to keep the time of date for the championship as it is mentioned in the rules (beginning of August).

### **Sweden and Norway's suggestion regarding the number of team members**

Today 3 members are in a team. The suggestion was to have 4 team members, so everyone running individually will be able to run the team event as well. The meeting decided to have 4 members in a team.

Denmark informed that they are only using relay in their team events. In Norway the hosting club can choose freely between hosting a traditional team competition and a relay.

The team relay event at the NAC was discussed further. The number of obstacles to be used will be increased from the previous 8 to 10 obstacles, the suggestion for new rules will now include 8 to 12 obstacles for each of the 4 runs. It will be up to the judge how many obstacles he/she will use within these numbers, depending on size of the indoor arena. Regulations say that indoor arenas must be 24 meter wide. It will also be added to the rules that all contact obstacles must be used in the team course.

The suggestion for new rules will also contain the sentence: "The course must be designed so that dogs exit the course a different place than where the next dog enters."

### **Norway's suggestion regarding the presence of the NKU Agility Committee during the NAC**

Currently, the delegates are responsible for discussing, evaluate and changing the NAC. However, they are not present at the championship. The NKU mandate says that the delegates should have one physical meeting a year, but nothing is mentioned about being present at the NAC. The suggestion is to change this in the new rules, having the NKU agility commission meeting on Friday (and Saturday if needed) during the NAC. Delegates should be present at judges and team leader meeting on Friday and then overseeing the competition Saturday and Sunday. Instead of the kennel club hosting the NKU meeting paying the layover for all delegates, the new suggestion is that each delegate's kennel club pays for its delegate. The travel expenses will only be increased with one night compared to how it is now, and it will ensure that the delegates are able to support the national NAC chief steward and take care of any protest from team leaders. The delegates can also look at the courses beforehand (as in all FCI championships) and make suggestion for changes if these are not within the official rules, and they will make sure that the courses are built according to the rules and guidelines. The delegates will also be acting as chief judges, in case of unexpected events and if the main judge needs assistance.

The NKU-delegate from the hosting country should be part of the host countries working group.

### **About NAC 2024**

The national competition on Friday will begin at 14.00.

### **Norway's suggestion regarding FCI collaboration**

The NKU should aim to work together on common issues before suggestions are sent to the FCI Agility Commission.

For instance, Norway previewed the proposal they want to send to the FCI Agility Commission regarding changes to the age groups at the JO AWC. The wording was discussed, and the delegates will take this back to their national committee.

### **Other**

The rules document was gone through and suggestions for changes was inserted. Other than the above-mentioned items, it also included correcting the order of host for the NAC, as currently the written order is wrong. The correct order is (from 2024 and beyond): Denmark – Norway – Sweden – Finland.

It was decided to remove the team training that normally is done together with the veterinary inspection. This so that the hosting country more easily can have two competitions on Friday (open for everyone). The NAC is normally not a competition with financial profit. The competition on Friday gives the host a financial boost, but it tends to end very late in the evening. This because of a two-hour training break in the afternoon, with the consequence being that many competitors avoid entering the last competition run. If removing training, it is believed that more competitors will participate giving the host a higher income. The training is no longer a part of the AWC, and the competitors running on Friday will still get to try both the surface and the equipment used at the NAC. It will be up to the host country how they will combine the veterinary inspection (that must be held on Friday) with the competition on Friday.

In addition to the eight dogs entered in each size category, the nations may also enter a reserve dog free of cost.

Suggests changing the wording in the rules from “electronic contacts” to “technical devises” as there are coming more and more options to aid the judge.

Norway informed that the NAC 2025 will be at Moelv 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of August.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be online after the NKU main board have responded to our suggestions for new rules. The suggestion will be sent in by the chairman.

### **Closing of meeting**

The chairman thanked the Finnish kennel club for hosting the meeting and inviting the delegates to dinner in the evening.

The meeting closed at 18.30.