

Minutes of Meeting
NKU Rally Obedience Committee,
22nd December 2021, 20:00-21:10
Participants: Beatrice Palm (Sweden), Tytti Lintenhofer (Finland), Paul Lysholdt (Denmark),
Solveig Therese Zetterstrøm (Norway) and Ida Lindgren (Sweden)
Absentees: None
Minutes: Paul Lysholdt

1. Opening of the meeting

All were present. Ida Lindgren was invited because she was chief judge at Nordic Championships 2021.

2. Evaluation of the Nordic Championships 2021

We agreed that this was a very well-arranged championship in all respects.

Åsa Grundén has asked Bea for a short evaluation of the championship. It was agreed that Bea could send the relevant part of Paul's mail – from the Danish team's evaluation – to the chairman of the Working Dog Association, Stockholm.

The team Monica Svensson & poodle Zkoj at the two competitions Saturday wore a hairclip placed on the neck/shoulder. The regulations states "Small bows or bands can be used on dog's fur to keep the fur away from the dog's eyes. These accessories can only be used on dog's head or ears." We concluded:

- None of the judges reacted during the first course Saturday
- It was commented when the judges met in the middle of the ring after the team had performed the second course Saturday, but agreed that we couldn't disqualify when we had accepted the first course
- The team was informed before the final Sunday and didn't wear the hairclip on the thirds course
- This is a grey zone, but it was not an advantage for the team
- We will remove "These accessories can only be used on dog's head or ears" from the regulations
- We should specify in our guidelines that the judge standing nearest to the entrance is responsible for checking the equipment and alerting the others if something seems to be wrong with the dogs or the handler's equipment
- Tytti, who is responsible for the Nordic Championship 2022, will assure, that the invitation is specific regarding this area

The committee went through the results and concluded that we could see some significant differences in the judging. The differences depend on the different view (all judges did stand on different sides and so see different things) and most probably also that we are still at the beginning of the Nordic judging and that we need more practical training together and more detailed guidelines. At our next meeting we will discuss this and agree how to develop the judging.

We discussed two specific exercises - Spin and Circle Around Handler – where we had disagreed if it is allowed for the handler to slow down when performing the exercises and if correct steps are required in the exercises. It was agreed that it is allowed to slow down a little (not significantly) in both exercises, otherwise it wouldn't be fair to handlers with large breeds. It was agreed that correct steps as defined – "The handler has taken a step when you can see a space between the forefoot heel and rearfoot toes. The steps do not have to be equally long." - are only required in exercises where steps are counted, not in other exercises (e.g., heeling) and therefore are allowed in the mentioned exercises.

3. How to continue with the guidelines

We must all read the guidelines and the regulations before next meeting and note where we see the need for changes and clarifications. If we want to suggest changes to the regulations to be in effect at the championships 2022, they must be forwarded so the NKU Board can have it on their agenda at the first meeting in 2022.

4. Other issues

We discussed if the result from the two rounds Saturday should be published Saturday. We agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting is planned to take place 30th January 2022 10:00 – 16:00 in DKK. We discussed if it will be possible to meet physically due to the Covid-19-situation, and the indication is that this isn't likely. We agreed that we can't meet physically we will have the meeting as a Teams meeting instead.

6. Closing of the meeting

We agreed that this had been a very positive and constructive meeting and wished each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paul Lysholdt