



# Regulations

## Nordic Agility Championship (NAC)

These regulations have been established by the Nordic Kennel Union (NKU), which is the cooperative body of the Nordic kennel clubs, and the NKU agility committee, which deals with agility issues within the NKU. The purpose of the rules is to ensure a common standard for the Nordic Agility Championship and equality for the contestants.

NKU Agility Committee consists of one delegate or his/her stand in from each country, appointed by the country's kennel club. These regulations have been agreed on by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden who all follow the rules and decisions of the Nordic Kennel Union (NKU).

The Nordic Agility Championship (NAC) is organized by the kennel clubs of the Nordic countries in a rotating order as follow: Denmark – Norway – Sweden – Finland.

At the NAC, the international FCI agility regulations are applied with the following exceptions:

- Ring size
- Checking the ID markings of the dogs
- Measurement of the dogs
- Where the assistant judge can be used
- Number of dogs per handler
- Use of electronic contacts

Differences to these topics are mentioned later in these rules.

The organizing country's general rules regarding doping and vaccinations as well as relevant legislation applies. In addition, all that is stated below in these regulations applies.

The purpose of these regulations is to ensure a uniform standard for the organization of Nordic Agility Championships, to guarantee equality for each competitor. In judging, the FCI Agility Judging Guidelines are also followed.

## The date of the Nordic Championships

The country responsible for the event should propose the date and the city of the NAC at the NKU meeting held in connection with the Nordic Championships 2 years before the event. The date must also be approved at the same meeting.

The proposed date should be in the first half of August. If needed, the NKU agility committee can approve another date for the NAC.

## Invitation and entry

The invitation to the NAC should be sent out 6 months before the event. Last day of entry is 30 days before the NAC. The team leaders provide the organizer with a list of the starting order within their teams in each size category two weeks before the NAC. This order must be followed during the competition.

Entry fees for the NAC shall cover about 50 % of the total cost – limited to maximum 100 Euro per entry. The reigning individual Nordic Champion competitors are allowed to start free of charge. If the individual Champion is on the team, the team will consist of only 8 handlers. If the Champion is not on the team, the team in question can have one extra handler.

Participating dogs must:

- have been registered in the studbook (appendix) of the kennel club in the country for which it competes for at least 6 months.
- be of a breed recognized by the FCI or the NKU. National breeds can start if the NKU has recognized the breed.

Owners and handlers must be:

- citizens or have their legal residence in the country for which their dog competes.
- be of a breed recognized by the FCI or the NKU. National breeds can start if the NKU has recognized the breed.
- members of the kennel club of the country for which their dog competes.

The AWC size categories are followed in the NAC. The dog must have an official measurement paper that places it in the correct FCI size category.

## Judges

The international judge for the NAC is approved by the NKU agility committee. The international judge may not represent any Nordic country. The country responsible for the event must present a proposal for a list of judges to the NKU agility committee 1,5–2 years before the event. After the NKU agility committee have voted on the proposed list of judges, the country responsible for the event can initiate the invitation process of judges.

The NKU agility committee will also approve a national judge for the NAC. The country responsible for the event presents the name of the national judge to the NKU agility committee for approval. The national judge is from the country responsible for the NAC, the NKU agility committee can allow an exception to this principle, if necessary.

The international judge judges and designs the individual jumping on Saturday. On Sunday the international judge judges and designs the team relay and the individual agility final.

The national judge judges and designs the individual agility on Saturday. He or she is also the assistant judge in the team relay Sunday.

The judges appointed to officiate at the NAC are not allowed to judge at pre-competitions of the NAC. However, their courses can be used in the pre-competitions.

The hosting country is responsible for the invitation of judges as well as for their expenses.

## Practical arrangements

All communication as well as the briefings will be conducted in English.

The hosting country will give out information to all concerned parties regarding accommodation possibilities in the city/area of the NAC at least 1 year before the event.

Each country is responsible for booking the accommodation independently. The hosting country makes the accommodation reservations only for judges.

Each country is responsible for the travel and accommodation costs of their teams and other expenses related to participation in the NAC.

The host country is responsible for all costs for judges, officials and prizes. The winner of each course in all size categories are rewarded after each course is finished. The new Nordic Champions are rewarded at the closing ceremony.

A complete time schedule and all other necessary information should be distributed to the kennel clubs and team leaders well in advance. It is recommended that all this information is also available online on the Internet site of the event.

If possible, an international agility competition is arranged the day before (on Friday) the NAC. It is recommended that this competition starts in the afternoon, so that all teams have a chance to participate.

Veterinary inspection is held on Friday evening before the NAC. ID numbers of the dogs are checked at the veterinary inspection – ID numbers are not checked after each course. It is recommended that a veterinarian is available during the event, or at least that information regarding the nearest veterinarian is available.

The audience should be given a good opportunity to follow the competition at the site. Arranging a live online webcast of the event is highly recommended, if possible. It is highly recommended that there is an Internet site for the event where information of the event as well as the results are published as fast as possible.

An opening ceremony and a closing ceremony, that equal the importance of a Nordic Championship, should be held.

- Opening: parade in with the organizing committee, competitors and national flags. Presentation of judges. A short speech to open the Championship.
- Closing: parade in with the organizing committee, competitors and national flags. Thanking judges. Prize giving ceremony for the Champions. A short speech to close the Championship.

It is up to each handler if they want to bring their dog/dogs to the parade, but it would be nice to show the dogs for the audience.

The competitors and their dogs should be assigned a specific area at the venue where they can rest and concentrate while watching the race, without being disturbed.

A copy of each country's national anthem should be provided to the chief steward. Each country must also bring their respective national flag.

A white dog for each size category is arranged by the hosting country. The white dogs nor its handlers can compete at the NAC.

## Judges meeting

A meeting with the judges, team leaders, delegates and the chief steward will be arranged on Friday evening. At the meeting, the chief steward goes through the time schedule and the practical arrangements. The starting order of the teams is also determined by the draw for Saturday. Lastly, the judging, the obstacles, the courses and the venue are discussed to ensure that everything complies with the regulations for the NAC.

## Obstacles and venue

All FCI agility obstacles should be available. The size of the ring should, if possible, be in accordance with the FCI rules, minor deviations are allowed if needed. Deviations to the ring size must be informed in advance and approved by the NKU delegates 4 months before the event.

The competition must be held indoors. The competition venue, surface and obstacles should be of a high standard, consistent with a Nordic championship. The surface and the obstacles may not, under any circumstances, be unsafe.

Technical devices can be used as a judging aid for the judges. If technical devices are used, the marking of mistakes should only be indicated for the judge(s) and must not be displayed publicly.

Timing must be electronic in all courses. In the start, there is an electronic countdown of 15 seconds after the start signal has been given by the judge. The countdown should be visible for the judge and for the competitor from the starting line.

Courses should be made so that they test different skills of the participants. The course design should allow the audience to cheer for the competitors and live in the moments of the run, especially in the last part of the course.

## Format and rules

The NAC has both a team and an individual trial in four size categories (Small – Medium – Intermediate – Large).

Each country can enter 8 dogs and 1 reserve dog (cost free) in each size group. 8 dogs can participate in the individual trial. If a reserve dog is to be used individually, it can be announced to the chief steward at latest before the course drawing for the first individual run is released. Each country can have two teams in each size category in the team trial – one team consists of 4 dogs. If a reserve dog is to be used, it can be announced to the chief steward at latest before the course drawing for the team trial is released.

Even if they are not selected in the team the reigning individual Nordic champions are eligible to participate in the NAC individual trial. If so, they must be entered by their

country's kennel club, and they will start according to the random draw by the organizer.

Bitches in heat may participate and they run in their own place in accordance with the starting list.

No treats or toys are allowed on the course area. Competitors are allowed to finish their run in the case of disqualification, but no training is allowed.

Disagreements should be settled according to the FCI agility regulations. The representatives of the NKU Agility Commission and/or the judge should make the decision in minor matters. In case of a protest, the representatives of the NKU Agility Commission will make the final decision.

The course drawing is given to team leaders (2 copies for each country) when the construction of the course has started.

## Individual trial

The NAC individual trial consist of three different courses.

8 contestants from each country plus the reigning champion. In the Individual trial one agility course and one jumping course is run in all 4 height categories on Saturday. In each height category, the 20 best from the combined results move on to Sunday where all the competitors start from scratch and a single agility run decide the results.

In addition, the top dog from a country qualifies in each height category for the NAC Final, if no dog from this country has already qualified for the NAC Final.

Disqualification counts as 100 fault points plus the maximum course time, MCT (equaling 2 x the standard course time, SCT). Apart from this the results on the course are calculated in accordance with the FCI agility regulations.

### *Individual courses 1 and 2 – agility and jumping / Saturday*

The participants start in the order determined by the draw made by the organizer in advance. Handlers with more dogs in the same size category must have at least 5 dogs between their runs.

### *Individual final course – agility Sunday*

The dogs start in the reverse order of the combined results from courses 1 and 2. Handlers with more dogs in the same size category final must have at least 5 dogs between their runs.

## Team trial

A relay with 4 contestants and 2 teams from each country. Just a single run, on Sunday.

For the team trial, the minimum requirement is 1200 m<sup>2</sup> and the minimum width is 24 m.

The course for the team event has 4 separate courses with between 8 to 12 obstacles for each course, partly using shared obstacles. All contact equipments must be used. The course must be designed so that dogs exit the course a different place than where the next dog enters. The time starts when the first dog passes the starting line and stops when the last dog passes the finish line.

An elimination of a team member is counted as 100 faults for the respective part. The time for an eliminated run is taken from the timing if a team member that is eliminated performs all the obstacles in correct order and direction on his course.

The time for the whole team is set to the maximum time if a team member that is eliminated doesn't perform all the obstacles in correct order and direction on their course.

To make it a bit more tactical, the order within the team does not need to be announced until after the drawing of the course is published Sunday morning, but before the course walk begins.

The teams start in the order determined by the draw made at the meeting on Friday for judges, team leaders, chief steward and delegates.

## Preliminary program of the event

### *Friday*

- If organized, the international competition
- Veterinary inspection
- Meeting for judges, team leaders, delegates and chief steward

### *Saturday*

- Opening ceremony
- Individual course 1 – agility
- Individual course 2 – jumping

### *Sunday*

- Team course – relay
- Individual final course – agility
- Closing ceremony

*Approved by: NKU Agility Committee in Helsinki, Finland on December 2nd, 2023  
NKU/AU in Oslo, Norway on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024*