

NKU Obedience Commission Meeting 1/2022

Time: August 31st 2022 (10.00 – 17.00)
Place: Oslo, Best Western Plus Oslo Airport

Participants:	Carina Savander-Ranne	(chair)	FIN
	Palle Bergsø		DK
	Martha Landin		SE
	Stein O. Nergaard	(secr.)	NOR

1. Opening of meeting

The president of the commission Carina Savander-Ranne welcomed all the representatives to the meeting. The representatives gave a short presentation of their roles in the obedience sport. Martha Landin and Stein O. Nergaard are new representatives.

2. Meeting activity of NKU obedience

The meeting activity of the NKU obedience commission, face-to-face, has been non-existing due Covid, the latest meeting having been in the autumn of 2019 in Denmark. The commission members have, however, discussed matters and decided on them per facebook and e-mail meetings. Carina Savander-Ranne presented the minutes from these meetings as we have two new members.

Furthermore, it was discussed that the meeting schedule should be such that we can have at least one face-to-face meeting per year. In addition, urgent matters can be discussed and decided on per e-mail or facebook or as an online meeting.

It is also very important that the representatives of the NKU Obedience Commission present matters that have been agreed upon to their countries' kennel clubs and the representatives in the NKU/AU so that our suggestions are approved of in the NKU/AU and actualized.

3. Rules for Nordic Championships

At the meeting in Denmark 2019, some new adjustments were drawn up for the Nordic Championships, which have not yet been approved of by NKU. Carina is working to get these approved of as soon as possible. There seem to be some details that the NKU/AU have not been able to agree on.

The earlier decision/suggestion from 2019 about the distribution of the travel expenses of the judges to our annual NordCh costs was discussed. As each country sends their own judge representative to the event, it is convenient and fair that the sending country (not the hosting country) pays for the travelling and accommodation expenses of their own judge.

4. Contact persons

For contact persons see Appendix 1. Appendix 1 is not to be published as such on the website.

5. Organization of NKU obedience work

President: Carina Savander-Ranne, Finland
Secretary: The country that is hosting the meeting brings along a secretary for the meeting. This is preferable so that the delegates can concentrate on the issues at hand. At on-line meetings this should be organized as well.

All delegates must work actively with their own kennel club to explain and gain acceptance for issues raised in our NKU obedience committee.

Meetings of the NKU obedience committee should preferably be held prior to meetings of the FCI obedience committee for the Nordic region to try to stand as united as possible in matters raised.

6. Upcoming meetings

The next meeting of the FCI obedience commission will be in Switzerland on November 19th to 20th, 2022.

Carina Savander-Ranne will work to hold the FCI judges' meeting during January 2023 in Finland if not otherwise decided at the FCI commission meeting.

7. Nordic Championships: plans and future events

Some issues discussed:

- a) It should be surveyed, if the NordCh can be arranged as an international competition with CACIOB.
- b) Bitches in heat may not train in the ring and should perform last on the first competition day and the second competition day as well. They may not train in the competition ring but may train last in the training ring.
- c) The previous year's Nordic champion may compete as an extra at the NordCh but may not under any circumstances be included in the team results if they have not been enrolled as a member of the team or as a reserve.
- d) The Nordic Championships 2023 will be held in the Stockholm area in October/November. Nordic Championship 2024 will be held in Aarhus also October/November.

We urgently need information about the arrangement of this year's NordCh in Norway.

The timetables that we have worked out should be followed i.e., the time and place should be informed at least one year before the event.

8. Obedience champion title

The NKU obedience committee unanimously agreed to support the proposal from the NKK (Norsk Kennel Klub) so that we could achieve a national champion title in the second highest obedience class (FCI class 2) in the respective Nordic countries.

As a justification for this change is the possibility to get back a wider spectrum of breeds to obedience. Obedience is originally designed to suit all breeds. Today class 3 seems to be too challenging for many breeds and the breeds that are successful in class 3 tend to be the more athletic ones. This should not be the case. Also, the class 3 rules are made and decided on by the FCI obedience commission (FCI GC), so it is sometimes difficult to get all our traditional Nordic views on obedience accepted and written down into the rules. Class 3, however, is important for us as all international competitions and World Winner Championships are applying class 3 rules and maybe in the future we will also have European Championships. We definitely do not want to get any disadvantage, so a suitable solution would be to give class 2 its well-deserved status and the possibility to award the champion title with results from class 2. It is in no way an easy class, so we do not see that there would be any downgrading. Just a chance for more support to several, not so athletic, breeds. As it is now, also small breeds have some difficulties that are avoided in class 2.

It should also be possible to get the title champion in the top class, FCI class 3 as well. It was discussed to have two champion titles one for class 2 and one for class 3. The names were discussed but no specific name was suggested. As an example, in class 2 it could be "lydnads champion" and in class 3 "elit lydnads champion". These details can be discussed later if our basic principle for the champion title is moving forward.

In class 2 it should also be possible to get the titles Norwegian/Swedish, Norwegian/Finnish, Danish/Swedish etc. champion for dogs that are champions of their own country and also to get the Nordic obedience champion with an excellent from class 2 in three Nordic countries.

(Noted later: Denmark and Norway are now applying this. Hopefully will Sweden and Finland work on this as well.)

9. FCI 3 rules

There was an agreement among the delegates at the meeting that small changes or at least some clarifications and specifications should be made to the current rules. It was also agreed that each country reviews the current rules and presents to the other Nordic countries what should be changed so that we in the Nordic region can try to agree before the change is presented to the FCI.

10. End of meeting

The President thanked the delegates for active participation and ended the meeting at approximately 5 pm.

Carina Savander-Ranne, chair

Stein O. Nergaard, secr.

Martha Landin, examiner of minutes