

RULES FOR NORDIC OBEDIENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS / 1.9.2025

These rules have been prepared by the NKU Obedience Committee, consisting of representatives appointed by DKK, FKK, NKK, and SKK.

Rules have been confirmed by NKU/AU in

- Stockholm, Sweden, September 19th, 2006.

Updates have been confirmed by NKU/AU in

- Helsinki, Finland, September 23rd, 2010.
- Sollentuna, Sweden on October 13th, 2022.
- Teams meeting on April 4th, 2025.

Nordic Obedience Championships are held every year in accordance with these rules as well as the FCI's rules for Class III / International Obedience Class (with CACIOB). The purpose of these rules is to ensure a high standard of competition arrangements.

Nordic Championships can be held as an official or unofficial competition. A decision regarding the status of the competition is made by the kennel club of the organizing country.

Nordic Obedience Championships are team competitions, in which one official team from each Nordic country participates. A national team consists of 6 appointed handlers with their dogs, and they compete for the title Nordic champion (team).

In addition, four competitors from each country are allowed to compete in the Nordic Championship. Thus, ten competitors from each Nordic country are allowed to compete. They all compete for the title Nordic Champion (individual).

The Nordic countries take turns in organizing the Nordic Obedience Championships.

The Championships are organized in autumn on a set date. The first alternative is to arrange it on the last weekend of October. The other alternative is on the first weekend of November. Which of these alternative dates are chosen should be mutually agreed on no later than 2 years beforehand.

Organizing schedule has been/will be:

2018 Sweden, 2019 Denmark, 2020 Finland

2021 Finland, 2022 Norway.

2023 Sweden, 2024 Denmark.

Future dates:

2025: Finland: 24. – 26.10

2026: Norway: 30. – 31.10 – 1.11.

2027: Sweden: 29. – 31.10

2028: Denmark: 27. – 29.10

2029: Finland: 26 – 28.10

RULES and JUDGING

Competition arrangements and judging are based on the FCI rules for International Obedience (Class 3, with CACIOB) which must be followed at the competition. Only dogs registered in a kennel club approved by the FCI may participate. The right to represent a country follows the FCI's rules.

An individual Nordic Champion must always be appointed. If two highest-ranking participants end up with the same number of points, these are to be separated in accordance with the procedure in FCI's rules. If this does not give a separation, the championship is divided.

The chief judge

The organizing country appoints a chief judge for the competition. Alternatively, the judge representing the organizing country may also officiate as chief judge.

Protests and appeals

Disagreements shall be processed in accordance with the FCI's rules. All four judges, chaired by the chief judge, discuss the issues at hand and decide on minor cases.

In case of protest, the NKU Obedience Committee makes the final decision.

Protests must be made in writing and be handed to the organizer no later than two (2) hours after the error has been noticed, but no later than 30 minutes after the competition has ended. An appeal cannot be made against a judge's judging, only if technical errors have been made.

Bitches in heat

Bitches in heat may compete in accordance with FCI's Rules for Obedience Trials.

Bitches in heat must be checked and the heat confirmed at the veterinary inspection. If bitches in heat take part, it must be observed in the schedule, usually bitches in heat perform last on Saturday and last on Sunday.

If the Championship competition is held indoors, bitches in heat must wear heat pants. Bitches in heat do not train in the competition ring under any circumstances.

Veterinary inspection, doping regulations, and vaccinations

Veterinary inspection: The organizing country is responsible for the veterinary inspection. The team is responsible for costs of possible certificates and medications. The veterinarian checks bitches in heat.

Doping regulations: Doping regulations of the organizing country are followed. The organizing country must communicate information on valid doping regulations or advice where this information is available. Competitors must also follow doping regulations of their own country. If there are differences between doping regulations of the home country and the organizing country, the stricter regulations are to be followed.

Vaccinations: Vaccination regulations for participation in trials of the organizing country must be followed. There may be differences in the country's requirements for arrival to the country and its requirements for competing in shows, trials, or competitions.

NATIONAL TEAMS

It is expected that each country participates with one team at the Nordic Championships. Iceland is an exception because of valid arrival regulations to Iceland. In case of changes to arrival regulations, Iceland is welcome to send a team to the Nordic Championships.

If a country must cancel the entry of their team, this must be informed to the organizing country no later than three (3) months before the day of the competition. If this happens, the organizing country informs other participating countries about it.

Each country informs the organizing country of the name of their team leader as well as members of the team, in other words, the name of the handler and contact information, the dog's information. The entry must be sent in good time, in accordance with instructions from the organizing country, however, no later than 5 weeks before the competition.

One national team consists of six (6) dogs, of which the five (5) best results are taken into account in the team result. A national team can enter 7 dogs, of which one (1) is a reserve dog. Which 6 of the 7 dogs are included in the team should be appointed on enrolling the team but confirmed no later than at the information meeting (on Friday) and before the draw of the start order.

Reserve dogs

1. A reserve dog may compete. The reserve teams (handler & dog) compete for the individual championship, but the result is not taken into account in the team result if all ordinary team members have performed.

2. If a team (handler or dog) that has been enrolled as a national team member and has been announced at the information meeting is unable to start off (due to health issues of handler or dog, clearly verified by a doctor or vet), a reserve will be included in the team and their result included in the national team results.

This can also be applied to the rest of the reserves. A dog/handler that has already started is not allowed to be replaced by a reserve.

3. No changes in the team are accepted after the competition/performances has started, unless the above directions apply.

INVITATION OF JUDGES AND GRADING

Each Nordic country chooses a judge to be sent to officiate at the Nordic Championships. There must /should always be one judge from each Nordic country, regardless of which countries are represented in the competition. Iceland is an exception since the country does not yet have any activities in or qualified judges for this class. When these exist, Iceland is welcome to join and send a judge to represent them in the Nordic Championships.

If a judge is unable to attend the competition and there is no reserve judge to accept the appointment from the country in question, the competition is judged by only three judges.

The chief judge is either a judge appointed by the organizing country or a referee judge of the organizing country. All four judges give out grades at the same time. The results are calculated as an average of all grades (four grades).

Names and contact information to the judges representing each country must be communicated to the organizing country no later than four (4) months before the competition.

Information to judges

The organizing country must send necessary information to judges in good time before the competition. This information includes place of the competition, judges' meeting, information meeting, hotel, travel directions, suitable way of travel, conditions (indoors/outdoors competition // cold/warm/partially warm hall // floor) and other useful information.

Judges' meeting

Before the competition a judges' meeting must be held. All judges as well as the chief steward must participate.

The meeting should preferably be planned to start on Friday afternoon so that judges can travel on Friday and arrive in time to the competition site (meeting).

The time of the judges' meeting is communicated to the judges in good time so that they can take it into consideration when making travel plans.

The chief steward and judges must discuss trial equipment and make sure that the competition site and the ground/floor as well as judging follow FCI obedience rules and guidelines.

COMPETITION ORGANIZATION

All communication and verbal information meetings shall be held in English.

The time schedule and other necessary preliminary information must be sent in good time to

- each Nordic kennel club and so that the kennel clubs have time to arrange travel etc.
- each national delegate of the NKU obedience commission

- each team leader.

The information should be forwarded to all parties concerned.

The time schedule for sending out detailed information must be one that allows team leaders to receive all necessary information before departure to the competition.

The time schedule for the competition should preferably be such that allows the judges to arrive on Friday and travel back home on Sunday evening. The schedule should be conclusive i.e. the whole program must be included in the schedule, such as possible training time, competition, award ceremony.

Competitors and their dogs must be ensured a safe and quiet space close to the obedience ring where they can rest and concentrate. The location should preferably be such which allows the competitors to also watch the competition.

Training

The host country must arrange a chance for the competitors to train the day before the Nordic Championships. Training is not allowed in the competition ring. Equipment, such as hurdles and retrieve objects, must be available. Despite the practice that the handlers use their own dumbbells, the organizer should have dumbbells available.

Information meeting and drawing of lots

A special meeting for judges and team leaders must be held the evening before the competition.

An information meeting must be held with competitors, team leaders, judges, and the chief steward and also preferably with the person in charge of the final ring (award ceremony) if the championships are held in connection with a dog show.

At the meeting team members are named, and the start order of countries is determined by lot. Competitors must receive information about the time schedule, etc.

National anthem and flag

At the information meeting, each team must provide the national anthem of their country on a CD / USB stick / or some other source to the chief steward. Each team leader must also bring the flag of their country for the opening as well as the award ceremony.

Dinner

A dinner/gathering must be organized the night before the second competition day (Saturday). The dinner is paid by the host country and is free for team members, team leaders, and judges.

COSTS

Costs of the team

Each country is responsible for costs for their country, such as travel costs, living costs, etc.

The host country makes preliminary accommodation bookings for teams and informs them about the hotel (name of the hotel, road directions, contact information).

The host country is responsible for dinner on Saturday evening (first day of competition).

Entry fee

An entry fee of 120 – 150 € must be set per each competitor. The NKU obedience commission should discuss the sum in more detail. The final decision is the organisers.

Costs of judges

Each country is responsible for their judge's trip to the location of the competition (in other words, to the hotel or competition site) and accommodation costs as well as daily allowance.

The host country accounts for the judges' meals, (Friday – Saturday – Sunday /lunch – dinner – snacks – other refreshments, snacks and drinks) and for trips between the hotel and competition site.

CHAMPIONSHIPS, ANNUAL CHAMPION TITLE and NATIONAL OBEDIENCE TITLE

The annual team championship is awarded according to the results from Saturday of five competitors from each nation.

The annual individual championship is awarded based on the results from Saturday and Sunday (average or sum).

If the Nordic Championships are held as an official competition, results achieved in the competition are officially registered.

If the Nordic Championships are held as an unofficial competition, no results achieved in the competition are officially registered.

However, if a dog has been awarded 1st prize (Excellent) at the Nordic Championships and it is a national Obedience Champion of its home country, the dog is awarded the Obedience Champion title of the organizing country (decision by NKU/AU no. 2/2006). The application is sent to the kennel club of the organizing country.

CARRYING OUT THE COMPETITION

The championship is carried out as a qualification competition on Saturday for all 40 competitors and a final with 20 competitors on Sunday.

The team results are calculated on basis of the results of Saturday.

The finalists are chosen on basis of the results of the qualification competition (Saturday):

- the three best from each nation may continue to the second day final
- the rest (8 competitors) are chosen on rank order of their results.

First day /qualification

The qualifications on the first day are judged in two rings with two judges in each ring. Their average is the final grade.

Depending on the division of the exercises, the group exercises can be judged by two or four judges.

Second day / final

The final is judged by all four judges, and the final grade of an exercise is the average.

Start orders /first day:

For the first day the start order is selected by lot at the information meeting the evening before the competition.

Draw of

1. Start order of countries
2. Individual start orders within each team

Start orders / second day

For the second day the start order is drawn by lot after the qualification competition has ended. Each competitor draws his/her number.

If the exercises are divided in two parts (+ group exercises)/ morning-afternoon, the starting order of the competitors at the second part may differ from that of the first part, if this is agreed on.

The order in which exercises are performed does not have to be the same as in the rules but must be same for all competitors.

Price-giving ceremony

The price-giving ceremony is preferably both for the team championship and individual championship on Sunday.

The white dog

The white dog performs the exercises before the competition starts, preferably the evening before, so that the judges have a chance to discuss, and competitors have a chance to see the layout of exercises.

The white dog is appointed by the organizing country.

There must also be a white dog to show the exercises of the finals. Preferably the evening before, but by choice of the organiser considering other timetables and convenience of the white dog.

Group exercises

The organizer decides when group exercises are performed.