

## **Regulations for the Nordic Agility Championship (NAC)**

*Approved by: NKU Agility Committee in Aarhus on August 9<sup>th</sup>,  
2019  
NKU/AU during web meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

### **General**

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 – Finland – Norway – Sweden.

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, in order 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 on the first half of August, before the deadline of entry for the FCI Agility World Championships (AWC). 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.

The entry fee for the NAC will cover approximately 50 % of the total costs for the championship. However, the entry fee cannot exceed 100 euro per contestant. If the reigning individual champion is on the team, the team will consist of only 10 handlers. If the champion is not on the team, the country in question can have one extra handler in that size category.

Participating dogs must:

- have been registered in the studbook (appendix) of the kennel club in the country for which it competes for at least for 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.
- members of the kennel club of the country for which their dog competes.

The AWC size categories are followed in the NAC. If the dog in question has competed and been measured in the AWC, the dogs size category is then determined by AWC size measurement. If the dog has not yet competed in the AWC, the dog competes according to its national size category, which must be in accordance with the FCI rules.

## **Judges**

The international judge for the NAC is approved by the NKU agility committee. This judge may not represent any Nordic country. The country responsible for the event must present a list with proposals for a judge to the NKU agility committee 1,5–2 years before the event. After the NKU agility committee has approved a candidate from 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 an assistant judge for the NAC. The country responsible for the event presents the name of the assistant judge to the NKU agility committee for approval. The assistant judge should be 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 and team agility on Saturday. He or she is also the assistant judge in the individual agility. On Sunday the international judge judges and designs team agility and the individual agility final.

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

The judge and the assistant judge appointed to officiate at the NAC are not allowed to judge at pre-competitions of the NAC. However, his/her courses can be used in the pre-competitions. It is up to the chief judge to decide if the assistant judge is judging the up or down of the dog walk and obstacles near the contact.

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

Judges should send in their courses for the championship to the representative of the Committee four weeks before the event. The Committee will one year in advance name the person responsible for receiving the courses.

## **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 only makes the accommodation reservations for the judges.

The host country is not responsible for the travel and accommodation costs of the teams 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, team leaders and NKU delegates 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.

A training opportunity must be organized for the teams on Friday evening or Saturday morning before the NAC, at the same venue and on the same surface.

Veterinary inspection is held on Friday evening and/or Saturday morning 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 competitors and national flags. Presentation of judges. A short speech to open the Championship.
- Closing: parade in with 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 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 be in accordance with the FCI rules if possible, 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 be unsafe under any circumstances.

Electronic contacts can be used as a judging aid for the judges. If electronic contacts are used, the marking of the mistake on the electronic contact 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 individual competition in three size categories (small, medium,

large). Each country can enter a maximum of 10 dogs in each size category. All 10 dogs can participate in the individual competition. The 10 best from combined AG +JU are qualified for the final. And in addition to that the 3 best from each nation if not included in the top 10 goes to the final (a total of 19 handlers as a maximum).

Each country can have two teams in each size category in the team competition – each team consists of 3 or 4 dogs (the 3 best results count for each run to the final result). The 2 reserve dogs can enter both teams if needed. If a reserve dog is to be used, this must be announced to the chief steward at the latest after the Saturday training, and can only be used in 1 team. The best team from each nation (based on the combined results of agility and jumping) is qualified for the final. The final will start with clean scores, so the best team in the final wins (AG).

A handler can only have two dogs per size category.

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

Even if they are not elected to the team, the reigning individual Nordic Champions are eligible to participate in the NAC individual competition. If they participate, they must be entered by their country's kennel club and will start according to the random draw by the organizer.

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 chief steward and/or the judge should make the decision in minor matters. In case of a protest, the host committee will make the final decision.

The NAC individual competition is held on three different courses. Course 1 is an agility class, course 2 a jumping class, and the final course 3 an agility class. Courses 1 and 2 are on Saturday and the final agility course on Sunday.

The team competition is held on three different courses. Course 1 is an agility class, course 2 a jumping class, and the final course 3 an agility class. Course 1 and 2 is held on Saturday and the final agility course on Sunday.

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

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

The winner is the team with the least number of fault points / the fastest time, even if the team has 3 eliminations, as we like to have 3 teams on the podium.

### ***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 two dogs in the same size category must have at least 7 dogs between their runs.

### ***Team courses 1 and 2 – Agility and Jumping / Saturday***

The teams start in the order determined by the draw made at the meeting on Friday for judges, team leaders and chief steward. The dogs of each team start as a group in a sequence. The top three dogs in each team count in the team's results.

### ***Team course 3 – Final Agility / Sunday***

The teams will start in the reverse order of the combined team results in courses 1 and 2. The leading team will start last. The dogs of each team start as a group in a sequence. The top three dogs in each team count in the team's results. The final will start with clean scores, so the best team in the final wins.

### ***Individual course 3 – Final Agility Sunday***

The dogs start in the reverse order of the added individual results in courses 1 and 2. The leading dog will start last. A handler with 2 dogs in the same size category and who has less than 2 dogs between the runs has a 2-minute break between the runs, if he/she is placed in the top 10 after the two first runs. Handlers with the placement 11 or more get 5 dogs between the runs.

The individual results from courses 1, 2 and 3 are added to the final results in the individual competition.

### ***Preliminary program of the event***

#### ***Friday***

- If organized, the international competition

- Veterinary inspection and training: two teams start the training and two others the veterinary inspection. It is important that a team has one team before them in the veterinary inspection after their training time
- Meeting for judges, team leaders and chief steward

### *Saturday*

- Veterinary inspection (in reserve).
- Opening ceremony
- Individual course 1 – agility
- Team course 1 – agility
- Individual course 2 – jumping
- Team course 2 – jumping

### *Sunday*

- Team course 3 – Final Agility
- Individual course 3 – Final Agility
- Closing ceremony