
Regulations for the Nordic Agility Championship (NAC)

Approved by: *NKU Agility Committee in Copenhagen on November 30th 2013*
NKU/AU in XX on

General

These regulations have established by the Nordic Kennel Union (NKU), which is the Nordic kennel club's cooperative body, and its 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 and his/her reserve person 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 Nordic Kennel Union (NKU) rules and decisions.

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

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

- Ring size
- Measuring
- Checking of the ID-markings of the dogs
- Running order of the bitches in heat
- Where assistant judge can be used
- Amount of the dogs per handler
- Used of the 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 of organization for the 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 of 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 other date for NAC.

Invitation and entry

The invitation to the NAC should be sent out 6 months before. Last day of entry will be a date 30 days before the NAC. The team leaders will 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 is 35 euros per participant. The reigning individual Nordic champions Competitors are allowed to start for free.

Participating dogs must be:

- Registered in the studbook (appendix) of the kennel club in the country for which it competes for at least 6 months.
- Of a breed recognized by the FCI or the NKU. National breeds are allowed to start if the NKU has approved 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 NAC if the dog has once competed and is measured in AWC. The dog's size category is then determined by AWC size measurement. If the dog is not yet competed in the AWC the dog competes according its national size category, which must be according the FCI rules.

Judges

The judge for the NAC is approved by the NKU agility committee. The judge may not represent any Nordic country. The country responsible for the event must present a proposal of the list of judges to the NKU agility committee 1, 5 to 2 years ahead of the event. After the NKU agility committee approval of this list of judges the country responsible for the event can start the judge invitation procedures.

An assistant judge will also be approved for the NAC by the NKU agility committee. The country responsible for the event presents the name of the assistant judge to the NKU agility committee for approval. Assistant judge should be from the country responsible for the NAC, the NKU agility committee can allow an exception to this principle if needed.

The judge and assistant judge appointed to judge the NAC are not allowed to judge in the pre-competitions of the NAC. However his/hers courses can be used in the pre-competitions. It is up to the main judge to decide if the assistant judge are judging the up or down of the dogwalk and obstacles near by the contact.

The hosting country is responsible for the invitation of the judge 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 about accommodation possibilities in the city/area of the NAC at least 1 year before the event to all concerned parties. The countries are responsible for booking of the accommodation independently. The hosting country makes the accommodation reservations only for the judges and NKU delegates.

The respective countries are responsible for the travel and accommodation costs of the teams and the NKU delegates and other expenses related to participating the NAC.

The host country is responsible for all the costs for the judges, officials and prizes. The best of each course in all size categories are rewarded after each course is finished. The new Nordic Champions are rewarded in 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 in Internet on the homepage of the event.

If possible an international agility competition will be arranged the day before (on Friday) the NAC. This competition is recommended to start in the afternoon so all the teams have a possibility to participate.

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

Veterinary inspection is held on Saturday morning before the NAC. ID-markings are checked if needed in veterinary inspection – these are not checked after each courses. It is recommended that veterinary is available or at least the info of the nearest veterinary is available during the event if needed.

The audience should be given a good opportunity to follow the competition on site. If possible a live webcast of the event via the Internet is highly recommended. Internet site for the information of the event and the results is also highly recommended.

An opening ceremony and a closing ceremony should be held which equals the importance of a Nordic championship.

- Opening: parade in with competitors, NKU-delegates and national flags. Presentation of judges. A short speech to open the championship.
- Closing; parade in with competitors, NKU-delegates 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/s 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 of 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. Also each country have to bring their own flag.

White dog for each size category are organized by the hosting country and they cannot be the members of the NAC team.

Judges meeting & Dinner

A meeting and dinner with the judges, team leaders, the chief steward and the NKU delegates will be arranged on Friday evening. In the meeting the chief steward goes through the time schedule, the practical arrangements, the starting order of the teams is determined by the draw for Saturday and last discussing about judging, the obstacles, the courses and the venue are made to ensure the all comply with the regulations for the NAC

Obstacles and venue

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

The competition can be held indoors or outdoors. The competition venue, surface and obstacles should be of a high standard which is consistent with a Nordic championship. The surface and obstacles may not be unsafe in any circumstances.

Electronics contacts can be used as the judging aid to the judges. In this case the marking of the mistake on the electronic contact should be only indicated to the judge(s) and it cannot be displayed publicly.

Timing must be electronic in all courses. In the start there is a 15 sec. electronic count down after the starting signal is giving by the judge, this should be visible for the judge.

Courses should be made so that they test different skills of the participants. The course design should allow the audience 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 max. 10 dogs in each size group. All 10 dogs can participate to the individual competition. Each country can have one teams in each size category in the team competition – one team consists of 5 dogs (the 3 best results count for each run to the final result) and 1 reserve dog. If a reserve dog is to be used it must be announced at the latest after the Saturday training to the chief steward.

Handler can have only two dogs per size category.

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

Even if they are not selected in the team the reigning individual Nordic champions are eligible to participate to the NAC individual competition. If so they have to be entered by their country's kennel club and they 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 case of disqualification, 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 NKU agility committee will make the final decision.

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

The team competition is arranged on two different courses. Course 1 will be a jumping class and the final course is 3 agility class. Course 1 is held on Saturday and the final agility class is on Sunday.

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.

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. The handlers with two dogs in the same size category must have at least 7 dogs between.

Team courses 1 – Jumping / Saturday

The teams start in the order determined by the draw made at the meeting on Friday for the judges, team leaders, chief steward and delegates. 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 2 – Final Agility / Sunday

The teams will start in the reverse order of the team results in team course 1. 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 results from team course 1 and 2 are added to make up the final results in the team competition.

Individual course 3 – Final Agility Sunday

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

The individual results from course 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
- Meeting and dinner for the judges, team leaders, chief steward and the delegates

Saturday

- Veterinary inspection and training: two teams start the training and two others the veterinary inspection. Important is that team has one team before them in the veterinary inspection after their training time
 - Opening ceremony
 - Individual course 1 – agility
 - Team course 1 – jumping
 - Individual course 2 - jumping
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Sunday

- Team course 2 – Final Agility
 - Individual course 3 – Final Agility
 - Closing ceremony
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