



## 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 handles agility-related matters within the NKU. The purpose of these rules is to ensure a common standard for the Nordic Agility Championship and provide equality for all competitors.

The NKU Agility Committee consists of one delegate (or their substitute) from each country, appointed by their respective kennel club. These regulations have been agreed upon by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, who all follow the decisions of the Nordic Kennel Union (NKU).

The Nordic Agility Championship (NAC) is hosted on a rotating basis by the Nordic kennel clubs in the following order: Denmark – Norway – Sweden – Finland.

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

- Checking the ID markings of the dogs
- Measurement of dogs
- Use of assistant judge
- Number of dogs per handler

Some exceptions are detailed later in the rules.

The organizing country's rules regarding doping, vaccinations, and applicable legislation also apply. All additional rules stated in this document must also be followed.

The purpose of these regulations is to ensure a uniform standard for organizing the NAC and to guarantee equality for all competitors. Judging must follow the FCI Agility Judging Guidelines.

## The date of the Nordic Championships

The host country must propose the date and the city of the NAC at the NKU meeting held in conjunction with the Nordic Championships 2 years prior to the event. The date must be approved during the same meeting.

The proposed date should be in the first half of August. If necessary, the NKU Agility Committee may approve an alternative date.

## Invitation and entry

The invitation to the NAC must be sent out 6 months before the event, and the entry deadline is 30 days prior.

Entry fees should cover approximately 50% of total costs but must not exceed €100 per entry (NKU main board decision). Reigning individual Nordic Champions may participate free of charge.

## Eligibility

Participating dogs must have been registered with their country's kennel club for at least 6 months and be of an FCI- or NKU-recognized breed.

Handlers must be citizens or legal residents of the country they represent and members of that country's kennel club. The FCI Agility World Championship size categories are used. Dogs must have official measurement documentation confirming their FCI size category.

## Judges

The international judge, who must not represent a Nordic country, is approved by the NKU Agility Committee. The host country must propose a list of judges 1,5–2 years in advance. After the NKU Agility Committee votes on the proposed list of judges, the host country responsible can initiate the invitation process of judges.

The NKU agility committee will also approve a national judge for the NAC. The host country 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. Exceptions may be granted if necessary.

## Judging duties:

- The international judge designs and judges the Saturday individual jumping course, the team relay, and the Sunday individual agility final
- The national judge designs and judges the Saturday individual agility course and assists during the Sunday team relay and individual agility final
- During the team relay, the international judge will judge run 1 and 3, the national judge will judge run 2 and 4.

The host country is responsible for judge's invitations and their expenses.

## Practical arrangements

- All official communication and briefings will be conducted in English
- Each country is responsible for its own accommodation bookings, except for the judges, whose arrangements are made by the host country. Travel, accommodation, participation costs for teams and other expenses related to participation are borne by each country. The host country covers costs for judges, officials, and awards
- Course winners in each size category receive awards after each course and there is a lap of honour for the top three. Champions are awarded at the closing ceremony

A full schedule and event information must be distributed to kennel clubs and team leaders well in advance and should also be published online.

An international competition is recommended on the Friday before the NAC, preferably starting in the afternoon to allow team participation.

Veterinary inspection is held on Friday evening. Dog ID numbers are verified during inspection only. A veterinarian should be present during the event.

Spectators should have good visibility of the competition. A live online stream and a website with updated results are strongly recommended.

## Ceremony

### Opening Ceremony:

- Parade of the organizing committee, competitors, and national flags
- Introduction of judges
- Brief opening speech

### Closing Ceremony:

- Parade of the organizing committee, competitors, and national flags
- Judge acknowledgments

- Champion awards
- Brief closing speech

Dogs may participate in the parades at the handler's discretion, and their presence is encouraged for audience engagement. Each team must have a designated area at the venue for resting and focusing while watching the runs, without being disturbed.

Each country must provide their national flag and anthem (recorded) to the chief steward. White dogs for each size category must be arranged by the host country. White dogs and their handlers are not allowed to compete in the NAC run they are used for.

## Team Leaders & Officials Meeting

A meeting with team leaders, delegates, the chief steward and, preferably, the judges, will be held on Friday evening. Topics include:

- Time schedule (chief steward)
- Practical arrangements (chief steward)
- Starting order (draw for Saturday)
- Judging protocol, obstacles, courses, and venue compliance (delegates and chief steward)

## Obstacles and Venue

- All FCI agility obstacles must be available
- Ring size should meet FCI standards, with minor deviations allowed (must be approved by the NKU Agility Committee 4 months in advance) The competition must be held indoors, and the venue, surface, and obstacles must meet championship-level standards and be safe
- Timing must be electronic on all courses
- A 15-second electronic countdown must be visible at the start line for the competitor

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.

## Competition Format and Rules

There are team and individual competitions in four size categories: Small – Medium – Intermediate – Large.

- Each country may enter 8 dogs + 2 reserves (cost free) per size category
- Bitches in heat are allowed to run in their designated spot

- Reserve dogs are allowed to run as white dogs individually and still be eligible to compete in the team trial

#### Individual Entries:

- 8 dogs may compete per country in each size category
- The reserve dogs may be activated and announced to the chief steward before the course drawing for the first individual run is released
- Reigning champions may participate outside of the 8 dogs individually but must be officially entered

#### Team Entries:

- Each country may have 2 teams of 3 or 4 dogs in the team relay
- The reserve dogs may be activated and announced to the chief steward before the team course drawing is released

No treats or toys are allowed on the course. Disqualified competitors may finish the course, but training is not allowed.

Disagreements are settled under FCI agility regulations. The NKU Agility Commission and/or judges handle minor issues; formal protests are resolved by the NKU Agility Commission.

Course drawings are distributed to team leaders (2 copies per country) when course setup begins.

### Individual trial

The individual trial includes three courses:

- Saturday: One agility and one jumping course per size category
- Sunday: Final agility course for qualified dogs

The top 12 dogs from each Saturday course, with a valid run, qualify for Sunday's final. A maximum of 24 dogs may compete in the final.

For the purposes of these rules, a 'valid, countable result' is defined as a completed run without disqualification.

If dogs qualify via both courses, no replacements are added. Therefore, the number of dogs in the final can be less than 24. To be allowed to compete in the final, the dog must participate in both qualifying courses.

In all individual runs, a 15-second timer begins after the judge's whistle. Once the timer expires, the run time starts regardless of whether the dog has crossed the start line.

The results on the course are calculated in accordance with the FCI agility regulations. The standard course time is determined by the time of the fastest dog with the fewest course faults + 15% and rounded to the nearest second.

On Sunday, all finalists begin with a clean slate, and the final rankings are determined by the outcome of a single agility run.

### **Individual Courses I and 2 – Agility and Jumping Saturday:**

The participants start in the order determined by the draw made by the organizer in advance. Handlers with multiple dogs in the same size category must have a minimum of 5 dogs between their runs.

### **Individual Final Course – Agility Sunday:**

Dogs will start in reverse order based on their individual results from the agility and jumping course, with precedence given to the agility course. Accordingly, the dog with the best result in the agility course will start last, followed by the best from the jumping course, and so on.

Handlers with multiple dogs in the same size category final must have a minimum of 5 dogs between their runs. If a handler has more than one dog in the final but are ranked so that there are less than five dogs between them, the dog with the lowest ranking will be moved back so that there will be five dogs between them.

## **Team trial**

The team trial is a four-part relay run on Sunday. Two teams per country may participate, with 3 or 4 dogs. In a team of 3, one dog must run two parts. For the team trial, the minimum requirement is 1200 m<sup>2</sup> and the minimum width is 24 m.

Each leg of the relay has 8–14 obstacles, partly using shared obstacles. All contact obstacles must be used, but not for each single leg.

- Running order is declared after the course map is published Sunday morning and before the course walk
- Entry and exit points for each relay leg must differ
- Time starts when the first dog crosses the starting line and stops when the last dog passes the finish line
- If a dog is eliminated, it will receive 100 faults, and no other faults are counted for that dog
- The timing will continue even after an elimination
- If the eliminated dog does not complete its section correctly, the team is disqualified and will not appear in the final ranking
- When the previous dog has finished the last obstacle, the judge will give the start signal (whistle or similar) and that is when the next dog may clear the first obstacle

- If the judge gives the start signal, a refusal at the starting jump for any team member must be counted as a refusal
- If a dog starts while the dog before is still negotiating the course, it counts as an elimination. The handler must return the dog to its position before the start line and restart only after the judge's starting signal

Team running order is determined by the draw at Friday's meeting.

## Preliminary program of the event

Friday:

- International competition (if organized)
- Veterinary inspection
- Meeting (judges, team leaders, delegates, chief steward)

Saturday:

- Opening ceremony
- Individual Course 1 - Agility
- Individual Course 2 - Jumping

Sunday:

- Team Relay
- Individual Final - Agility
- Closing ceremony

***Approved by: NKU Agility Committee online on.***