

# Nordic Championship for Junior Handling

Written by the NKU/Junior Handling 2007

Revised – NKU/Youth Committee 2024

## Regulations

### Purpose

The Nordic Championship for Junior Handling is organized to increase the Nordic cooperation between youths as well to extend their experiences and knowledge about dogs and dog activities.

### Organizer

The Nordic championship in Junior Handling is arranged by the national kennel organizations in the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Sweden in connection with the yearly Nordic Winner Show. Iceland will host the Nordic Championship every five years, skipping over the host country of the Nordic Winner Show.

The competition is held in one day at the same venue of the Nordic Winner Show (except when Iceland is hosting), preferably either on Saturday or Sunday.

### Invitation and entry

The Organizer will extend a formal invitation to participate to all the other National Organizations, providing information regarding the judge, accommodation as well as which day the competition will be held, at least 3 months before the show day. Host country should preferably also include a list of the 20-30 most registered breeds at the previous years' shows.

The National Kennel Clubs must send in an entry form to the organizing country at least 8 weeks before the show day.

Entry fees for all Nordic Championships shall cover about 50 % of the total cost of the respective Championship – limited to maximum 100 Euro per entry

### Accommodation

The Organizer will select a hotel for the national teams and provide the information about booking conditions to the other National Kennel Organization members.

### Costs

Each National Kennel Organization decides their own policies regarding general expenses and economic support given to its National Team.

### **Judge**

The judge must have good knowledge on how different breeds should be shown. Would be desirable if he/she has previous experiences as a junior handler. It is not a requisite the judge is an authorized show judge. What is important is the judge is committed to Junior Handling and willing to follow the Nordic guidelines for practicing the Discipline.

The judge can't be from any of the Nordic Countries.

If the organizer of the show wishes, the NKU Youth Committee can provide a list of judges recommendations.

All judge expenses are covered by the host country.

### **Ring personnel**

It must be an experienced English-speaking Ring Steward and a Ring Secretary

### **Participants Team**

The National Team of each country will consist of four members and at least one Team Leader(s) whom will be responsible for them during the time they attend the Nordic Championship.

The Team Leader(s) must be at least 21 years old.

Each National Kennel Organization decides how to choose their representatives.

### **Participants**

All participants should wear appropriate and functional clothing.

During the time in the ring, the participants cannot wear anything that advertises any specific brand neither sponsors.

There is zero tolerance for any kind of unkind behaviour or bad mouthing to/from team members, coaches and any other supporters of the juniorhandlers.

### **Age**

The National Team members are eligible to participate at the Nordic Championship from the age of 10 and until they turn 19 years, the day of the competition.

### **Dogs**

Each junior handler will compete with an unfamiliar dog. The organizer places dogs at disposal. The dogs must be adult (at least 1 year of age), show-trained and suitable for juniorhandling and experienced in being shown by other than their owner.

The junior handlers are entitled to request three specific breed, ranged from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. The requests for specific breeds must be done at the moment of sending the official entries.

All participants shall receive their dogs at the same time and at least 60 minutes before the competition starts.

The organizer chooses 3-4 dogs of the same breed as a back-up if something unexpected happens. The dogs should be adults (at least 1 year of age), show-trained and suitable for juniorhandling and experienced in being shown by other than their owner. The back-up breed should preferably be a small or middle-size dog. The breed shall be announced in the invitation information package sent out 2 weeks before the show.

The dogs assigned cannot be entered at the show on the day of the competition. Castrated males or males with a missing a testicle can be used. Dogs with faulty bite or colors are also allowed.

The juniorhandler and team leader(s) must take care of the dogs during the day.

### **Welcome Dinner**

The host country has no obligation to organize and pay for a welcome dinner but is allowed to choose so. The judge must not be present at this event.

In case there won't be a welcome dinner the organizers will schedule a gathering previous to the competition, on which all participants will draw a number (1-20), which will divide them into 4 groups consisting of 5 participants, one from each country.

The organizer is entitled to arrange team-building exercises so the participants can get to know each other better. Each participant shall do a small presentation of themselves for the other participants.

### **Transportation to & from the show**

Each national team is responsible of its own transportation to and from the show.

### **At the show**

The organizer needs to provide ring of a proper size and proportions.

The organizer should provide each team its own set-up area with enough space for crates as well as for the show equipment they require.

The participants must take good care of the dogs, providing them with fresh water and walks between the different sets of competition. The team leader(s) must keep control of this.

The owners must fill out a template consisting of information about the dog.

Any harsh handling, mistreating of the dogs or bad behavior from the participants/team leader/team supporters are not to be tolerated and will be taken very seriously.

Any case will be handled in accordance with the organizing kennel club's show regulations.

### **Junior Handling competition**

The Nordic Championship is based on an individual competition, as well as a team competition.

### **The Competition**

All participants will be judged group by group as it was previously designated; each group consisting of one participant from each country.

When all the groups have been judged, all the junior handlers will come into the ring for a final assessment.

Once the pre-judging is finished, all the junior handlers will be presented in the main ring. The judge will then make a shortlist of 6-10 juniors to do a further judgement before placing them from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

After the overall individual winners are awarded all the teams will be called to the main ring for the final result in the Team Competition. The team competition is based on the collective points of the members of each national team.

If there are 5 teams participating, they will be placed 1st to 3rd. If there are 4 or less teams participating only the winner is placed.

Note! If two teams achieve the same number of points, the team with the most 5's will win. If the number of points is still the same, the team with the most 4's wins, and so on.

When judging, the judge should take the following factors into consideration. The judge will write a critique for all the junior handlers during the competition, giving 1-5 points at each factor.

- General impression
- Standing on the line
- Movement within the group
- Setting up the dog
- Showing the bite / mouth
- Movement to and from the judge
- Triangle
- Ability to use the ring
- Ability to show the specific breed
- Contact/bearing/cooperation/control

- Attitude & behaviour

The individual scores from the team competition are not to be published.

The Team Leader/individual participant will receive the critique via email after the competition.

Schedule for host countries:

2024 Sweden

2025 Denmark

2026 Finland

2027 Norway

2028 Iceland (Sweden is skipped)

2029 Denmark

2030 Finland

2031 Norway

2032 Sweden

2033 Iceland (Denmark is skipped)

2034 Finland

2035 Norway

2036 Sweden

2037 Denmark

2038 Iceland (Finland is skipped)

2039 Norway

2040 Sweden

2041 Denmark

2042 Finland

2043 Iceland (Norway is skipped)

And so on and so forth...