

Rules for the Nordic Sheepdog Championship

RULES FOR THE NORDIC SHEEPDOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Revised 2025

Will be revised yearly before 1. February the following year

COLLABORATION BETWEEN:



Rules for the Nordic Sheepdog Championship

These rules were revised in 2025 by Dansk Hyrdehund Klub (Denmark); Suomen Paimenkoirayhdistys (Finland); Norsk Sau og Geit (Norway); Svenska Vallhundsklubben (Sweden); Føroya Seydahundafelag (Faroe Islands);

Changes in the rules:

2024 – Added Faroe Islands logo on the front page, 5.1, 5.5, 5.6, 8.3, 8.4

ISDS Rules For Trials:

<http://www.isds.org.uk/trials/rules-for-trials/>

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Secretary of the CNSC: Karianne Kjelstrup, Postboks 104, 1431 Ås, Norway.

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Rules for the Nordic Sheepdog Championship

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 Nordic Sheepdog Championship

The Nordic Sheepdog Championship (NSC) is an annual trial, except for years when the World Trial is organised, organised by the CNSC, in which National teams selected by Sheepdog Organisations from the Nordic countries can enter with a limited number of competitors.

1.2 Organising Committee of The Nordic Sheepdog Championship (CNSC)

The organisation of the NSC is cooperation between: Dansk Hyrdehundeklub (Denmark); Suomen Paimenkoirayhdistys (Finland); Norsk Sau og Geit (Norway); Svenska Vallhundsklubben (Sweden).
Føroya Seydahundafelag (Faroe Islands) will be able to attend meetings but not vote.

2. THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE NORDIC SHEEPDOG CHAMPIONSHIP (CNSC)

- 2.1.** Members of the committee are one representative from the national organisations summed up the under 1.2, representing their country and a secretary.
- 2.2.** Members appoint one representative to have a seat in the Committee. Each representative has one vote.
- 2.3.** The representatives choose the chairman among themselves. Candidates are a council member.
- 2.4.** The Committee choose the secretary. The secretary does not have the right to vote.
- 2.5.** The Committee set down and administers the rules for the cooperation and the organisation of the Championship.
- 2.6.** The national societies select and enter a national team of competitors. Selection must be organised in such a way that all handlers living in the corresponding country have a fair and equal chance to qualify for the team.
- 2.7.** New competing countries need to send an application for admission to the secretary. The admission is decided with a majority vote at a committee meeting.
- 2.8.** The participating members must comply with the rules agreed upon by the Committee. Only the Committee can change these rules. Any proposal for a change of rules must be entered in sufficient time for the committee members to be advised before the Committee meeting. In case of difference of opinion, decisions are made by a majority vote.
- 2.9.** The representatives are responsible for the communication of rules and decisions to their National Organisations and their teams.
- 2.10.** An annual meeting is held near the trial venue of that year's organising member. If this is not possible another venue for the meeting can be agreed on

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by a majority of votes. If it is impossible to organise a meeting, then decisions have to be made by correspondence or at a meeting connected to the NSC itself.

- 2.11.** The secretary coordinates the communication on issues coming up which are dealt with by correspondence.
- 2.12.** The secretary sends out invitations and agenda for the meeting in sufficient time prior to the meeting date. Each representative has the right to put an item on the agenda. Such items must be advised to the secretary at least two months ahead of the date of the meeting.
- 2.13.** The agenda for the meeting must contain the following items:
 - Number of competitors per country
 - New members
 - Future organising members
 - Financial report CNSC fund
 - Next year Championship
 - The planning of the annual meeting
 - Judges list
 - The amount of secretary fees.
 - Any other business
- 2.14.** Each National Society pays the travel expenses of their own representative to the Committee meeting.
- 2.15.** The CNSC will not have any responsibility to give financial aid to the staging of a Nordic Trial to any organising member that meets unexpected financial problems. The organising member is responsible for all the financial costs concerning organising.
- 2.16.** The secretary sends an invoice each year to each representative. The amount of secretary fees will be decided by the CNSC. Fees should be paid in the currency of the current country of the secretary.
- 2.17.** The secretary keeps an archive of all the CNSC's documents, the minutes from the annual meetings, and of the annual results of the Championship.

3. TRIAL OFFICIALS

3.1 Trials Committee

- a) A Trials Committee will be appointed by the CNSC to make decisions regarding interpretation and/or administration of any rule in question during the trial, to lay out the course, and generally supervise the Championship. The Trials committee may alter the course before the trial starts, if in their opinion circumstances demand to do so. Such changes will be communicated to all representatives.
- b) If necessary, the Trials Committee can decide that a standard will be set during the qualification trials and a 'call off' system will be used. The Trials Committee will communicate this with the judge(s).

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- c) There shall be at least three persons in the Trials Committee: President / representative of the organising Sheepdog Organisation, President / representative of last year organising Sheepdog Organisation and President / representative of the next year organising Sheepdog Organisation.

4. ORGANISING NATIONAL SHEEPDOG SOCIETIES

- 4.1.** The participating national sheepdog societies perform the organisation of the NSC in turn. The Championship will be organised in August or in September, but not in the two first weekends of September and not closer than 2 weeks before the Continental Sheepdog Championship. Participating members with less than 12 seats should organise the NSC less frequently than members with 12 or more seats.
- 4.2.** The Nordic Championship is never organised the same year as the World Trial.
- 4.3.** The organising national sheepdog society will organise the Nordic Championship according to the standards agreed upon by the CNSC. The aim of the organising member will be to have fresh sheep for every run but if this can't be done the sheep may be used up to 2 times a day.
- 4.4.** The organising national sheepdog society decides upon the number of judges that will judge the Championship. If more than one judge is invited, they may come from the same country, but not from the Nordic countries. The organising member covers the judges' costs.
- 4.5.** The organising national sheepdog society produces the starting list and publishes the teams and reserve dogs in a catalogue.
- 4.6.** A list of perpetual and challenge trophies, and the names and countries of the winners, will be submitted to next year's organising national sheepdog society to facilitate reminding the team captains to observe that the trophies are brought with the team to the coming event.

5. TEAMS AND COMPETITORS

- 5.1.** Each of the NSC national sheepdog society may enter one team according to the quote according to the last year's calculations. It is allowed to bring four reserve dogs with the team in case any of the team dogs are not able to run due to illness, accident, etc. The reserve dogs are submitted at the same time as the team dogs. After the organising national sheepdog society has received the entries, no alterations can be made. The organising national sheepdog society will publish the teams and reserve dogs in a catalogue.
- 5.2. The quote system is calculated from a mathematical system.**
 - a) The maximum entered dogs in the Nordic Sheepdog Championship are 42.
 - b) The ranking of the countries is decided by the team competition. Faroe Islands can compete in the team competition but only Sweden, Norway Finland and Denmark will be ranked for the quote system.
 - c) The country with the highest ranking in the team competition will gain two seats. The second-best country will gain one seat. The country with the lowest ranking in the team competition loses two seats, the second lowest ranked team loses one seat.

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- d) The lowest quote for a country is 8, except for beginning countries, which start at 2 seats. The highest quote for a country is 12.
 - e) If a country does not compete with their quota, the seats that are not filled should count in the team competition when the score is divided.
 - f) All countries have their own reserve list. If a team decides to use a reserve dog, this must be done before the first trial run of the qualifying day of the original dog. No changes can be made after the trial has started that day.
 - g) If a country can't fill the quota, the quota is allocated to other countries by ranking of the previous year's team competition, also see 5.2.e.
- 5.3.** The teams will be entered in the ranking of the competitors in their national qualification.
- 5.4.** It is the responsibility of the organising national sheepdog societies that their competitor's entry forms are sent to the organising national sheepdog society in time before the appointed closing date. The organising member shall produce and hand out a starting list and all necessary information in proper time before the trial.
- 5.5.** The Entrant must have their main residence in the nation of choice at the time of submitting the Entry Form. The Entrant must have been resident in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, or Faroe Islands for at least six months prior to the time of submitting the Entry Form.
- 5.6.** No handler is allowed to run more than two dogs. Incl. reserve-dogs.
- 5.7.** Each competitor must present him/herself to the course director after being called by the announcer. Anyone failing to answer the call shall be disqualified and forfeit his run.
- 5.8.** Competitors are required to note that while the order of the program will be followed strictly the timing cannot be guaranteed.
- 5.9.** Any competitor wishing to have the course explained or have any point clarified must question the Course Director before he starts his run. He cannot have questions answered once his run commences. By commencing his run, he is presumed to know the course and follow it in all its details. Once a competitor starts his/her run he/she is entirely in the hands of the judges.
- 5.10.** Any competitor who receives assistance during his/her run in any form will be disqualified.
- 5.11.** If not previously stopped on the instructions of the judges, a handler will be called off at the expiry of the time limit, but in the latter case his/her points to the stage at which he/she is called off will count.
- 5.12.** On the bell sounding, a handler will cease working his/her dog and will collect his/her sheep and remove them from the course immediately.
- 5.13.** Any competitor who retires or who leaves the field without the judges' permission will forfeit all points.
- 5.14.** Competitors shall always keep their dogs under proper control and any dog or owner interfering with another dog or competitor while working shall be disqualified.
- 5.15.** Competitors and/or others shall not take their dogs on to the course before the competition starts, nor shall any of them run their dogs on the trial sheep before or after the trials.
- 5.16.** Handlers without their dogs may inspect the course before the trial commences.

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- 5.17.** Competitors are expected to show impeccable behaviour on and off the trial field, show highest respect for sheep, dogs, other competitors, officials and the official procedure and refrain from doing anything which might influence the reputation of the NSC in a negative way.
- 5.18.** Violations can be sanctioned by the trial committee or the CNSC.

6. DOGS

- 6.1.** Dogs entered must be registered in either their national register or in the ISDS register.
- 6.2.** No dog that is unfit, blind or lame or is suffering from an infectious disease shall be brought on the ground.
- 6.3.** No dog in competition shall wear or carry anything that might in any way, assist, or modify his performance. Colouring, dyeing or decorating a dog is prohibited.
- 6.4.** The handlers must bring valid Rabies vaccination certificates, valid EU/national pet passport and observe any other health requirements if so needed to enter the organising country.

7. THE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 7.1.** The Championship consists of the qualifying trials on Day 1 and Day 2 and the Finals on Day 3. The sixteen highest pointed dogs in the qualification will enter the Finals. The qualification trials will decide the National Team prize. The winner of the Finals is the Nordic Champion.
- 7.2.** The dogs will commence in one run Day 1 and one run Day 2.
- 7.3.** The sixteen overall highest pointed dogs will be in the Finals. If a dog is withdrawn from the Finals, it will be replaced by the seventeenth overall ranked dog.
- 7.4.** The ISDS "Rules for Trials" forms the base of the NSC trials regarding the lay out of the Course and Scale of Points.
- 7.5.** Regarding the length of the outrun, one should aim for minimal 400 Meters in the Qualifier and up to 800 Meters in the Finals with certain flexibility as to the physical possibilities in the organising country.
- 7.6.** Deviation from lay out of the course, f. ex. introduction of new obstacles or features, must be endorsed by or decided by the CNSC at a meeting prior to the trial or by mutual agreement of the CNSC. Such agreement must be at least 12 months ahead of the trial.
- 7.7. Starting order:**
 - a) In the Qualifier on Day 1 the dogs in each National Team run in the reversed order to their qualification place in their country.
 - b) The host country provides the first runner in the qualifier on the Day 1, and each country with a full team follows in order. The order of the teams is drawn by the organising member. This order to be maintained throughout the qualifier.
 - c) In the qualifier on Day 2 the dogs run according to the highest ranking from Friday. In the reversed order.
 - d) Teams with less than twelve entries should have their team slotted in.
 - e) Starting order in the Finals: The sixteen highest overall ranked dogs will start in the finals in this order; no.16, no.15, no.14, etc.

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7.8. The Qualifier

- a) Subject to the reservation that the Course may be altered by the Trials Committee, the Championship shall, if possible, be decided on the following Course, Scale of Points and Time Limit, viz:

Sheep	5 sheep (3 unmarked and 2 marked with collars).
Gather	400 meters from handler
Fetch	Set of gates = 6, 5 meters apart, 140 meters from handler, in the centre of the course.
Drive	450 meters over triangular course, 2 sets of gates = 6, 5 meters apart. First set of gates approximately 150 meters from handler. In the case of a short course, when fetch is less than 400 meters, the drive will be lengthened when possible so that the total length of the fetch and the drive is 850 meters, or as near to this length as is reasonably practical.
Shedding ring	36 meters in diameter
Pen	3m x 2,5m wide with a gate 2,5m wide, secured by a rope 1, 80 meter long. The gate must open to not less than 170 degrees.

- b) The ISDS Rules for Trials, 5.2. National & International qualifier championships is to be followed when commencing the course.
- c) *General* - No points will be awarded for work done in any phase of the course if the work has not been completed within the prescribed time limit.
- d) *Scale of points* - Outrun (20); Lifting (10); Fetching (20); Driving (30); Shedding (10); Penning (10); Single (10); TOTAL 110.
- e) *Time limit* – The judges set the time limit according to the course.
- f) *Equality* If two or more competitors stand equal in total points, the judge(s) will settle their priority by their points for the outrun, lift and fetch. If the outcome is still equal then all way back through modules i.e. drive, shed, pen until a difference is found. If all equal, then they are equally placed. A competitor who is disqualified shall lose all his points for that run.

7.9. Finals

- a) Subject to the reservation that the Course may be altered by the Trials Committee, the Championship shall, if possible, be decided on the following Course, Scale of Points and Time Limit, viz:

Sheep, 1 st packet	8-10 sheep preferably unseen by dog.
Gathering	From 400 and up to 800 meters from handler
Fetch	Set of gates = 8, 5m wide to a post fixed 20 meters through the gate in the centre of the field.
Sheep, 2 nd packet	8-10 sheep preferably unseen by dog.
Gathering	From 400 and up to 800 meters from handler
Drive	Total of 550 meters on a triangular course with 2 sets of gates = 8, 5 meters apart. First set of gates to be approximately 200 meters from the handler.

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Shedding Ring	36 meters in diameter.
Pen	3m x 2, 5m with a gate 2, 5m wide to which is secured a rope 1, 80meter long. The Gate must open to not less than 170 degrees.

- b) The ISDS Rules for Trials, 5.4. International Supreme Championship is to be followed when commencing the course.
- c) *General* - No points will be awarded for work done in any phase of the course if the work has not been completed within the prescribed time limit.
- d) *Scale of points* - Gathering 100 (each Outrun 20; each Lift 10; each Fetch 20); Driving 40; Shedding 20; Penning 10; TOTAL 170.
- e) *Time limit* – The judges set the time limit according to the course.
- f) *Equality*- If two or more competitors stand equal in total points, the judge(s) will settle their priority by their points for the outrun, lift and fetch. If the outcome is still equal, then the points for the drive will be decisive. A competitor who is disqualified shall lose all his points for that run.

8. TROPHIES

- 8.1.** The Team Trophy is won in the Qualifier by the team with the team's points added together and divided on the number of dogs in the team.
- 8.2.** The Best Team is based on the Qualifier.
- 8.3.** Nordic Championship Shield is produced in 2025, the Trophy is a perpetual trophy.
- 8.4.** Engraving: The Team Trophy, the country who wins the trophy must engrave it before the next Nordic Championship. The Nordic Championship Shield, the country who wins the trophy must engrave it before the next Nordic Championship.

Perpetual trophies:

Best Team - Shield

Winner Nordic Championship - Shield

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9. PROTESTS

- 9.1.** Any competitor may lodge a written protest, against any contravention of the rules. Protests must be lodged with the Trials Committee before or at the close of that's day trialing and shall be considered by the Trials Committee who will take any evidence they deem relevant. Protests will not be accepted following the close of the Finals. The decision of the Trials Committee is final.

10. CANCELLATION OF TRIAL

- 10.1.** The Trials Committee may cancel or suspend the Trial for any reason beyond their control such as emergency or decree of any local or National authority; under such cancellation there will be no refund of fees. Any other reason must have the approval of the CNSC. The CNSC can do the necessary changes in rules by a majority vote if any unforeseen emergency or any weather changes to get the championship completed.