

# Nordic Championship for Working Dogs

## Clarification Addendum

Version 04, 2025-07-01



## About this document

This document shall be used solely at the **Nordic Championships for Working Dogs (NOM)** as an addendum to the FCI Guidelines for International Nordic Style Trial.

This addendum, to FCI Guidelines, clarify the information in the guidelines, and shall be used as a supplement. All clarification are provided under the same heading as in the FCI Guidelines for International Nordic Style Trial.

Nordic Committee, which consist of representatives from each country, are responsible for revising this Clarification Addendum.

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### Nordic Committee



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## **Nordic Championship for Working Dogs**

The Nordic Committee aims to highlight the value of working dogs and good dog management within Nordic cooperation through the arrangement of the Nordic Championship for working dogs.

An overarching goal is to stimulate interest in mentally and physically healthy working dogs, to promote the development of training and dog learning, and to encourage and develop good forms of dog sports and practical use of dogs. It is of utmost importance to create and maintain good relationships between the outside world and the dog handler.

Within the frame of the Nordic Championship, good dog management, the cooperation between the dog and the dog handler, the individual dog's engagement, efficiency, and ability to independently perform its task based on the dog handler's directives will be rewarded.

## **General Regulations**

### **Scope**

The Nordic Championship consists of two kind of competitions – the IGP and the Nordic Style Trials.

Nordic Style Trials compete in four different trials; tracking, messenger dog, search and Nordic protection.

The four countries Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden can participate with up to three participants in each trial.

A Nordic Championship trial will be arranged if participants from at least two countries is registered for the trial.

### **Eligibility to Participate**

Female dogs in heat, are not allowed to participate in tracking, messenger, search or Nordic protection.

It is recommended not to act as a steward, helper, or figurant for a family member or close relative, such as a parent, sibling or spouse.

### **Temperament Test**

The temperament test is compulsory for all participators. The inspection takes place day 0, right before the veterinary check.

The temperament test must be conducted by an official judge at NOM. The organizers are responsible for appointing the judge

The dogs must be presented without a muzzle during both the temperament test and the veterinary test.

### **Judges**

It is not allowed to be judge to a family member/near relative e.g. father/mother/brother/sister/wife/husband.

The two-judge system is performed in all trials at NOM – the IGP and the Nordic Style Trials.

### **IGP Judges**

The four participating countries appoint one judge each for the IGP trials.

Head judge IGP is from the organizing country.

Each of the three IGP parts A, B and C will be judged as follow:

A : Pre + Next

B : Next + 2Y

C : 2Y + Pre

Pre = Previous organizer of IGP NOM

Next = Next country to arrange IGP at NOM

2Y = The country will organize IGP NOM in two years

In the event of a missing judge from a country, or a similar situation, the organizers and the head judge will decide on the course of action. For example, the head judge may judge the parts instead of the missing judge.

### **Point Limits and Placements**

In the Nordic protection trial, the dogs must obtain 250 points and an approved score in the main events (= min 135 points) search (for helpers) and protection work for a qualifying result.

In the tracking, messenger dog and search trials, the dogs must obtain 340 points and an approved score in the main event (=130 points) on both days for a qualifying result.

Failure of one part of a trial does not result in disqualification from the rest of the trial.

### **Starting Order**

At NOM, the following rules for drawing must be followed as described in the following.

### **Execution of Drawing**

Drawing is performed the evening before the trials start. The drawing is performed in the order, that the arranging country is drawing last, and the next arranging country is drawing first.

The order of arranging countries is fixed.

Norway -> Denmark -> Finland -> Sweden

(Example. If Sweden is arranging country for NOM, the drawing order that year will be Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden)

There are drawings for each trial in order - track, search, messenger dog, Nordic protection and IGP. For each country, the team leaders draw the start numbers in each group.

After the drawing, the team leaders inform which group the dog handlers starts in. If a country is not represented with full team in a trial, the team leader decides in which group the dog handlers starts.

**Example:** if the drawing for a trial is Norway 1, Sweden 2, Finland 3 and Denmark 4

Start	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Drawing	No	Swe	Fin	Dk	No	Swe	Fin	Dk	No	Swe	Fin	Dk
	Group 1				Group 2				Group 3			

In the Nordic protection there are one drawing – and the start order is kept in all trails, except track, where the groups separately make new draw before start.

In the IGP the start order is kept, except in track, where the groups separately make new draw before start.

In the track, search and messenger the groups are rotated from day one to day two, as shown:

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Day 1 (Saturday)	1 2 3 4	5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12
	Group 3	Group 1	Group 2
Day 2 (Sunday)	9 10 11 12	1 2 3 4	5 6 7 8

In the main event in track, the order drawn on day 0 is followed in each group for obedience and article search, but for tracking the order is drawn again in each group on both days after track laying has started.

### **Trial Dog**

Day 0, there will be a test dog at the obedience field, to demonstrate how the exercises in obedience for the track, messenger, search and Nordic protection must be performed.

The demonstration will be conducted in the same manner as the competition involving the steward, the dog and the dog handler.

It will be possible to ask the competition leader for clarifications on how to perform the exercises during the demonstration.

### **Implementation of Exercise**

It is recommended that, prior to the presentation of the trial dog, the judges and steward conduct a test run with the test dog to ensure everything is presented correctly.

### **Evaluation of Trials – General Rules for all Exercises**

Dogs barking and whining during and between exercises may result in a deduction of up to 2 score points. Continuous barking during exercises will result in a maximum of 7 score points.

Dogs peeing and similar in exercises may result in a deduction of up to ½ score point, and if repeated a deduction of up to 1 score point. If repeated in obedience, the exercises fails.

### **Dog Handler's Obligations at NOM**

Dog handler must be well aware of FCI Guidelines for International Nordic Style trials and this Clarification addendum.

It is not allowed to receive any help from spectators or others, disqualification will follow.

### **Presentation of the Dog**

- The dog must have same dog handler in the whole competition
- In obedience and in the Nordic protection dog must be without leash.
- All exercises starts with the dog at heal, except in trials where otherwise described.
- During the execution of the obedience trial, the dog handler is not allowed to touch the dog, clap, or encourage the dog in any way. However, it is permitted between exercises.
- The use of an electric collar is prohibited.

- The use of a muzzle is only allowed in exercises where its use is specifically described as permitted.
- In the free exercises, such as search and messenger dog trial and article search, the dogs must wear a cover with signs indicating “dog at work”.
- Food, balls or other tools must not be used in competition arenas during NOM
  - only on the official training day 0.
- Training is only allowed in the competition arenas during day 0.



## **Nordic protection, tracking, messenger dog and search trials – Obedience**

### **Commands**

Commands used in obedience are single command words. The dog handler may use command words in his or hers own language, but these must not be longer or more complicated than the command words in the FCI Guidelines.

Hand commands must not be longer than oral commands. The dog handler is not allowed to use treats, toys, clickers, high-frequency whistles, or similar items during and between obedience exercises. The use of these items may result in disqualification.

All commands from the steward shall be in English. In the exceptional case that a dog handler does not understand English, the organizer may agree with the head judge to use another language

### **Evaluation**

All exercises require engagement, necessary concentration and attention. In addition to engagement and concentration, correct execution is, of course, important and shall be reflected in the assigned score. Only dogs that show engagement, are efficient, and targeted in their work can achieve the highest score.

The evaluation should primarily focus on the main element of the exercise and the dog's understanding of the task. To achieve a passing score, the dog must successfully complete the exercise.

Judge only evaluate what happens during the execution of the exercises. If the dog handlers do not react at the steward's commands, there should be a point deduction up to 2 score points. False start results in 0 score point for the exercise, except in the retrieve of heavy dumbel, where a different evaluation criteria is applied. For consistent errors – e.g. askance at heal, there should be a point deduction up to 2 score points.

The judges are encouraged to provide a brief verbal assessment of the team's performance after the obedience exercises are completed.

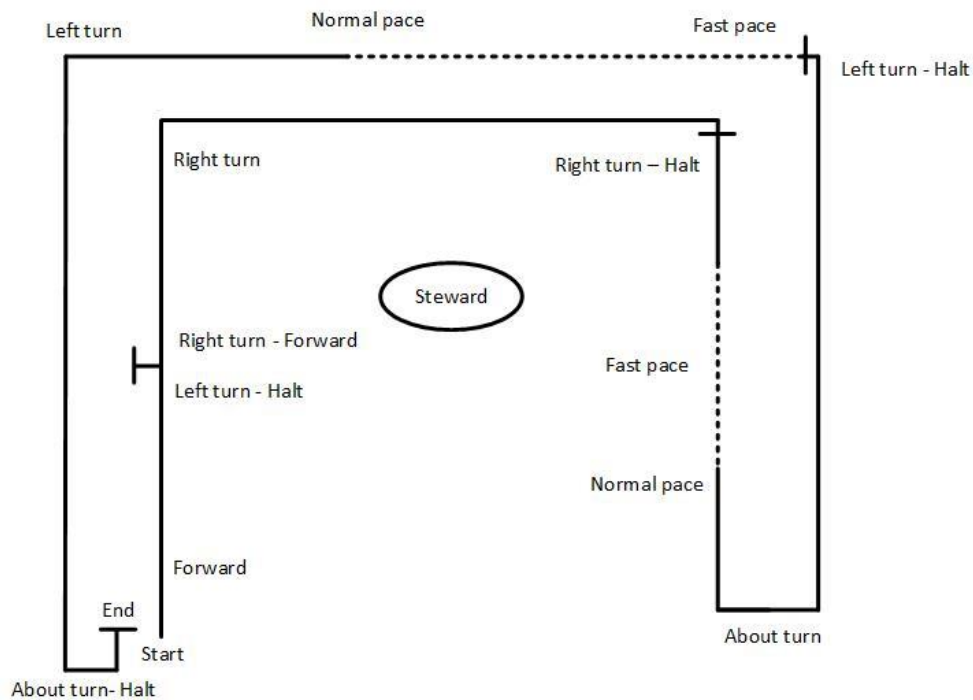
### **Implementation of exercises in obedience**

The steward shall command the dog handler in all obedience exercises. The exercise, and the assessment of the exercise, starts when the dog handler has confirmed upon request that the team is ready. The exercise begins and ends with the dog in basic position (at heal), except where otherwise described.

In all the exercises the steward shall exercise a pause of about 3 seconds between commands, so all teams are commanded alike during competition. (The 3 seconds rule is not used In healing of leash).

### Obedience field

The obedience field are set up as shown with flags or paint on the ground.



## **DOWN STAY IN A GROUP**

### **Command**

After the dog handlers left the dogs, they are not allowed to affect the dogs. When dog handlers return, they are allowed to use “heal” command.

## **RECALL**

### **Implementation of Exercise**

There must be approximately 30 meters for the dog to run to the dog handler in recall.

## **HEELING OFF LEASH**

### **Implementation of Exercise**

Command sequence are:

Forward – left turn, halt – right turn, forward – right turn – right turn – halt – forward – fast pace – normal pace – about turn – left turn, halt – fast pace – normal pace – left turn – about turn, halt

## **STAND IN MOTION (WALK)**

### **Command**

When the dog handler returns to the dog, after command from steward, the use of “Heal” command is allowed.

## **DOWN IN MOTION (WALK)**

### **Command**

When the dog handler returns to the dog, after command from steward, the use of “Heal” command is allowed.

## **RETRIEVE OF HEAVY DUMBBEL**

### **Implementation of Exercise**

The start position is in front of the judges, so they can see things clearly.

## **Tracking, messenger dog, search and Nordic protection trials – Article search**

### **ARTICLE SEARCH**

#### **Command**

“Find, bring” and/or hand signs, “let go” command when the dog delivers the articles.

#### **Evaluation**

The evaluation should focus on the main aspect of the exercise and the dog’s understanding of the task. The dog should show engagement, be efficient and purposeful in its work to achieve the highest score. The dog must search the area according to the dog handler’s direction.

If the dog is pressured or shows a lack of willingness to perform the exercise, this should clearly be reflected in the score.

If the dog retrieves the articles and sits in front of the dog handler, the dog handler is allowed to send the dog again from this position, or from the dog handlers left side.

If the handler moves along the side line, when the dog returns with an article, there should be a point deduction. The dog handler is allowed to mark his or hers position to the dog when the dog returns with an article.

The dog handler may reward the dog orally when the dogs is retrieving an article or when the five minutes are up, but the use of treats, toys, clickers, whistles, or similar items is not allowed during the article search. The use of these may result in disqualification.

When the exercise is completed, the use of toy is permitted if the dog is under control and on a leash away from the immediate vicinity of the area. The use of treats is permitted in the waiting area and beyond.

#### **Implementation of Exercise**

Articles that are not found must be touched by helper before the next dog starts.

The waiting area for the dogs and the dog handlers, must be positioned, so that the they cannot see the exercise area.

## **Tracking trial**

### **STAYING ON TRACK**

#### **Evaluation**

Track articles - bite marks is not disqualifying, but the track article must be in one piece to give full score point.

#### **Implementation of Tracking**

If the same areas are used on both days, the same track layers should not be used in the areas (e.g. if X lays a track in area 1 on Saturday, he/she can lay a track on Sunday in area 2, but not in area 1). The reason for is, that dogs may be trained in ID tracking.

It is advisable to use new track areas on both days, and avoid reusing the same areas on the second day.

#### **Seeking for Track Area**

The centre line must be marked in both ends. If the same areas are used both days, the track must be placed closest to the starting point on day 2.

## **Messenger dog trial**

#### **Evaluation**

If there is a tracking device on the collar of the dog, the dog handler is not allowed to take advantage of it during the trial. (Example: if the dog handler calls on the dog because they can see that the dog has stopped somewhere, then the trial is not approved for the dog).

#### **Implementation of messenger dog trial**

The track must be in woods. It is not allowed to use a road as the track.

It is allowed to use a tracking device on the collar of the dog.

## **Search trial**

### **Command during indication**

If the dog handler has to repeat the command “show” one time, the grade may be reduced up to a half rating.

If the “show” command is repeated more than once, it is considered a false indication. The dog and the dog handler return to the centre line, and continue the search.

Bringsel dogs – the dog must be unleashed before the judge orders the figurant out of the shed.

The dog handler may command the dog to be passive when near the figurant.

### **Evaluation**

It is the judges, not the steward or the helpers, who accompany the dog and the dog handler to the figurant.

If the judge observes that the dog handler receives assistance from the audience, a warning may be issued. If a similar incident occurs, disqualification will follow.

### **Performance of the Dog and the Dog handler’s Control of the Dog**

The dog handler may stop the dog at the centre line before sending again. It is not mandatory that the dog is “flying”.

The dog handler may reward the dog when the dogs is working, but the use of treats, toys, clickers, or similar items is not allowed. The use of these may result in disqualification.

### **Number of Indicated Figurants**

A dog that finds three figurants must score at least 5 score points, provided the work at the figurants is with no errors.

### **Implementation of Trial**

The search area should be demanding, but must still be safe for the dogs, the dog handlers and the judges.

The end line of the centre line, which must not be marked, should be approximately 30 meters beyond the last figurant, allowing enough space to send the dog to each side at least once before crossing the end line of the area.

There should be space for at least five spectators, as well as the steward and the helpers and the judges. The organisers, in consultation with the head judge, determine the maximum number of spectators prior to the competition. It is important that spectators are not causing undue disturbance to the teams.

## Nordic protection trial

### Tracking Exercise for Nordic protection

#### TRACKING

##### Evaluation

One object missing: maximum score of 8 score points. Two objects missing: maximum score of 6 score points.

To be approved, the dog handler should present at least two objects. The one at the end of the track must be presented.

##### Implementation of Exercise

The starting point and direction are indicated to the handler.

### Main Exercises for Nordic protection

“Search for helpers” and “Hold and bark” are performed sequentially as two cohesive exercises, but they will be evaluated individually.

#### SEARCH FOR THE HELPERS

If the dog does not attack the stationary helper, but still makes contact (e.g., light touches, or in more severer cases, the muzzle rubs against the helper in “Search for the helpers” this is incorrect and results in a maximum score of 8 score points in the exercise. Attack on stationary helper results in immediate disqualification.

### General Information about Protection Work

- **Behavior at guard.** The dog should maintain guard, meaning it should keep its attention on the helper. If the dog fails to maintain full attention on the helper while guarding, the score will be reduced. If the dog clearly releases the guard and simultaneously moves more than approximately 5 meters away from the helper, the score will be 0 score point. Whether the dog is quiet or barking during the guard is considered equivalent.
- **Behavior before sending.** A dog that whines loudly, barks, or shows anxiety can receive a maximum score of 9 score points. Dogs that start before the command can be awarded a maximum score of 6 score points, provided they can be called to the dog handler’s side within approximately 10 meters; otherwise, the exercise is failed.
- **Interrupting the exercise.** It is important that the judges agree, before the protection work begins, on how to proceed if an exercise needs to be interrupted. For example, if the “Attack on the helper during transport” should not be performed due to shortcomings in transport.
- **Calling to the handler’s side.** After an attack or after guarding the helper, the handler is permitted to command the dog to the side position.
- **Evaluation Attack.** An attack is defined as the dog biting the helper. In exercises where an attack by the dog is required, the score is primarily based on the force of the attack attempt.

- **Finishing the attack.** The dog is permitted to attack as long as the helper is in motion. Dogs that take too long to cease the attack without a command or after a “release” command will fail the exercise, resulting in a score of zero. Additionally, the handler’s gestures and methods used to stop the dog from attacking also impact the grade.

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Command**

The handler is permitted to use the command (Heel, Transport) only when starting from the basic position and when changing pace in order to follow the steward’s instructions. After at least 15 meters, the handler advances up to approximately 1 meter lopsided right behind the helper.

### **Implementation of Exercise**

The exercise begins on the steward’s order with the helper approximately 3 meters in front of the handler and the dog in the basic position. The steward directs the helper to walk in front of the handler, the dog following the handler on heel free.

At least one left-turn, one right-turn and one about-turn should be demonstrated.

The total length of the transport should be at least 50 meters.

If the handler is incorrectly positioned in relation to the helper, the steward/judges must point this out (once).

## **ATTACK ON THE HANDLER DURING TRANSPORT**

### **Command**

When the helper ceases with his attack after the dog handler's command: “Stand still”, the dog shall release the helper without further commands.

### **Evaluation**

If the dog does not let go, the trial fails.

### **Implementation of Exercise**

On the steward’s instruction, the helper attacks the dog handler, mainly with the arm carrying the protection sleeve. The dog has to ward off the attack by biting the helper in the protection sleeve.

The attack will take place when the dog handler and the dog is approximately 1 meter lopsided right behind the helper.

After the attack, the transport continues.

Before the exercise “Transport” starts, the handler will be informed where the attack will take place.



## **SENDING OF DOG FOR HOLD**

### **Command**

“Defend”, “Heel”. The dog handler is allowed to use the command once to send the dog towards the helper and finally to retrieve the dog from the helper. No other commands are allowed.

### **Evaluation**

For the maximum point it is required that the dog runs to the helper without hesitation and starts to guard the helper with or without barking.

If the handler, from the time the dog starts the hold, until the handler comes up to the dog, affect the dog with any commands, the exercise is failed.

When the dog handler comes up to the dog, the dog handler has the right to command the dog to the basic position.

## **COURAGE TEST**

### **Command**

The command “Defend” is allowed to send the dog to stop the helper.

## **HOLD**

### **Command**

”Watch him”, ”Stand still”, ”Out”, ”Heel”. The dog handler commands the dog to hold the helper.

### **Implementation of Exercise**

When the dog handler comes up to the dog, the handler has the right to command the dog to the side position.

## **ESCAPE WITH FIRING**

### **Command**

Commands ”Defend”, ”Stand still”, ”Out”, ”Heel”, are used to send the dog to stop the helper, to make him stand still and to make the dog release its bite.

### **Implementation of Exercise**

On the dog handlers command “Stand still” the helper stops moving.