

New Zealand Kennel Club (Inc.)

(Affiliated with The Kennel Club, England)
(Associated with the Federation Cynologique Internationale)

HOOPERS



REGULATIONS

(Effective 1st July 2026)



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NEW ZEALAND KENNEL CLUB (INC) HOOPERS REGULATIONS

DEFINITIONS

“**Show**”, “**Event**” and “**Fixture**” includes all Championship Hoopers Events.

“**Competitor**” and “**Handler**” for the purpose of the regulations means the person who takes the dog into the ring or working area for all or part of the run, and for all other purposes should include any person who is physically in control of the dog.

“**Owner**” is the person(s) in whose name the dog is registered with the New Zealand Kennel Club.

“**Class**” is defined as an individual activity within the event, e.g.: Standard Hoopers, Hoopers Distance.

“**Shall**” means there is a statutory requirement.

“**Should**” means a strong recommendation.

“**Must**” indicates a minimum standard.

“**Championship Hoopers Event**” is defined as having at least one Standard Hoopers set, of all required grades.

“**Grade**” is defined as the level at which competitors are eligible to compete, e.g.: Beginners, Advanced and Expert.

A. GOVERNANCE

1. AGILITY COMMITTEE OF THE NEW ZEALAND KENNEL CLUB (NZKC)

1.1 All Hoopers events are governed by the NZKC Agility Committee.

Hoopers is a sport under the governance of Dogs NZ Agility.

1.2 Hoopers Regulations.

Unless otherwise defined by these regulations, the Dogs NZ Agility Regulations and Standing Orders must be adhered to.

2. Membership and Registration.

2.1 Dogs NZ Membership

For dogs to gain Hoopers Titles and Awards, all owners and handlers must be members of Dogs NZ prior to the closing date of any Hooper Championship Event. Qualifications obtained prior to Dogs NZ membership shall not be recognised retrospectively for the issuing of Titles and Awards.

2.1.1 Affiliated, Associated and Recognised Clubs

All affiliated, associated and/or recognised clubs can hold Championship Hoopers Events.

B. GENERAL – FIXTURES

3. HOOPERS FIXTURES - GENERAL CONDITIONS

3.1 Hoopers Fixture Defined

A "Hoopers Fixture" is defined as a Championship Hoopers Events containing 'Standard Hoopers' and 'Hoopers Distance'.

3.2 General Conditions of Entry

3.2.1 New Zealand Kennel Club Membership

With the exception of competitors in the "Foundation" class, competitors at a Championship event must be a financial member of Dogs NZ.

3.2.2 Handlers

With the exception of handlers in the "Foundation" class, handlers of any dog at a Championship event must be financial members of Dogs NZ.

3.2.3 Dress of competitors

Any competitor whose dress is considered by the Event Manager to be inappropriate or unreasonable may be barred from the ring. No competitor will be permitted into the Event Ring with bare feet.

3.2.4 Competitors' Numbers and Measurements

All dogs wishing to compete in Hoopers, must have a Dogs NZ Agility 'Permanent Number', with the exception of entering the "Foundation" class.

No measure is required for the dog to compete in Hoopers.

3.2.4.1 Agility Dogs

Dogs that are already competing in Agility who already have a permanent number will use their existing permanent number for all Hoopers events.

3.2.4.2 Non-Agility Dogs (Hoopers Only)

Dogs that do not compete, or do not intend to compete in Agility, will still require a permanent number to enter Hoopers competitions.

3.2.4.2.1 – To obtain a permanent number for a Hoopers nly dog, a measure of the dog is not required, and the dog will automatically be allocated a permanent number that is for Hoopers Only entries. Hoopers Only numbers will use the Alpha range of HA-HZ, followed by a 3-digit number. E.g.: HA123.

3.2.4.2.2 – Any Hoopers Only dog may later choose to compete in Agility, at which point the process for obtaining an Agility Permanent Number and getting a measurement for the dog will be required, and the current Hoopers Only permanent number will be replaced with an Agility permanent number.

3.2.4.3 Handlers Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the handler to ensure that the scribe has their number recorded correctly prior to commencing their run.

3.2.5 Registration of Dogs

All dogs entering in a Hoopers Championship event must be registered with Dogs NZ on either the "Pedigree Register", or "Sports Dog Register" of the NZKC Register of dogs but not both.

3.2.6 Endorsed Dogs

The endorsement "Not to be Shown" does not prohibit competition in any Hoopers Fixture.

3.2.7 Official Entry

3.2.8.1 Entries for all Hoopers events must be made via the Agility Committee Website.

3.2.8 Qualified Dog Deemed to Have Been Awarded Title

For the purposes of competition only, in any class or fixture restricted by qualification, any dog entitled to apply for the award of any title or certificate will be deemed to have been awarded that title or certificate, whether or not it has been confirmed by Dogs NZ.

3.2.9 The Closing Date for Entries

For any Hoopers Event, whether held in conjunction with any other Championship Event or Ribbon Trial, the closing date shall be no later than 7 days prior to the first day of the event.

3.2.9.1 Entries for "Foundation" class, may be taken on the day at the hosting clubs' discretion.

3.2.10 Conduct of Competitors

Competitors shall at all times act with courtesy, sportsmanship and integrity. By their actions they should set an example to other Dogs NZ members and demonstrate a respect for judges, event officials and fellow competitors.

3.2.11 Refusal of Entry

No formal standard is prescribed by the Agility Committee for entry into a Hoopers fixture. Organising clubs have the right to refuse the entry of any dog into competition where the dog's safety or the safety of others is, in the opinion of the club, in jeopardy.

3.2.12 Refunds

The club shall refund in full any entry withdrawn before the closing date for entries stated in the schedule. Refunds shall be granted after the closing date:

- a) If the dog is no longer eligible for competition due to suffering from, or exposure to, a contagious or infection disease;
- b) If the dog or its handler suffers injury or illness making it unable to attend and compete;
- c) If the dog, being an un-spayed bitch, comes into season.
- d) In other situations, at the Club's discretion.

The club may request medical professional proof and shall be entitled to deduct any NZKC Show levies paid, before any refund is made for withdrawals after the closing date.

3.3 General Conditions of Competition

3.3.1 Harsh Handling

Any allegation of harsh handling shall require that a complaint be laid of a breach of NZKC Rules and shall be dealt with in accordance with those Rules, provided however that this clause shall not necessarily apply to a judge who whilst judging exercises discretionary powers to penalise or disqualify for harsh handling, any dog and handler.

In an extreme case of harsh handling the dog and handler may be disqualified from that class and/or all classes held on that day.

3.3.2 Bitches in season

Bitches in season are forbidden to compete at or attend Hoopers Fixtures and training classes. Any person presenting a bitch in season at any Hoopers Fixture or training classes and the bitch itself, will be liable to suspension for a period of up to 12 months.

3.3.3 Safety of Dog

In all hoopers fixtures at all times the safety and wellbeing of the dog is paramount. No dog shall participate where its safety and/or wellbeing are in jeopardy.

3.3.3.1 Dogs must be physically sound in the opinion of the Judge and Show Manager to be eligible to participate.

3.3.4 Collars

No check chains are to be worn while a dog is training or competing. Flat collars which may have a D ring, but no other attachment may be used while competing.

3.3.5 Walking the Course.

3.3.5.1 Provision must be made for competitors to walk the course before the competition begins when the judge should explain any necessary features of the course.

3.3.5.2 Course walking is not permitted once judging has commenced.

3.3.6 Event Area

The event area must measure not less than 30m x 30m and be fully fenced and include an entrance and exit chute.

3.3.6.1 Best practice for event area setup should follow that of the Event Area guidelines in the Agility Regulations.

3.3.7 Qualifying Certificates

A Dogs NZ Qualifying Certificate shall be awarded to each handler/dog team who successfully completes a Hoopers Course without fault, and within the prescribed course time.

Qualifying Certificates must be signed by the officiating Judge prior to awarding to recipients.

Qualifying Certificates will not be issued in "Foundation" classes.

3.3.8 Hoopers Titles

3.3.8.1 Hoopers Champion (HQCh)

In order to obtain HQCh a dog must have HQXG, HQDG, and a further 20 Qualifying Certificates on Standard Hoopers Advanced courses, and a further 20 Qualifying Certificates on Hoopers Distance Advanced courses.

3.3.9 Hoopers Awards

3.3.9.1 Hoopers Dog (HQ)

In order to obtain HQ a dog must gain five (5) Qualifying Certificates on Standard Hoopers Graduate Courses.

3.3.9.2 Hoopers Dog Excellent (HQX)

In order to obtain HQX, a dog must have HQ, and gain a further ten (10) Qualifying Certificates on Standard Hoopers Graduate courses.

3.3.9.2.1 – Hoopers Dog Excellent Bronze (HQXB)

In order to obtain HQXB, a dog must have HQX, and gain a further ten (10) Qualifying Certificates on Standard Hoopers Advanced courses.

3.3.9.2.2 – Hoopers Dog Excellent Silver (HQXS)

In order to obtain HQXS, a dog must have HQXB, and gain a further ten (10) Qualifying Certificates on Standard Hoopers Advanced courses.

3.3.9.2.3 – Hoopers Dog Excellent Gold (HQXG)

In order to obtain HQXG, a dog must have HQXS, and gain a further ten (10) Qualifying Certificates on Standard Hoopers Advanced courses.

3.3.9.3 Hoopers Distance Dog (HQD)

In order to obtain HQD a dog must gain five (5) Qualifying Certificates on Hoopers Distance Graduate Courses.

3.3.9.4 Distance Dog Excellent (HQDX)

In order to obtain HQDX a dog must have HQD, and a further ten (10) Qualifying Certificates on Hoopers Distance Graduate Courses.

3.3.9.4.1 – Distance Dog Excellent Bronze (HQDB)

In order to obtain HQDB, a dog must have HQDX, and gain a further ten (10) Qualifying Certificates on Hoopers Distance Advanced courses.

3.3.9.4.2 – Distance Dog Excellent Silver (HQDS)

In order to obtain HQDS, a dog must have HQDB, and gain a further ten (10) Qualifying Certificates on Hoopers Distance Advanced courses.

3.3.9.4.3 – Distance Dog Excellent Gold (HQDG)

In order to obtain HQDG, a dog must have HQDS, and gain a further ten (10) Qualifying Certificates on Hoopers Distance Advanced courses.

3.4 Application for Titles / Awards

Application for Hoopers Titles shall be made in writing to Dogs NZ, submitting a scan or photocopy of the required Qualifying Certificates supporting the application, or electronically via the Dog Agility website.

4 GENERAL PROVISIONS

4.1 Application of Regulations

Dogs NZ Agility Regulations apply to the conduct of Hoopers Fixtures only where applicable. In the event of a conflict between Agility Regulations and Hoopers Regulations, Hoopers Regulations take precedence. If a matter is not mentioned in Hoopers Regulations, the Agility Regulations will apply. In all other instances, Dogs NZ Show Regulations and Rules apply.

4.2 Hoopers Fixture Approvals

4.2.1 NZ Agility Committee Approval

The NZ Agility Committee will set a national calendar for all fixtures to be held within NZ. All fixtures require the approval of the NZKC Agility Committee in addition to any NZKC approval required.

4.2.2 A full set of classes is not required to be scheduled and held at any show. The combination of type and level of classes is at the club's discretion.

4.2.3 Official Schedule

4.2.3.1 The official schedule must be published in the NZ Dog World.

4.3 Catalogues

Event catalogues must be produced for Hoopers events and be published on the Dog Agility website no less than 7 days prior to the commencement of the event.

4.4 Event Levies

4.4.1 Hoopers Levies

4.4.1.1 Dogs NZ Agility Committee Hoopers Event Levy

The Dogs NZ Agility Committee Event levy is payable to the Dogs NZ Agility Committee on all qualifying class entries in any Hoopers event. No levies are to be paid for Foundation class entries.

The rate for these levies will be set annually at the Annual Conference of Delegates

4.4.1.2 Dogs NZ Agility Committee Levy

The Dogs NZ Agility Committee may set an additional levy payable on entries to aid in the administering and ongoing development of Hoopers. In the instance, the amounts received for this levy are to remain in a separate bank account and be used for this purpose only.

4.4.2 Levy Administration

For the purposes of administration, all levies detailed above are payable to the Dogs NZ Agility Committee.

The Dogs NZ Agility Committee is responsible for paying the required Dogs NZ levies for entries, as per all Agility Events.

4.5 Hoopers Judging Records

Judging record sheets must be provided for all events. Judging record sheets can be paper or electronic. All judging records must be retained for 12 months after the completion of the event.

4.5.1 Results must not include a time for runs. The course time is for the sole purpose of establishing whether a dog completes the course within the prescribed time.

4.6 Withdrawal and Dismissal from Competition

4.6.1 Exclusion or Removal from Competition

The Show Manager shall have the power to exclude or remove from the show grounds any dog which is not fit for competition, owing to disease, menacing disposition, or any other cause.

4.6.2 Exclusion by Judge

An officiating judge shall have the power to exclude or remove from the ring any dog which is their opinion is deemed not fit for competition due to lameness, obesity, or other physical impairment, has a menacing disposition, or any other cause. Any such exclusion is to be immediately reported to the Show Manager for investigation, and an incident report filed with the Agility Committee

4.6.3 Withdrawal by Competitor

A dog may be withdrawn from a class or part thereof and may be permitted to compete in a subsequent class at the same fixture.

4.6.4 Judge May Stop Judging

A judge may ask a competitor to leave the ring if in the opinion of the judge the competitor is not competing seriously.

4.7 Uploading of Results.

All Clubs are required to upload all results, to the Agility Committee website within 1 week of the completion of the event.

4.8 Prizes

4.8.1 As there are no placings available in Hoopers events, there are to be no prizes awarded.

4.8.2 Judges Choice Award.

Judges Choice awards may be awarded per class. This is at the sole discretion of the club and the officiating judge and may be for any outstanding or memorable run.

4.9 Running Orders.

4.9.1 In the event of one handler running multiple dogs in one class, the handler may move dogs but may not change the order in which they run.

4.9.2 In the event that a dog is run out of order, then any dog(s) of that handler that were scheduled to run prior to the dog that ran out of order shall be scratched from the class, however:

- The dog that was run out of order shall have their run retained for that class, and
- Any dogs of that handler that originally were to run after the dog that was run out of order shall still be able to run provided those dogs stay in their original order.

4.10 Approved Judges

Only Agility and Senior Agility Panel judges are eligible to judge Hoopers events.

4.10.1 Provision for Retired Agility Judges

4.10.1.1 – In the event that a retired agility judge, from either the Agility Judges Panel or Senior Judges Panel, wishes to become a Hoopers Judge, the Agility Committee has the right to grant an exemption for this.

4.10.2.2 – In this instance, the requirements to sit and pass the Hoopers examination as outlined in these regulations must be adhered to.

4.10.2 Hoopers Examinations

4.10.2.1 - For appointment to the Hoopers Panel, Judges must pass the Hoopers Exam with a pass mark of 100%.

4.10.2.2 - The Hoopers exam is an open book examination focussing on the course design aspects and general regulations for Hoopers. It is to be no more than 30 questions, and a duration of 30 minutes.

4.10.2.3 – Hoopers examinations will be written and conducted online by the Agility Committee. Judges wishing to become a hoopers judge must contact the Agility Committee for access to the examination.

4.10.2.4 – Upon completion of the examination with a 100% pass mark, the recommendation will be made to Executive Council, at the next EC meeting, to ratify the promotion to the Hoopers Judges Panel.

4.10.2.5 – Periodically, Hoopers Judges may be required to sit an updated examination to remain on the Hoopers Panel. This is to ensure that judges are keeping up to date with any changes made to regulations, equipment or course design practices.

4.11 Leads, Food and Training Aids

4.11.1 Leads – Leads must be removed from the dog prior to commencing the run. The lead may be carried by the handler during the run but must be secured on person / in a pocket so they cannot fall off or out or placed to the side of the ring so as not to provide a trip hazard.

4.11.2 No Food or Toys – The judge must disqualify the dog from that class if the handler carries into the ring any food, training aid or toy, with the exception of the “Foundation” class as defined below.

4.11.3 Foundation Class Only – A handler may run with one (1) piece of kibble type food (or similar size), in a fully sealed container (similar to Sistema container), that if dropped, it does not contaminate the competition area, may be carried by the handler during the dog’s run.

4.11.3.1 – Food may only be fed to the dog, in the holding area or exit area, upon the conclusion of the run.

4.11.3.2 – A silent toy may be taken onto the course during the run. A toy cannot be thrown ahead of the dog at the end of a run for the dog to target. The handler must always have the toy in their hand until the run is completed and the timer has stopped.

4.11.3.3 – Treat bags are not permitted in the ring. Food that is dropped in the ring will result in disqualification.

4.12 Age of Dogs

4.12.1 Dogs under the age of 12 months are not eligible to compete in Hoopers Events

4.12.1.1 The Agility Committee will permit Clubs to train dogs less than 12 months of age, provided that they follow the appropriate parts of the “Code of Practice for training agility dogs under 18 months” as outlined in the Dogs NZ Agility Regulations.

C. OBSTACLES AND CLASSES

5. APPROVED HOOPERS OBSTACLES

5.1 General Conditions for Obstacles

5.1.1 Conform to Specifications.

Hoopers course obstacles shall conform to the specifications laid down in these Regulations.

5.1.2 Inspection by Judge

Obstacles must be inspected and approved by the officiating judge prior to commencement of judging.

5.1.3 Numbering of Obstacles

All obstacles must be numbered sequentially in the order of which they are to be completed. The placement of numbers should be such that it does not interfere with the path of the dog.

5.2 Approved Obstacles

5.2.1 Hoops

The hoop must be an upside-down U shape, made from PVC pipe and having the base with a T section on at least one (1) side to make the hoop stable.

Baseless hoops may be used if they comply with the minimum size requirements.

The hoop must have a minimum height of 900mm from the ground to the bottom of the aperture of the hoop top. Hoops must be a minimum internal width of 800mm.

The top of the hoop is to be plastic (e.g.: reticulation pipe, hula hoop). When required a hoop may be pegged down only on the T section of the hoop, not in the path of the dog or the handler.

5.2.2 Barrels

Must be an opaque object and can be made of plastic such as feed barrels, or a sturdy fabric such as a collapsible garden barrel.

The diameter of barrels must be between 550mm and 700mm, with a height of between 800mm and 1000mm.

Barrels are to be either weighed down with sandbags, or pegged on the inside in such a way that it does not impede on the dog. No handles/straps are to be present on the outside.

5.2.3 Tunnels

Must have a diameter of at least 800mm and must be between 1m and 3m in length, with a preference of 1m.

Tunnels must not have a bottom and should be constructed of a minimum of two hoops with PVC or canvas (or other non-flappable material) secured to form a tunnel. Items used to secure the tunnel should not obstruct the opening of the tunnel and should not pose a risk to the handler or dog.

5.2.4 Touch-and-Go Mat

Must be 1200mm x 800mm. Standard long jump poles to be used on the corners. A yoga mat or similar type of mat to be used. The mat must be made of non-slip material.

5.2.5 Gate

Gates are to be made of lightweight material but must remain intact in the event of an accidental impact. All components have a circular section, are smooth and have no sharp edges so as not to injure the dog in the event of impact. The filling/screen must be of uniform colour and allow consistent visual contact between the dog and the handler.

Measurements: Width 120cm – 130cm. Height 80-90cm. Base supports 25cm – 40cm.

6. HOOPERS CLASSES

6.1 Foundation Class

6.1.1 Eligibility to Enter Foundation

Any dog aged over 12 months old may enter this class. There are no Qualification Certificates available in this class.

6.1.3 Obstacles and Course Design

This class will be run over the same course as the Beginners Class. It is best practice to run this after the conclusion of the Beginners class to avoid food contamination.

6.2 Beginners Class

6.2.1 Eligibility to Enter Standard Beginners

Open to all dogs that have not yet gained five (5) Qualifying Certificates in Standard Hoopers classes.

6.2.2 Eligibility to Enter Distance Beginners

Open to all dogs that have not yet gained five (5) Qualifying Certificates in Distance Hoopers classes.

6.2.3 Obstacles

Course must contain a minimum of 12 obstacles and a maximum of 15 obstacles.
The course must contain a combination of hoops and barrels. One (1) tunnel may be used as an optional piece of equipment. Gates may be used in Distance Beginners only.
Spacing between obstacles must be between five (5) and eight (8) meters.

6.2.3.1 The angle between two consecutive obstacles (with the exception of the barrel), must be no more than 30 degrees.

6.2.4 Distance Challenge

For Distance Beginners, the handler must remain behind an allocated line. The distance between the line and the furthest obstacle parallel to the line, must be no more than 5m.
The maximum number of obstacles allowed in a distance challenge is four (4).

6.3 Graduate Class

6.3.1 Eligibility to Enter Standard Graduate

Open to all dogs that have gained five (5) Qualifying Certificates in Standard Hoopers Beginners classes but not yet gained HQX.

6.3.2 Eligibility to Enter Distance Graduate

Open to all dogs that have gained five (5) Qualifying Certificates in Hoopers Distance Beginners classes but not yet gained HQDX.

6.3.3 Obstacles

Course must contain a minimum of 15 obstacles and a maximum of 18 obstacles.
The course must contain a combination of hoops, barrels and tunnels. Gates may be used in Distance Graduate only.
Spacing between obstacles must be between five (5) and eight (8) meters

6.3.3.1 The angle between two consecutive obstacles (with the exception of the barrel) must be no more than 90 degrees. When a 90-degree angle is used, the distance between the closest points of the two obstacles must be no less than six (6) meters.

6.3.4 Distance Challenge

For Distance Graduate, the handler must remain behind an allocated line. The distance between the line and the furthest obstacle parallel to the line, must be no more than 10m.

6.4 Advanced Class

6.4.1 Eligibility to Enter Standard Advanced

Open to all dogs that have gained HQX.

6.4.2 Eligibility to Enter Distance Advanced

Open to all dogs that have gained HQDX.

6.4.3 Obstacles

Course must contain a minimum of 18 obstacles and a maximum of 24 obstacles.
The course must contain a combination of hoops, barrels, tunnels and touch-and-go mats. Gates may be used in Distance Advanced only.
Spacing between obstacles must be between six (6) and eight (8) meters.

6.4.3.1 The angle between two consecutive obstacles (with the exception of the barrel) must be no more than 90 degrees. When a 90-degree angle is used, the distance between the closest points of the two obstacles must be no less than six (6) meters.

6.4.4 Distance Challenge

For Distance Advanced, the handler must remain inside a box located anywhere on the course at the judge's choice. The box must be square, and between two (2) and three (3) meters wide.

6.5 Master's Class – to be determined at a later stage.

6.6 Expert Class – to be determined at a later stage.

D. JUDGING

7. JUDGING HOOPERS CLASSES

7.1 Marking of Hoopers Classes

Hoopers courses are judged by assessing whether or not the dog correctly negotiates the course by completing each numbered obstacle in order, from the correct direction and without incurring any errors as outlined in the regulation relating to non-qualification below.

Any deviation from the correct negotiation shall negate the dog from achieving a qualifying certificate.

7.2 Course Time

The maximum allowed time for all courses will be 2 minutes at all grades.

7.2.1 Electronic timing gate systems, and manual stopwatch timing are both acceptable methods of timing runs.

7.3 Start and Finish

Dogs must start from the front side of the first obstacle and cannot be sent around from the wrong side (slingshot start).

7.4 Reasons for Non-Qualification:

7.4.1 Touching the Dog

7.4.1.1 Physical contact between the handler and dog shall incur a fault if, in the opinion of the judge, the instance of making contact was.

(a) a deliberate action by the handler; or

(b) accidental but resulted in the dog receiving an advantage that it would not have otherwise received.

7.4.1.2 Accidental physical contact between the handler and dog shall not be faulted where the judge deems that no advantage was received as a result of the contact.

7.4.2 Handler Interacting with Equipment

A fault shall be incurred if the handler deliberately or accidentally.

(a) Interacts with any obstacle by touching, jumping or straddling or stepping over any part of it.
Or

(b) Places any part of their body within the aperture of a Hoop or Tunnel. Or

(c) Goes under any part of any obstacle at any time; or

(d) Breaks the start beam of an electronic timer (if used).

7.4.3 Taking an obstacle in the incorrect sequence

7.4.4 Taking the correct obstacle from the wrong direction

7.4.5 Having only been able to complete an obstacle due to the physical assistance of the handler. "Physical assistance" shall mean touching or holding the dog so as to guide or control it through or over an obstacle, where the dog would (in the opinion of the judge) have been unable to complete the obstacle otherwise.

7.5 Disqualifications

7.5.1 Elimination by Disqualification

A dog that earns a disqualification is eliminated from competition in that class.

7.5.2 Harsh handling

A. Disqualification by judge in the ring

Examples of harsh handling include but are not limited to.

- lifting the dog's front legs off the ground by the collar or the scruff of the neck
- physical assault to the dog
- shaking, grabbing in anger, jerking, kicking at the dog
- swearing, yelling or verbal abuse directed toward the dog or the judge. The tone is more important than actual words.
- deliberately throw or drop a dog at any time in the ring.
- any other action which in the opinion of the officiating judge is unacceptable in terms of interaction with the dog.

B. Action by Show Manager

The responsibility to investigate and recommend further option for any allegations of harsh handling arising when a dog is not being judged lies with the Show Manager.

7.5.3 Mandatory Disqualification

7.5.3.1 Dogs disqualified under this section may continue to complete the course (unless the Show Manager has indicated that the show is not allowing this).

Mandatory disqualification will occur when a dog:

- runs out of the ring out of control of the handler.
- commences its run from outside the marked ring area.

7.5.3.2 The following mandatory disqualifications will also result in the dog and handler not being permitted to continue and they must leave the ring immediately.

- outside interference during a run includes "double handling" but does not include cheering during a round.
- taking more than the maximum course time.
- fouling (vomiting, urinating or defecating) in the ring.
- if the dog starts the course wearing a check chain or any collar other than that allowed under these regulations.

7.6 Obstacle Performance Standards

Below is a description of how each obstacle should be performed.

7.6.1 Hoop

The dog must pass underneath the hoop in the direction specified by the judge.

Reasons for Non-Qualification

- Running past the hoop without passing underneath.
- Dislodging the hoop in such a way that affects the course.

7.6.2 Barrel

The dog must go around the barrel in the direction specified by the judge.

Reasons for Non-Qualification

- Running past the barrel without going around it
- Going around the barrel in the wrong direction
- Knocking over the barrel.

7.6.3 Tunnel

The dog must go through the tunnel in the direction specified by the judge.

Reasons for Non-Qualification

- Going past the line parallel to the mouth of the tunnel without entering it.
- Entering the tunnel from the wrong end.

7.6.4 Touch-and-Go Mat

The dog must enter the touch-and-go mat between the marker poles, in the direction specified by the judge. At least one paw must make contact with the mat during execution.

Reasons for Non-Qualification

- Entering the touch-and-go mat from the side.
- Going past the line parallel to the start of the obstacle with no attempt to enter the touch-and-go mat box.
- Exiting the touch-and-go mat box on the incorrect side.
- Entering the touch-and-go mat box from the exit side.
- Not touching the mat with at least one paw.

7.6.5 Gate

The dog must run past the gate on the opposite side to the handler.

Reasons for Non-Qualification

- Running on the inside of the gate.

7.7 Course Design Considerations

All courses must be flowing with no tight turns or changes of direction, unless around a barrel. Hoops and tunnels can only be taken from the front, no backsides. No sharp exits out of tunnels.

7.8 Stopping A Round

A judge may stop a dog and handler during their round if some unforeseen circumstance places either at risk, e.g., another dog loose in the work area, a dog or handler apparently injured, or an obstacle blown over.

7.9 Re-runs

7.9.1 Re-runs permitted in some circumstances.

Competitors will be allowed re-runs at the judge's discretion under the following conditions.

- (i) Failure of any obstacle.
- (ii) Outside interference.
- (iv) Any other unforeseen circumstance which in the opinion of the judge has unfairly disadvantaged the chances of the dog continuing unimpeded and/or safely.

7.9.4 Refusing a re-run.

Should a competitor refuse the re-run, the run shall be noted as eliminated.

7.10 Practice

No practice is to be allowed on the course prior to judging. If the host club allows practice in the ring after the completion of the class, no food may be carried into the ring during the practice time or at any other time until the completion of the event.