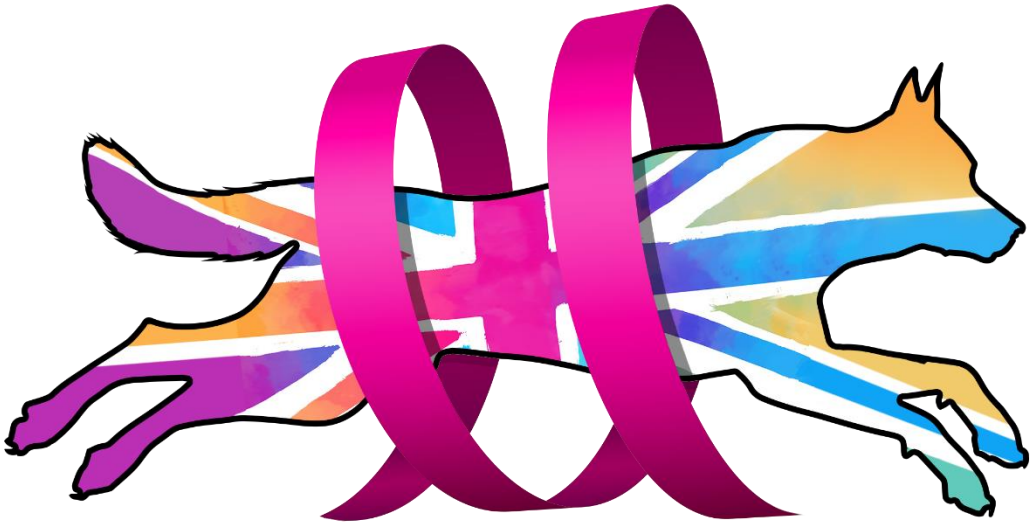


UK HOOPERS

Handbook

Train ★ Compete ★ Succeed ★ Together

29th May 2020
(Supersedes all others)

Contents

Mission Statement 4
Membership 4
Website Terms of use 4
Cookies 4
License 4
Hyperlinking to our Content 5
iFrames 6
Content Liability 6
Your Privacy 6
Removal of links from our website 6
Disclaimer 6
Hoopers Title Awards 6
Online Leagues 7
Competition Rules 7
Registering Dogs 7
Adding Points 7
Competitions & Shows 8
Registering Dogs & Handlers 8
Eligibility & Classification 8
Competition Levels & Grades 8
Progressing through the grades 9
Earning Points 9
Faults 9
Scoring Faults At Obstacles 10
Refusals 10
Barrels 10
Dash Mat 10
Earning Power Points 10
Placings & Awards 11
Class Types 11
Equipment Specification 12
Hoops 12
Barrels 12
Tunnels 12

Dash Mat 12
General Rules 12
Judging Rules 13
Show Logistics 14
Requirements 14
Ring Layout 15
Entries 15
Course Design 15
Obstacle Spacing 16
Course Layout 16
Safe Lines 16
Training & Elective Runs 16
NFC 16
NFA 16
Code of Practice 17
COVID-19 Special Rules 17

Mission Statement

UK Hoopers aim to unite the sport of canine hoopers throughout the United Kingdom. Through a range of leagues, competitions and activities UK Hoopers promote the competitive sport in a sportsmanlike manner, with a fun and ethical nature and an emphasis on teamwork and mutual support of fellow competitors and all who participate within the sport.

Train ★ Compete ★ Succeed ★ Together

Membership

There is no membership fee required. Competitors at UK Hoopers shows will be automatically registered and a competitor number issued for future competitions. Dogs and handlers should retain their competitor number for future use. Competitors entering the online leagues will create a username and password for entry

Website Terms of use

These terms and conditions outline the rules and regulations for the use of UK Hoopers's Website, located at www.ukhoopers.com.

By accessing the website we assume you accept these terms and conditions. Do not continue to use UK Hoopers if you do not agree to take all of the terms and conditions stated on this handbook.

Cookies

We employ the use of cookies. By accessing UK Hoopers, you agreed to use cookies in agreement with the UK Hoopers's Privacy Policy.
Most interactive websites use cookies to let us retrieve the user’s details for each visit. Cookies are used by our website to enable the functionality of certain areas to make it easier for people visiting our website. Some of our affiliate/advertising partners may also use cookies.

License

Unless otherwise stated, UK Hoopers and/or its licensors own the intellectual property rights for all material on UK Hoopers. All intellectual property rights are reserved. You may access this from UK Hoopers for your own personal use subjected to restrictions set in these terms and conditions.
You must not:

- Republish material from UK Hoopers
- Sell, rent or sub-license material from UK Hoopers
- Reproduce, duplicate or copy material from UK Hoopers
- Redistribute content from UK Hoopers

Parts of this website offer an opportunity for users to post and exchange opinions and information in certain areas of the website. UK Hoopers does not filter, edit, publish or review Comments prior to their presence on the website. Comments do not reflect the views and opinions of UK Hoopers, Its agents and/or affiliates. Comments reflect the views and opinions of the person who post their views and opinions. To the extent permitted by applicable laws, UK Hoopers shall not be liable for the Comments or for any liability, damages or expenses caused and/or suffered as a result of any use of and/or posting of and/or appearance of the Comments on this website.
UK Hoopers reserves the right to monitor all content and to remove any content which can be considered inappropriate, offensive or causes breach of these Terms and Conditions.

You warrant and represent that:

- You are entitled to post the content on our website and have all necessary licenses and consents to do so;
- The content does not invade any intellectual property right, including without limitation copyright, patent or trademark of any third party;
- The content does not contain any defamatory, libelous, offensive, indecent or otherwise unlawful material which is an invasion of privacy
- The content will not be used to solicit or promote business or custom or present commercial activities or unlawful activity outside of what is agreed by UK Hoopers.

You hereby grant UK Hoopers a non-exclusive license to use, reproduce, edit and authorize others to use, reproduce and edit any of your Comments in any and all forms, formats or media.

Hyperlinking to our Content

The following organizations may link to our Website without prior written approval:

- Government agencies;
- Search engines;
- News organizations;
- Online directory distributors may link to our Website in the same manner as they hyperlink to the Websites of other listed businesses; and

These organizations may link to our home page, to publications or to other Website information so long as the link: (a) is not in any way deceptive; (b) does not falsely imply sponsorship, endorsement or approval of the linking party and its products and/or services; and (c) fits within the context of the linking party's site.

We may consider and approve other link requests from the following types of organizations:

- commonly-known consumer and/or business information sources;
- community sites;
- associations or other groups representing charities;
- online directory distributors;
- internet portals;
- accounting, law and consulting firms; and
- educational institutions and trade associations.

We will approve link requests from these organizations if we decide that: (a) the link would not make us look unfavourably to ourselves or to our accredited businesses; (b) the organisation does not have any negative records with us; (c) the benefit to us from the visibility of the hyperlink compensates the absence of UK Hoopers; and (d) the link is in the context of general resource information.

These organizations may link to our home page so long as the link: (a) is not in any way deceptive; (b) does not falsely imply sponsorship, endorsement or approval of the linking party and its products or services; and (c) fits within the context of the linking party's site.

If you are one of the organisations listed in paragraph 2 above and are interested in linking to our website, you must inform us by sending an e-mail to UK Hoopers. Please include your name, your organisation name, contact information as well as the URL of your site, a list of any URLs from which you intend to link to our Website, and a list of the URLs on our site to which you would like to link. Please allow up to 14 working days for a response.

No use of UK Hoopers's logo or other artwork will be allowed for linking absent a trademark license agreement.

iFrames

Without prior approval and written permission, you may not create frames around our Webpages that alter in any way the visual presentation or appearance of our Website.

Content Liability

We shall not be hold responsible for any content that appears on your Website. You agree to protect and defend us against all claims that is rising on your Website. No link(s) should appear on any Website that may be interpreted as libelous, obscene or criminal, or which infringes, otherwise violates, or advocates the infringement or other violation of, any third party rights.

Your Privacy

Please read Privacy Policy
Reservation of Rights
We reserve the right to request that you remove all links or any particular link to our Website. You approve to immediately remove all links to our Website upon request. We also reserve the right to amen these terms and conditions and it's linking policy at any time. By continuously linking to our Website, you agree to be bound to and follow these linking terms and conditions.

Removal of links from our website

If you find any link on our Website that is offensive for any reason, you are free to contact and inform us any moment. We will consider requests to remove links but we are not obligated to or so or to respond to you directly.
We do not ensure that the information on this website is correct, we do not warrant its completeness or accuracy; nor do we promise to ensure that the website remains available or that the material on the website is kept up to date.

Disclaimer

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, we exclude all representations, warranties and conditions relating to our website and the use of this website. Nothing in this disclaimer will:

- limit or exclude our or your liability for death or personal injury;
- limit or exclude our or your liability for fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation;
- limit any of our or your liabilities in any way that is not permitted under applicable law; or
- exclude any of our or your liabilities that may not be excluded under applicable law.

The limitations and prohibitions of liability set in this Section and elsewhere in this disclaimer: (a) are subject to the preceding paragraph; and (b) govern all liabilities arising under the disclaimer, including liabilities arising in contract, in tort and for breach of statutory duty. We will not be liable for any loss or damage of any nature.

Hoopers Title Awards

Competing dogs are eligible to receive points for all of their placings and clear rounds.

The Hoopers Title Award celebrates the achievement of a dog who has qualified by earning points at public events under any recognised rule book since 1st April 2019. Points may be gained at any level but can not be gained from any specials class or invitational events, finals or any event or class where entry was not open to all. Details on points allocation can be found at www.ukhoopers.com and also within the UK Hoopers Record of Achievement booklet.

Evidence of points must be submitted at the time of application for award. The points structure for National Online Leagues (annual) and Hoopers Title Awards is the same, league results may be used to verify your points tally.

Online Leagues

Competition Rules

Entrants must register themselves and each dog they wish to enter in to leagues. Leagues will run from 1st April to 31st March each year

A maximum of 5 individual leagues may be entered for each dog. A dog can only be registered to one handler, except for the Junior Handler league. If a dog is handled by both an adult and a junior handler then the 2 handlers must be registered separately and the dog may be registered to both handlers. A junior handler may enter other leagues with their dog, but a dog cannot be entered in general leagues under 2 handlers. Only awards won by the dog whilst being handled by the registered handler are eligible for inclusion.

By entering the UK Hoopers online leagues, you agree to receive communications from us/our sponsors, via email relating to the league, competitions, league finals, products, prizes and awards. Any membership or registration numbers you receive must be retained. Please note that these are relevant to the online leagues only and cannot be used for show entries.

Registering Dogs

You must ensure that all information is entered accurately. For continuity dogs registered as SMALL will have an ulna length of under 15cm. Those registered as LARGE will have an ulna measurement of 15cm or more. Please check your dogs measurement as their competition category may vary from the rule book you typically compete under.

Adding Points

ALL placings are clear rounds where a rosette is awarded are eligible for entry into the UK Hoopers Online Leagues. No 'unplaced' awards are claimable. Eg if you came 7th with a clear round but rosettes placed to 6th then you may claim your CLEAR ROUND and not a 7th place as there was no 7th place awarded. All awarded placings may be entered, even if you were placed but had faults. If a rosette (or prize card) was awarded it is an eligible entry into the league.

It is the handlers responsibility to ensure that all points are added before the closing date and are input correctly. If any handler is found to make false entries then their entries will be rendered invalid, they will not be invited to the league finals and will not receive any further awards for any of their registered dogs. No monies will be returned. If you feel you have made a mistake with your points please get in touch through the appropriate channels. Full payment must be received in order for your dog(s) to feature in the league tables, entry fees are per dog, per league per league year. Please ensure that all online instructions are followed carefully.

Leagues will be available to view throughout the year and the top dogs in each league will be invited to compete in the National League Finals held annually. The league finals will be a celebration of hoopers competitions, enjoyed by a diverse range of competitors and dogs throughout the country and will be by invitation to the email address provided at sign up.

When adding new results, please ensure that the correct organisation is selected. This denotes the rule book which that particular show operated under, either Canine Hoopers UK, Hooperholics, UK Hoopers, for any other please use Unaffiliated. This will ensure that your results can be verified, failure to enter the correct show type may lead to those points being invalid and not counted towards your total score and overall league standing.

Competitions & Shows

Shows may be run under licence from another organisation or under the UK Hoopers rule book contained herewith. Any show run under licence will be subject to the current rule book in force by the licensing body. Shows run under the UK Hoopers rule book will be conducted in accordance with the following regulations, these regulations apply to UK Hoopers shows only, please familiarise yourself with the relevant rulebook for shows which are advertised as being run under licence.

Registering Dogs & Handlers

There is no cost to register either a dog or handler to compete under UK Hoopers rules. Upon entry to your first show, you will be issued with both a dog and handler number. Please make sure you keep these safe as you will need to use them to enter future shows, it is the handlers responsibility to ensure that the correct registration numbers are used otherwise points and awards will be forfeited.

Eligibility & Classification

Dogs must be a minimum of 15 calendar months for both competitive and NFC (Not For Competition) entries. Should a dog reach 15 calendar months at any point during an event, they are eligible to enter all competition days for that single event, including the day(s) immediately preceding their 15 month anniversary.

A special Nursery class may be schedule for dogs 12 – 15 months. There may be a maximum of 2 Nursery classes scheduled per day of competition. Nursery runs are non-competitive but may be awarded a clear round rosette or award. Nursery runs will usually be combined with Grade 1 or Grade 1-2 classes, you should declare that your run is Nursery in the same way that you would for an NFC run.

Dogs must be entered into the correct section, either **Large**, **Small**, **Veteran** or **Veteran Plus**. Small dogs have an ulna measurement of under 15cm whereas Large dogs ulna measures 15cm or more. Veteran Dogs are over the age of 7. From 10 years old dogs should enter Veteran Plus.

Competition Levels & Grades

The competitive level of a partnership at UK Hoopers shows depends entirely on the dog and not the handler. Handlers can elect to promote their dog 1 grade in each year to bring them in line with their level when competing under other organisations. The classifications are as follows

Grade	UK Hoopers Eligibility	CHUK Equivalent*	Hooperholics Equivalent*
1	All dogs new to competition start here	Starters	Starters
2	Dogs who have earned 2000 or more progress points at Grade 1	Beginners	Improvers
3	Dogs who have earned 2500 or more progress points at Grade 2	Novice	Class C
4	Dogs who have earned 3000 or more progress points at Grade 3	Masters	Class B
5	Dogs who have earned 3000 or more progress points at Grade 4	Elite	Class A
6	Dogs who have earned 3000 or more progress points at Grade 5		Class A+

*Suggested/approximate equivalent only

Progressing through the grades

Dogs will progress to the next grade when they reach each milestone. Progression will be automatic if advancing on UK Hoopers progression points, though if you wish to make a voluntary promotion (once per year) then this must be requested in writing. If you grade up voluntarily then your points total will be reset for the grade you have moved into. Example: Your Grade 2 dog has not competed under UK Hoopers recently but has reached the equivalent of Grade 3 under another organisation and is already doing well at this level. You may elect to promote your dog 1 stage to become Grade 3 based on your level elsewhere.

The first time you compete with UK Hoopers you should nominate your grade based on your current level elsewhere if this is higher than the Grade 1 equivalent. Please note, once a dog has progressed to the next grade it is not possible to return to the previous grade.

Earning Points

Points are collected in each standard class type. Specials classes do not accrue progress points but are often scored in the same manner to determine the winner.

Each run begins with 100 points.
Your course time is deducted
Any faults are deducted
Power Points are added
Your Finishing Score is calculated.

Your finishing score is used as both your progress points for that run and also to calculate the results for that class.

A dog is considered to be eliminated if the total finishing score is zero or lower.

Faults

Faults are accrued during a run for the following (for more info see *Scoring Faults* below)

Incident	Faults
Dog misses or turns away from an obstacle but continues path of course (refusal)	5
Dog faults at Dash Mat by any 1 or a combination of criteria (see Dash Mat for more)	5
Handler deliberately makes contact with dog after leaving start line	5
Dog runs past the first or last obstacle meaning there is no time recorded	50
Dog misses a hoop/barrel/tunnel/mat but handler returns to complete missed obstacle	100
Dog completes an obstacle out of sequence	100
Dog urinates, fouls or vomits in the ring at any point	100
Dog wears disallowable item (eg tag, harness, clothing etc)	100
Dog leaves the ring after scribe/judge has called for them to start their round	100
Handler uses food in the ring	100
Handler uses harsh handling/verbals*	100
Handler carries an item in the hand (with the exception of mobility aid)**	100
Running on the wrong ticket/numbers/in the wrong class/grade	100
Starting before signalled to do so by the scribe/judge	100
Dog displaying signs of aggression towards handler, dog(s) or other person*	100

*Will also be reported to show official. **Grade1 handlers are allowed to run with a silent toy.

Scoring Faults At Obstacles

Refusals

If a dog either misses an obstacle in full or in part and continues on the path of the course then 5 faults will be awarded. 5 faults will be accrued for each missed obstacle in the manner.
If a dog turns away from an obstacle to which it was presented then this will be deemed to be a refusal. There is the approximate rule of the halfway point applied. If a dog is more than half way between two obstacles (eg it has completed obstacle no 4 and is more than half way to obstacle no 5) when it spins or turns away from the obstacle then this fault will be recorded. If the dog has not yet passed the half way point between the two obstacles then this fault will not be recorded.

If a handler takes the dog back to repeat a missed obstacle, or the dog repeats it without being asked then 100f are incurred.

Barrels

The dog must traverse the barrel on the line intended by the judge. This is usually indicated by the obstacle number being placed on the dogs running line or out to the side of the running line during course walking. This number will then be placed far outside of the running line (or sometimes atop the barrel) once course walking is completed.
If the dog takes the incorrect side of the barrel this will be marked as a missed obstacle and awarded 5 faults. If the dog turns all the way around the barrel and crosses its own tracks it will be deemed to have taken an obstacle out of sequence (ie doing both sides of the barrel) and will be awarded 100f

Dash Mat

The criteria for the correct negotiation of the mat includes the dog achieving ALL of the following:
Enter the mat between the front marker poles
Touch the mat with at least 1 paw
Continue moving forwards at all times
Leave the mat between the rear marker poles
Any deviation, or combination of deviations from the above will incur 1 instance of 5 faults

Earning Power Points

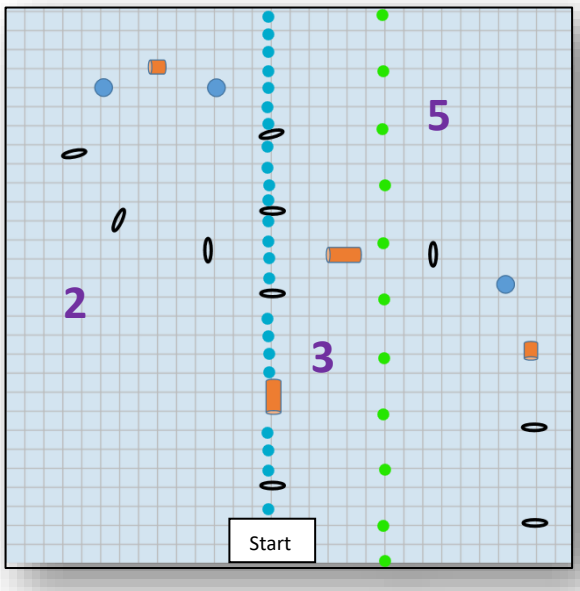
Power Points are added on to your opening score and can make a real difference to both your class placings and your progress points. Power Points are earned by handling the course from within one of the handling zones. Almost all courses will contain power points in some form, handling zones may relate to all or part of the course but this will always be explained for each course.

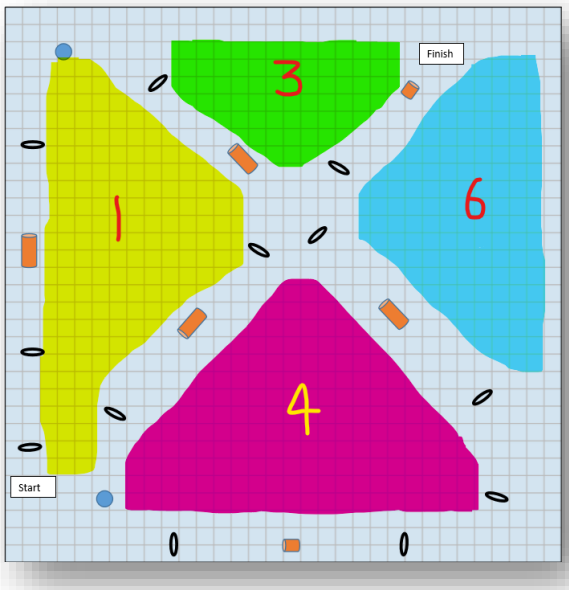
Handling zones can be any shape and size as set by the judge and may be marked using ground level flags at the arena edge, rubber markers or spray paint on the ground or identified on the course plan using the shape of the course itself.
The available Power Points will be posted either in the course, outside the course or in the judges briefing prior to course walk and will be between 1 and 6 Power Points. The handler must remain within the handling zone for the duration of the applicable course as set by the judge, if the handler steps outside of the handling zone at any point then this will forfeit those Power Points.
A handler will have been deemed to have moved out of a zone if one foot is outside of the marked line, or if the course itself is providing the zones, if they move into the line of the obstacles.

The judge will dictate and indicate the number of Power Points available for each handling zone, the amount of points on offer will increase relative to the difficulty of the handling challenge.

Flexi Points: At the judges discretion they may declare that handlers are able to move from one handling zone and into another to earn the lower of the points available. This is by nomination of the judge only and does not apply to every course automatically.

Examples of courses with handling zones for earning Power Points:





Placings & Awards

Each class will be split into Small, Large & Veteran. Veteran and Veteran Plus may be combined if there is fewer than 10 dogs across both sections.

Rosettes will be awarded to a minimum 20% of pre entered numbers

Trophies, medals or prizes will be awarded to a minimum 5% of the class

Clear round rosettes are available for all runs with zero faults.

The show organiser may choose to award a **Golden Hoop** award for a dog and handler partnership who earns the single highest finishing score throughout the day and/or the partnership who earned the highest combined score from all runs.

The class winner in each section is the dog and handler partnership whose closing score is highest. If there is a tie then the next deciding factor will be fewest faults followed by most Power Points earned and finally fastest recorded time.

Class Types

There are 2 **STANDARD** class types. These accrue progress points, are scored as above and consist of the following.

Hoopers: A course of 16 to 26 hoops.

Parcours: A course of 16 to 26 obstacles which may consist of any combination of hoops, tunnels, barrels or dash mat.

In addition there are 4 types of **SPECIAL** classes. These consist of

Pairs: 2 handlers and 2 dogs compete over a course.

Teams: 4 handlers and 4 dogs compete over a course.

Specials: Any other fun or inventive course, special marking/criteria may be included for specials classes, any combination of allowable equipment may be used as well as additional props (eg fancy

dress or tasks for the handler). The only criteria is that all courses must be safe, appropriate and within the UK Hoopers ethos of smooth, free flowing courses.

Nursery: Restricted, non-competitive classes for dogs 12-15 months of age.

Equipment Specification

Hoops

Of plastic construction, either 21.5mm or 3/4" pvc pipe. Material should be of sufficient quality that it is not likely to snap, split or splinter. Hoops should be entirely plastic with tubular components. The overall dimensions when constructed should equal 36" tall and 34" wide with feet to one side totalling 12".
It is permissible to use pegs or small sandbags to secure hoops outdoors, precautions must be taken to ensure that there is no increased risk of entanglement or injury when adding pegs or weighted bags. The method of securing the hoop should not diminish the overall dimension of the hoop. Weighted hoop bases are also permissible.

Barrels

Of Plastic, vinyl or fabric construction measuring 23" to 25" diameter and 28" to 34" tall. Collapsible and rigid type barrels are permissible providing they have a solid/covered top, are able to be secured by concealed weights or pegs when used outside and have no additional handles/straps etc. visible from the outside.

Tunnels

Measure 80cm diameter and 1m or 2m length. Sandbags or pegged straps must secure the tunnel on any surface. Sandbags may contain loose sand or gravel or a water bladder. Solid objects must not be used to weight sandbags. Sandbags are recommended 2 pairs on a 1m tunnel and 2 or 3 pairs on a 2m tunnel as required. Sandbags should not protrude over the opening of the runnel and should not pose an entanglement risk.

Dash Mat

A single mat made of rubber providing a non slip surface which measures 900mm x 1800mm and 5-15mm thick. Marker poles should be placed at each corner or a maximum of 15cm behind the corner. The mat should be suitably secured so as it does not move under normal use. Marker poles must be 100cm to 180cm tall and 3 to 8cm diameter. Poles should be adequately secured in place.

General Rules

Competitors must behave in a friendly and sportsmanlike manner at all times.

Competitors should thank the judge at the end of each run.

Handlers should wait for the judge or scribe to give them permission to commence their run. If you start before you are instructed to you will receive an elimination.

No person shall impugn the decision of a judge either directly, indirectly or on social media. Any concerns must be reported to show officials immediately.

Competitors must be present at prizegiving in order to receive their award(s).

Dog and handlers should be adequately fit, healthy and suitably trained for the sport.

Dogs that are suffering from a contagious or infectious disease or have been in contact with any dog suffering from a contagious or infectious disease within 21 days prior to a show must not be brought to the show venue

Handlers that are suffering from a contagious or infectious disease or have been in contact with any person suffering from a contagious or infectious disease within 21 days prior to a show must not enter the show venue. This includes illnesses which have been diagnosed by a medical professional, by a test or someone who is displaying symptoms of any infectious illness without a positive diagnosis.

Dogs must be at all times under proper control, in all areas of the show venue and public spaces nearby.

Dogs are permitted to wear a single flat fitting collar. Collars may be removed if the handler wishes. Dogs may not compete wearing more than one or loose collars, dangling tags, bells or any other fixture, harness, slip leads, half check or martingale collars. Choke or full check chains are not permitted within the entire show premises including parking, camping and exercise areas.

Dogs must not wear any form of clothing whilst under test. Suitable protective boots/bandages are acceptable.

Competitors are responsible for making sure they are available for their class before closing. Classes will not be held.

Handlers are able to compete using a mobility aid, or to place a suitable chair/stool within the course before their run commences. It is acceptable for another person to assist with this, provided they are not deemed to assist in the run in any way.

Handlers are required to pick up after their dog and remove fouling immediately into a designated bin or removal from site as per the show brief.

Rings will be fully fenced. Competitors must not allow their dogs to approach the ring fence for any reason whilst queuing, spectating or moving around the show. Dogs must not remain in an aroused state or repeatedly bark at the ringside.

The yellow dog scheme will be observed at all shows. If you have a nervous/reactive dog please identify them with a yellow jacket, bandana or lead. Visit www.yellowdog.co.uk for more information. Handlers without yellow dogs are encouraged to familiarise yourselves with the Yellow Dog Scheme and to offer any dog identified as such, extra space and patience around the show.

No wheeled apparatus are allowed around the competition area, this includes bikes, skateboards, heelies, blades and roller boots etc.

Handlers must not come into deliberate contact with equipment during their run.

Dogs should be in the ring solely to complete their run and must not enter the ring at any other time.

No person shall carry out any physical or verbal correction of any dog in a harsh or abusive manner. Anyone witnessed doing such must be reported to show management in the first instance.

The mating of bitches inside the show boundary is strictly forbidden

Judging Rules

Judges must judge in accordance with these rules and regulations at all times.

Judges should provide a copy of their course plans within 7 days if requested by the show organiser

Judges may elect to run a white dog after setting their course and either before or after the course walking but prior to the competition commencing. A judge may choose to alter the course after running the white dog but must offer a course walk over the amended course if significant changes

are made. If a minor change is made it is acceptable to hold a ringside briefing with an optional course walk which may be limited to 2 minutes if a full course walk has already taken place and only a minor change has occurred (i.e. no change to course pattern etc) .

If a judge does not use a white dog, they may run their own dog as a complimentary NFA run at the end of the class.

Officials may not eat whilst in the ring. Any snacks or drinks in the ring must be in a suitable container and location so as not to cause distraction.

The judge is solely responsible for the design of their course and at all times must ensure that it is safe and suitable for the competition.

Judges must observe the dog and handler at all times whilst they are in the ring.

Handlers must not pass through or over any piece of equipment and must not interfere with the course layout at any time.

Judges may offer a re-run if they deem circumstances outside of the handlers control affected their result. The judge is not obliged to offer a re-run if an incident occurs after you had already been eliminated for an unconnected instance. Re-runs are total and include all details including faults, Power Points and time. Only in the instance of an equipment malfunction shall a competitor be invited to run again for time only. In this instance they must handle in a similar manner to their original run.

2 consecutive grades may be combined in a class, in this instance the awards will be split for each grade. It is possible that the handling zones will remain in the same position but that the Power Points allocation would be different for each grade. EG there might be 3 zones worth 2, 4 and 5 points for the Grade 2 course but the same zones might be worth 1,2 and 3 points respectively for the Grade 3 course.

UK Hoopers will announce when new grades are opened up in competition.

Grade 1 handlers may run with a silent toy in their hand. This must not be given to the dog/thrown until the dog has completed the final obstacle in full.

Handlers are expected to praise their dogs after each run, even if it didn’t go to plan.

When booking judges, show organisers should consider offering full day or half day judging duties. It is good etiquette (though not compulsory) for judges to be offered complimentary entries to other classes/shows and a small token of appreciation for dedicating their time as well as refreshments during their judging day. A show organiser may volunteer to cover expenses such as travel for judges but no wage is usually offered.

Show Logistics

Requirements

Shows must be run using equipment which is safe, suitable and meets the published specifications within this rule book.

In addition to this the following must be in place at each show

- Electronic timing (recommended recording to 3 decimal places)
- Fenced rings
- Adequate toilets & facilities
- Private car parking
- Suitable ring surface

- Back up timing (stopwatches – not mobile phones)
- Show documentation
- First aid kit and nominated first aider
- Rosettes and Trophies
- Provisions for helpers and judges

Each show must have adequate insurance and public liability cover as well as contact details for local vets and hospitals.

In the event of cancellation of the show through circumstances beyond the organisers control, the organiser may defray such expenses from the entry fees to cover unrecoverable costs. These accounts must then be made available to the public and all other monies returned to the entrants.

Ring Layout

Rings are to be a minimum of 20x20m and will be fully fenced. Larger arenas are welcomed and outdoor arenas should be approx. 30x30m as standard where possible.
Competition arenas will have a separate in and out where possible to allow for the easy movement of dogs. All dogs must be under control at all times when leaving the ring and the next dog should not be released until the previous dog has been brought under control.

Queues are to be kept back at least 2m from the ring fence and handlers are not to allow their dogs to bark or lunge while queuing or at any point around the rings.

The running surface must be suitable for the sport, ideal surfaces include grass, AstroTurf, specialist rubber sports surfaces, fibresand, carpet gallop, other equestrian surfaces and well compacted sand. The arena must be clear of any potential hazards including holes, tree roots, stones and rocks, trip hazards and anything which may harm the dog or handler should they come into contact with any item inside the arena.

Entries

In the event that entries cannot be made online, alternative arrangements (eg postal entry) will be available but must be requested from the show organiser using the contact details on the schedule. Entries are non refundable, however should the event be cancelled by the organiser or due to circumstances outside of their control, a refund will be offered in good faith, less any unrecoverable costs. Refunds must be applied for and will be processed within 90 days of the first day of the advertised show.

Course Design

Courses should be smooth, free flowing courses designed to test the skill and unity of the dog and handler partnership. Any course should be suitable for any type of dog without modification. There is no change to the course between sizes, all dogs run the same course for the duration of the class.

In Grade 1 courses you would expect to see 1 or 2 changes of direction and little ‘proofing’ by way of traps. There may be questions presented to the partnership with a choice of logical routes but in most cases the obvious answer will be the correct one. All elements of the course will increase in difficulty through the grades.

Obstacle Spacing

All obstacles should be placed in such a way as to create a smooth and even course. The spacing of obstacles should be relevant to the line being created and should always allow the dog easy and safe passage around the course. There will be no spacing less than 4 meters between consecutive obstacles. This table provides a handy reference guide to approximate spacing. Please note that this is provided as a guideline only. It is not necessary for all obstacles to be spaced at exactly the same distance for the entire course, there may be any combination of spacing used within a course.

Grade	Approximate Spacing (m)
1	4-5
2	4-6
3	5-7
4	6-7
5	6-8
6	7-8

Course Layout

Obstacles will be numbered, it is good practice to place the number directly adjacent to the obstacle. In the case of a barrel, the number may be placed on the dogs running line to indicate the correct path. This number will then be moved before judging commences and placed in a suitable position. It may be removed entirely if it cannot be placed far out to the side or on top of the barrel. The dog must negotiate the course in numbered order. The start and finish should also be clearly marked.

Safe Lines

All courses should epitomise the smooth, free flowing nature of the sport. There will not be more than 2 consecutive changes of direction at obstacles. For example it is not permissible to create a line which requires the dog to weave between obstacles or to create a slalom or serpentine type line. A course may contain multiple changes of direction however, but these must not be created on consecutive obstacles.
The dog should have a straight line of approach to a tunnel. The exit from a tunnel may be relaxed from straight or a gentle curve but must not be a pronounced turn on exit.

The Dash Mat may be approached and/or exited by a gentle curve. The dog must be able to approach or leave the mat without needing to alter their course to accommodate the marker poles. No obstacle should ever be approached from the ‘back side’ or from the opposite approach to that which the dog was naturally on. IE there are no ‘round the backs’. In the interest of maintaining smooth, free flowing courses, there are no ‘wing wraps’ permissible.

Training & Elective Runs

NFC

Not For Competition (NFC) runs are available, toys may be used and you will have 60 seconds course time. Please ensure your ticket states NFC and you also declare this when entering the ring. There will be no judging conducted f this run. NFC runs are usually used by people wishing to train in a ring environment.

NFA

Not For Award (NFA) runs are available, these are subject to the standard rule book and are judged in full. NFA runs do not qualify for class awards or Progress Points but handlers may receive a clear round rosette if applicable. NFA runs are usually used by people who do not wish to compete against the class but who want the usual competition experience or do not wish to train in the ring. NFA runs are commonly offered to judges to allow their dogs a run in their own classes.

Code of Practice

All representatives, competitors, visitors, judges, trainers, handlers and any other person in any way connect to, advertising with, visiting, sponsoring, promoting or mentioning must at all times adhere to the following basic principles.

Show courtesy and respect to all others

Promote force free dog training and handling methods

Encourage the safe enjoyment of the sport of canine hoopers

To act with honesty and integrity and in the best interest of all parties

To not bring the name of the sport of canine hoopers, or UK Hoopers into disrepute or diminished opinion.

To engage only in a professional and sportsmanlike manner

To encourage and support all competitors

To proactively offer to assist with the running of the show for which you are entered even if for a short time.

To raise any concerns immediately with the show officials.

To enjoy the activity in good faith and with your dogs best interests a priority.

COVID-19 Special Rules

It may be required that an additional rule list is implemented for competition whilst under Government orders. This will be in addition to this rulebook and in the case of any conflicting rules, the Covid-19 Special Rules will take precedence. Any special rules will be issued with show information.

These rules are subject to review and amendment at any time.

Train ★ Compete ★ Succeed ★ Together

www.ukhoopers.com