

UK HOOPERS

Handbook

Train ★ Compete ★ Succeed ★ Together

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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. We aim to provide fun, safe and fulfilling activities for a wide range of dogs and handlers.

Train ★ Compete ★ Succeed ★ Together

Membership

There is no membership fee required. Competitors at UK Hoopers shows are required to register via <https://hoopers.online> and basic contact information will be retained for the purpose of administrating entries.

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 available for inspection (if requested) 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 June to 31st May 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 or Senior Handler leagues. If a dog is handled by 2 people then the 2 handlers must be registered separately and the dog may be registered to both handlers. A total of 5 leagues may be entered between the 2 handlers. Only awards won by the dog whilst being handled by the registered handler are eligible for inclusion in that handlers account.

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 and clear rounds where a physical award (such as a rosette or prize card) 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 and all eligibility criteria is met.

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 organised by UK Hoopers directly, or run under license by another organiser. Shows run under the UK Hoopers rule book will be conducted in accordance with the following regulations, these regulations apply to all UK Hoopers shows only. Competitions held in conjunction with other events may require amended rules, for competitions held by invitation of another discipline the hosts (site) rulebook may take precedent in the instance of a conflicting rule.

Registering Dogs & Handlers

There is no cost to register either a dog or handler to compete under UK Hoopers rules. Registration should be made at www.hoopers.online for both handler and dogs. It is the handlers responsibility to ensure that the correct registration details are provided, 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 into progression classes. 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.

Dogs must be a minimum of 12 calendar months to run in Nursery & Legends classes (more information can be found within ***Class Types*** below)

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 may 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 calendar 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 1200 or more progress points at Grade 1	Novice (Prev Beginners)	Improvers
3	Dogs who have earned 1800 or more progress points at Grade 2	Intermediate (Prev Novice)	Class C
4	Dogs who have earned 2500 or more progress points at Grade 3	Advanced (Prev Masters)	Class B
5	Dogs who have earned 3000 or more progress points at Grade 4	Masters (Prev 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 up a grade 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, or has competed at an elected grade, it is not possible to return to the previous grade or to change the elected grade to a lower one.

Earning Progression Points

Progression points are collected in each standard class type. Specials classes do not accrue progression points although they are often scored in the same manner to determine the winner.

Your closing score from each standard class run is added to your dogs progression total. IE for every run in a standard progression class (not Special class) which is not an elimination, progression points are earned.

You do not need to win a class, or place in a class for progression points, every non elimination run in standard progression classes contributes to your progression total.

Progression to the next grade is as per the table above, Progression is automatically registered by UK Hoopers and you can see your dogs current points from your profile at <https://hoopers.online>

Scoring

Each competitive run will be scored by the class judge. The aim is to earn the highest closing score possible and a triple element scoring system is used to provide a multi dimension competition that rewards accuracy, handling and course efficiency.

The closing score for each run is calculated as follows:

- Run begins with 100 points.
- Your course time is deducted
- Your faults are deducted
- Your Run Bonus is added
- Your Super Bonus is added
- Your Closing Score is calculated.

Your closing score is then used for 2 things:

1. Your closing score is added to your dogs overall progression total and they will progress to the next grade when that score reaches the required amount as defined in **Competition Levels and Grades**
2. Closing Scores are also used to determine class rankings, the highest closing score wins with placings awarded in a descending order.

A run is scored as an elimination if the total closing score is zero or lower.

Course Time

This is the recorded time provided by electronic scoring for the completion of the course. Timing gates must be within 50cm of the start and finish obstacles. They will remain in position for the entire class and should be placed in front of the first obstacle and behind the last obstacle where possible.

Faults

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

Incident	Faults
Dog turns away from an obstacle after presenting to it (being more than halfway between the last obstacle and the next one)	5
Dog misses an obstacle whilst maintaining the intended path of the course (for the avoidance of doubt the dog must stray no further than 1m from the intended obstacle).	5
Dog faults at Dash Mat by any 1 or a combination of criteria (see Dash Mat for more)	5
Handler makes contact with dog after leaving start line	5
Dog runs past the first or last obstacle meaning there is no time recorded	5 + 45s course time
Dog misses an obstacle having deviated more than 1m away from the intended obstacle	100
Dog misses the barrel or runs on the incorrect side of the barrel in such a way to deviate from the intended path of the course	100
Dog misses an obstacle and 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 time (including before, during or after completing the course)	100
Dog wears disallowable item (eg tag, tracker, harness, clothing etc)	100

Dog leaves the ring after scribe/judge has indicated for them to start their round	100
Handler uses or handles food in the ring	100
Handler uses harsh handling /verbals or displays unsportsmanlike behaviour *	100
Handler is seen to intentionally miss 1 or more obstacles to manipulate their score	
Handler carries an item in the hand (with the exception of mobility aid)**	100
Handler carries or wears any prohibited item in the ring	100
Dog urinates on fencing/equipment on or before entering the ring	100
Running on the wrong ticket/numbers/in the wrong class/grade or providing incorrect dog details to the scoring scribe	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
Handler rewards the dog by throwing a toy or other item into the ring	100

*Will also be reported to show official.

**Grade1 handlers are allowed to run with a silent toy.

Scoring Faults At Obstacles

Missed Obstacles

5 Faults will be scored if a dog:

- Misses an obstacle in full or in part and continues on the path of the course

For the avoidance of doubt the “intended path of the course” is no more than 1m from the intended obstacles and when between obstacles it is the line which a dog would reasonably take to get from one obstacle to the next.

An elimination will be scored if a dog:

- Misses an obstacle whilst it is off course (**ie not within the intended path of the course**)
- Misses an obstacle in such a way that it alters the intended path or challenge of a course
This includes incorrectly negotiating a barrel in such a way that it alters the intended path or challenge of a course.
- Turns back to complete a missed obstacle (including start and finish obstacles)

Refusals

If a dog turns away from an obstacle to which it was presented then this will be deemed to be a refusal and 5 faults will be scored.

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 as a fault at obstacle number 5. However, if the dog has not yet passed the half way point between the two obstacles then this fault will not be recorded as it has already completed obstacle number 4 and has not yet presented to number 5.

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) or removed completely once course walking is completed.

In order to complete the obstacle successfully the dog must pass by the barrel in the manner as intended by the judge.

If the dog misses the obstacle then the judge will score in accordance with “Missed Obstacles” above.

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 scored as an elimination.

If a dog spins or turns away from the barrel, this will be marked in accordance with “Refusals” above.

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 Bonus Points

There are 2 types of bonus points available, these are **Run Bonus** and **Super Bonus**

Run Bonus

A Run Bonus is automatically applied to any run in which no faults are scored, IE clear rounds. Run Bonus is awarded at a set amount of 5 points

Super Bonus

Super Bonus Points are added on to your score and can make a real difference to both your class placings and your progress points. Super Bonus Points are earned by handling the course from within one of the handling zones. A high percentage of courses will contain a Super Bonus 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 as is most commonly seen, identified on the course plan using the shape of the course itself.

The available Super Bonus will be posted either in the course, outside the course or in the judges briefing prior to course walk and will be between 0.5 and 5 points in half point increments. 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 that Super Bonus, but beyond this, no additional penalty is incurred.

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 decide and indicate the value of the Super Bonus available for each handling zone, the amount of points on offer will increase relative to the difficulty of the handling challenge.

Jackpot Points

Jackpot points are a form of Super Bonus and are applicable to Grade 3 and above and are NOT applicable to Grade 1 or 2 courses.

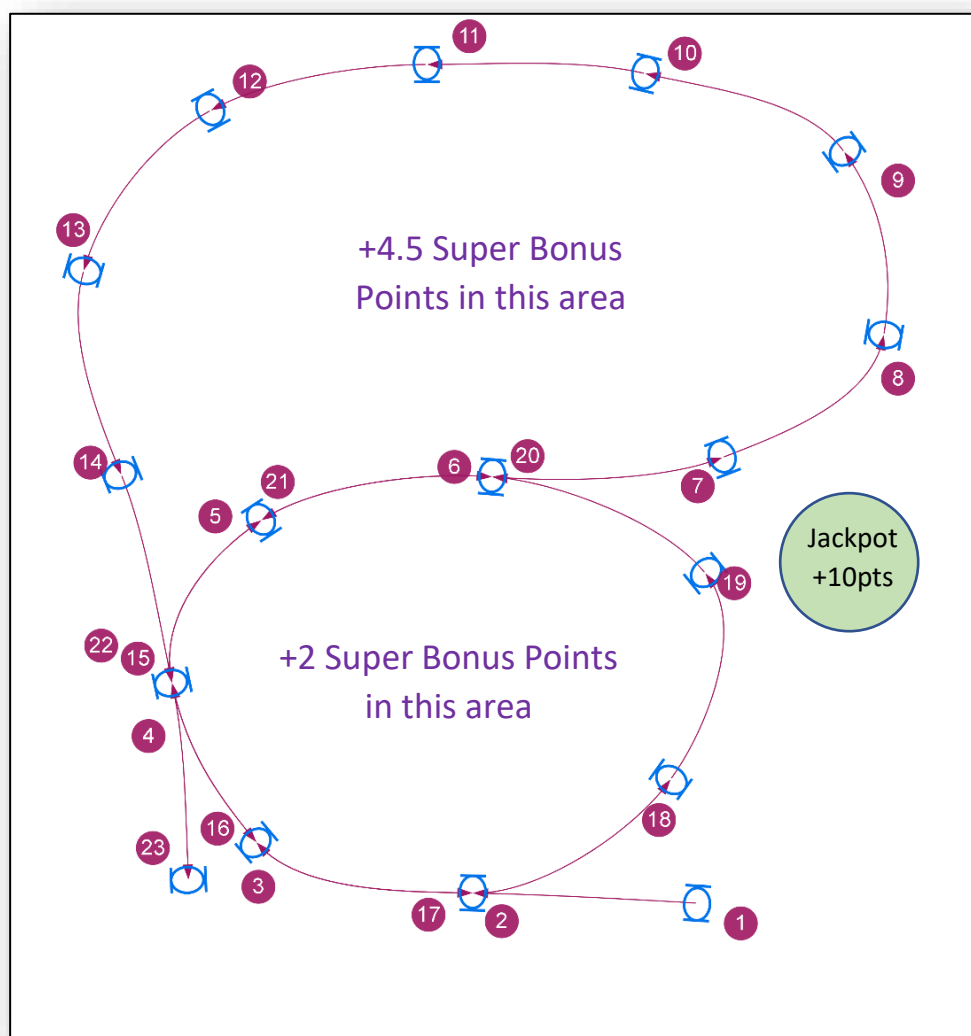
The judge may set a Jackpot in any course scheduled for Grade 3 or above. The area will be marked using the jackpot circle and will be approx. 1.8m diameter. The entire course must be handled from inside the jackpot circle for the points to be awarded.

Jackpot points are set at 10 points and the handling area will always be placed in such a way as to provide a discernible increase in challenge from standard Super Bonus points.

More on Super Bonus

- A Super Bonus may be set in any combination as allowed. Eg an applicable course may contain both standard Super Bonus **and** Jackpot points allowing a handler to choose which level of bonus to attempt. There may also be multiple handling zones in one course with bonus points available for each zone.
- It is commonplace for the judge to mark both faults and Bonus Points. It is however permissible for them to nominate a points judge on occasion. Points judges are responsible for scoring points **ONLY** and do not score faults or eliminations.
- 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.
- Super Bonus points are awarded even if faults are incurred but cannot be applied to eliminations
- Super Bonus (including Jackpot Points) and Run Bonus can both be awarded if applicable

Example course with handling zones for earning Super Bonus Points, this particular challenge applies points to the entire course:



Placings & Awards

Typically, each class will be split into Small, Large & Veteran. Veteran and Veteran Plus may have separate awards or be combined, depending on entry numbers or at the organisers discretion.

Graded classes have a separate set of awards for each section in each grade.

Combined classes will combine the grades together but have separate awards for each section.

Open classes have one set of awards (to 20% of the total entry).

Rosettes will be awarded to a minimum of 3rd place or 20% of pre entered numbers whichever is higher.

Trophies, medals or prizes will be awarded at the organisers discretion.

Clear round rosettes are available for all runs with zero faults which did not earn a placing.

Nursery and Legends clear rounds are available for all clear rounds in under 100 seconds in Nursery and Legends classes.

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. Dependant on entry numbers there may be an additional Golden Hoop Award provided for each grade set (eg, Grade 1&2 and Grade 3&4).

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 Bonus 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 & Legends: Restricted, non-competitive classes for dogs over 12 months of age. Dogs who are entered in Nursery and Legends may only enter N&L and Specials classes for the duration of that event. Nursery & Legends courses are short format, from 14 to 20 obstacles at 5m – 7m spacing and will range in complexity from pre competition to Grade 1 style courses.

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 or both sides not exceeding 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 tunnel 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). It is a mark of respect towards your judge and other competitors to attend prizegiving, you may nominate another person to collect awards for you but any not taken at prizegiving will be forfeited.

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

Bitches are not eligible to run, either for competition, or not for competition at any event scheduled within 12 weeks of them whelping (giving birth to puppies). Bitches with puppies under 8 weeks old (whether present or not), or puppies under 8 weeks old are not to be brought into competition areas. For avoidance of doubt, if any date of a show falls into a disqualifying period, then this applies to the entire event (for events over multiple consecutive days).

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 must not be left unattended or be off lead around the showground at any time except in designated exercise areas, Yellow Cards will be issued for off lead or unattended dogs.

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 including activity trackers or gps locators, harness, slip leads, half check or martingale collars.

Handlers are required to remove bags, treat pouches, bumbags etc and are not to wear toys or leads about their person. Loose fitting scarves or any clothing that may cause entanglement should be not be worn

Choke, prong, pinch or full check chains are not permitted within the entire show premises including parking, camping and exercise areas. Nor are Electronic collars of any type whether worn or otherwise. No other type of aversive tool is allowed.

Dogs must be on a short lead and under control at all times. Flexi leads are not permitted to be used in competition areas or camping areas and must be locked into short positions. Long lines must be used as short leads. Flexi leads and long lines are both permitted to be used in a responsible manner in dedicated 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. Once a class has called to the end it is customary for it to close as soon as there are no more dogs presented to the ring/in the queue.

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.

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. with the exception of mobility aids. Powered wheelchairs must adhere to the site speed limit of 5mph at all times

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 which will be handled in the following manner (depending on the severity of the report).

Fenced Rings

Rings will be fenced on at least 3 sides. This is to provide a clear visual barrier between the rings and to prevent dogs from working away into the equipment of the adjoining ring in error.

Fencing is **NOT** provided in an attempt to keep dogs in (or out) of the rings. It is the handlers responsibility to ensure that their dog is under control at all times (as required by UK law) and to ensure that the safety of their dog and all other competitors and visitors is maintained. Dogs which show a tendency to chase other dogs or to leave the ring should undertake suitable training before attending any competitions.

Any dog may be asked to leave if they jeopardise the safety of anyone present.

Any dog who leaves the ring “with intent” will be removed from competition for the remainder of that day and will be automatically entered in all remaining runs as NFC (not for competition) to allow the handler to focus on engagement and to train in the ring without the pressure of competition. In this instance a handler may ask for their remaining runs to be transferred to Nursery & Legends classes (if available) if they would like to make use of simplified course layouts in addition to running NFC.

For the avoidance of doubt, a dog will be deemed to leave the ring “with intent” if it deliberately exits the ring area for any reason and by any means.

The same will apply to any dog which is loose on the showground or who enters a ring out of turn or who runs along, or jumps at, the ring fence to interact with dogs or people the other side of the fence (including in adjoining rings)

Handlers must show their commitment to working with their own dog to eliminate the risk of reoccurrence, if a handler shows no intent to take the opportunity to train in the ring or to be accountable for their dogs actions then they will be asked to leave. Handlers are reminded that whilst a dog may leave the ring with the intent of returning to their vehicle, hunting for food, people, toys or any other innocuous reason, they may find themselves coming into contact with other dogs or people. It is every dog and handlers right to be able to enjoy competitions without the risk of being approached by a loose dog or having another dog interfere with their own training and preparation.

If your dog leaves the ring you must:

- Catch your dog immediately
- Put them back on lead
- Report to the show office after tending to your dog to declare whether you wish to continue NFC in Graded classes or Nursery & Legends

In this instance the dog will be welcome to remain on site with the above adaptations with the exception of a dog who displayed any of the below behaviours, in this case they will be issued a red card and excluded from participation:

- Showed/instigated aggression towards another dog
- Showed/instigated aggression towards any person
- Chased or confronted another dog

It is the handlers responsibility to ensure that a dog is suited to and adequately trained and prepared for a show environment.

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 or in any other area of the show.

Bitches in Season

Bitches in season may compete providing it is of no detriment to their welfare. Bitches in season must run last in the class and you should make yourself known to both the judge and ring party. Stud pants may be worn and the bitch should be moved to the ring ready to run with the minimum of queuing or detours. You must place a mat on the startline if utilising a start line wait in a sit or down position. The start area will be sprayed with arena spray after each bitch in season has run. If stud pants are worn then they should be placed inside a clean poo bag when removed and not left on the ground at the edge of the ring or put into the lead/toy basket. Failure to declare a bitch in season to the ring party or not running within these guidelines will result in elimination. We advise against running bitches whilst in the 'prime' part of their season or when 'standing' for other dogs.

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 only if requested by the show organiser

Judges may elect to run a white dog after setting their course, usually prior to course walking but always 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 (or any other person) 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, Bonus 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 or standard course time will be recorded.

A maximum of 3 consecutive grades may be combined in a class, in this instance the awards will be split for each grade or combined as declared on the schedule. It is possible that the handling zones

will remain in the same position but that the Bonus Points allocation would be different for each grade.

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.

Occupants of 'judging tents' must be limited to officials only and should be kept quiet and unobtrusive/not distracting to the dogs participating.

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 (to a minimum of 3 sides)
- 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/awards if applicable)
- 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 and all other monies returned to the entrants.

Ring Layout

Rings are to be a minimum of 20x20m and will be fully fenced on at least 3 sides. Larger arenas are welcomed and outdoor arenas should be approx. 30x30m or larger where possible.

Competition arenas will have a separate entrance and exit 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. Handlers should be paying attention and already prepared to enter the ring at the earliest opportunity to keep waiting times to a minimum.

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.

Ready Zones

Where space allows Ready Zones will be created at the entrance and exit to rings. The ready zone at the entrance will contain only the next dog to run and they must be ready to enter the arena immediately when it is clear to do so, this includes harness/rugs/handler items etc being removed and ready to pass to ring party. Food can be used in the Ready Zones

The Ready Zone at the exit will be available for a dog completing their run, their lead/toy etc can be found in the basket in this area and toy/food rewards can be given. Care must be taken to ensure that your dog does not re-enter the ring and you must vacate the exit area in plenty of time for the next dog to come in as they finish their course.

There should be no dogs or spectators around the Ready Zones to allow dogs to be prepared/rewarded without interference. Handlers may permit others to stand inside the ready zone if they are assisting them.

Entries

Entries will be made online via <https://hoopers.online> or by any other method as detailed on the schedule.

Entries are non refundable after the advertised closing date or earlier if the show has reached capacity. Before the closing date (or capping is reached) entries are amendable, forward your confirmation email to info@ukhoopers.com detailing the required amendments, there is a one off admin charge of £2.50 (total) per cancellation request which is automatically deducted from refunds. Refunds can only be provided to the original payment card used when entering. Pay on the day entries are non refundable.

Should the event be cancelled by the organiser or due to circumstances outside of their control, a refund may 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. Entries are accepted at the discretion of the show manager

Course Design

Courses should be smooth, free flowing and 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 5 meters between consecutive obstacles. This table provides a

Grade	Approximate Spacing (m)
1 + Nursery & Legends	5-7
2 and Above	6-12

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.

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 defined.

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 & Non Competitive Runs

NFC

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

Nursery & Legends

Nursery & Legends (N&L) is a non-competitive class offering awards for clear rounds only. N&L is open to any dog of any age over 12 months and will be designed as a short format course with fewer obstacles, spacing commensurate with Grade 1 and a difficulty level of pre competition up to Grade 1. It is judged as per standard competition rules. Nursery and Legends may also be run NFC to allow 60 seconds to train in the ring as desired.

Training Tickets

Event organisers may at their discretion offer Training Tickets at any event with the capacity to accommodate extra runs. They will not be offered at any event which is at full capacity and they can be added/withdrawn at any time by the organiser.

Training tickets allow you to have a second attempt at a course for training purposes and work as follows:

- Maximum of 1 training ticket per dog per day
- Not available for Nursery & Legends classes
- Training tickets typically cost 50% of the pay on the day class price (cost may vary)
- Training tickets are only available to dogs which were entered in the class, and have already run (either for competition or NFC)
- Training Ticket runs are treated as NFC & toys may be carried in the hand
- Training Tickets can be purchased up until the "final call" of a class

Additional Provisions

Yellow Dogs

Yellow dogs (dogs who require extra space) are welcome at all UK Hoopers shows where the layout of the event and other logistical factors allow for provisions to be made. Yellow dogs can utilise a separate queue and MUST have a yellow lead slip, tabard, or other identifying item clearly visible at all times during the show.

Dogs who are known to leave the ring, jump fences or seek out conflict with another dog or person or chase etc should not be brought into a competition environment without prior rehabilitative training. Fencing is used around rings for peace of mind and clear boundaries to avoid dogs accidentally engaging with equipment in the adjoining ring. Rings are not fenced with the purpose of containing dogs within the ring .

In order to provide an environment that allows handlers to work with their Yellow Dogs and to set them up for good training opportunities and behavioural success, we will offer Yellow Dogs the opportunity to have any adjoining rings halted for 60 seconds while they run, this run will be considered to be NFC due to the advantage that might be attainable over other dogs in the same class but can be utilised at any time without prejudice. Simply mention to the ring party that you wish to run in this manner when you join the queue, they will then liaise with the other rings on your behalf.

It is unlawful to bring into public setting any dog which is out of control, or which causes any person to perceive to be at threat.

Yellow & Red Penalty Card System

In the interest of creating an environment in which everyone follows the rules as set by UK Hoopers and who conforms to the ethics we expect to be presented at events, we refer to a yellow card system for breaches of rule. In instances where severe harsh handling or violence or aggression towards competitors or officials is witnessed we operate a zero tolerance policy and may remove a visitor from the event and the organisers hold the right to decline future entries from any individual. Refunds will not be provided nor any costs incurred by any individual who is asked to leave due to poor conduct or breach of rules

For any breach of standard rules competitors may be issued with a "Yellow Card" which will be recorded with the show manager. If the same competitor receives 3 yellow cards within a 6 month period they may be issued a "Red Card"

A serious breach of rules (or an accumulation of "Yellow Cards") will result in a "Red Card" being recorded by the show manager. A red card will result in dismissal from the event, forfeit of any prizes or awards at that event and a forfeit of all entries within a minimum 30 day period.

The type of rule breach which could incur a "Yellow Card" may include but are not limited to:

- Not abiding by 2m ring fence rule
- Borderline harsh handling (A yellow card may be used as a warning with no penalty from the judge)
- Unsportsmanlike behaviour towards another competitor
- Dogs off lead in an undesignated area

- Dogs urinating on equipment, including ring fence
Etc...

The type of rule breach which could incur a “Red Card” may include but are not limited to:

- Not picking up after your dog
- Harsh Handling
- Impugning a judges decision
- Behaviour or activity that is likely to bring UK Hoopers into disrepute or affect the perception of the sport of hoopers

The Yellow and Red card system will be used at the show managers discretion and is designed to act as a warning system discouraging people from becoming complacent with the rules, to highlight repeat offenders for minor rule breaches and to encourage handlers to be responsible at all times without the need for regular tannoy announcements which can impact negatively on the majority of competitors who abide by the rules set. Each complaint will be treated on an individual basis, but the intended route is as follows.

- 1 or more official or visitor reports an incident of “harsh handling” or unsportsmanlike behaviour or breach of general rules, or is witnessed by the organisers- First Incident/report
 - Low severity – Yellow card #1 - Informal discussion between UK Hoopers representative and handler. This will be recorded for internal purposes only.
 - High severity – Red Card – handler/visitor dismissed from site.
- 1 or more official or visitor reports an incident of “harsh handling” or unsportsmanlike behaviour or breach of general rules, or is witnessed by the organisers- Second Incident/report
 - Low severity – Yellow card #2 - Informal discussion between UK Hoopers representative and handler. This will be recorded for internal purposes only.
 - High severity – Red Card – handler/visitor dismissed from site.
- 1 or more official or visitor reports an incident of “harsh handling” or unsportsmanlike behaviour or breach of general rules, or is witnessed by the organisers- Third Incident/report
 - Low severity – Yellow card #3 - Treated as a Red Card for persistent rule breaking and dismissed from site
 - High severity – Red Card – handler/visitor dismissed from site and excluded from future competitions indefinitely.

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 positive, 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 welcome, encourage and support all competitors

To thank your judge after every run, to be gracious to all volunteers and to engage with our sponsors and supporters in a positive manner

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 record any incidents or near misses with the show manager and to provide your details as a witness.

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.

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

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- 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.

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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.

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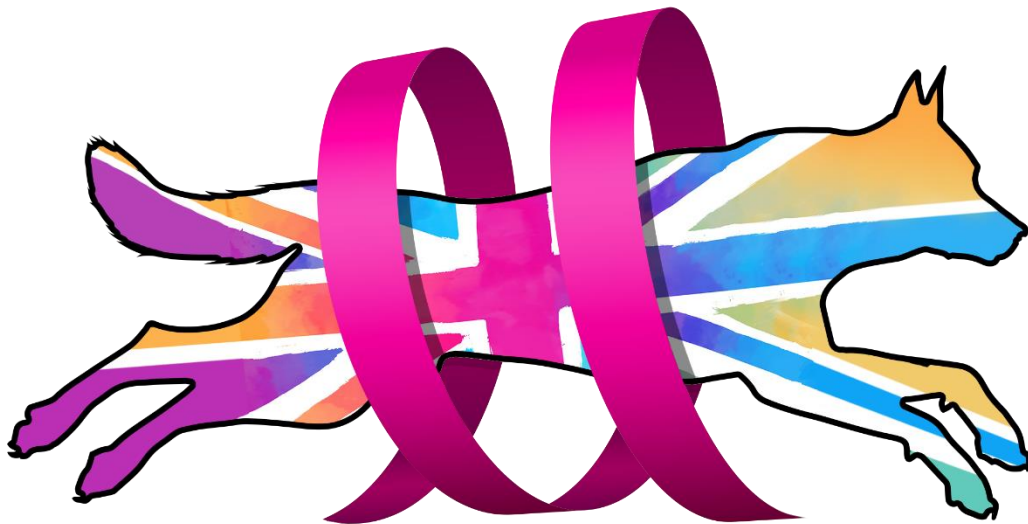
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