



Summary of Updates January 2026 Canine Hoopers of Canada

Challenge Class Revisions

Novice/Intermediate:

- **No CL permitted in this class**
- Distant Handling Box or Distant Handling Area only
- Obstacle spacing **20' to 26'**

Skills and Course Design (novice/intermediate challenge class)

- Front cross (must be within **30'** of DHB/DHA) or turning towards the handler
- Threadle must be within **25'** of DHB/DHA
- Starting obstacle must be no further than **30'** from DHB/DHA
- Finishing obstacle **should** be moving towards the handler
- Handler must be able to start **parallel or ahead** of the dog (not behind the dog)
- 1 to 2 discriminations required: at least 1 should be on a repeated line
- Ring Size: **Minimum** 60'X80'

Advanced/Proficient: (challenge class)

- 2 to 3 discriminations required: at least 1 should be on a repeated line

Faults: Challenge Class Only

5 faults

- Crossing Fault Line
- handler intentionally touches the dog during their run
- displacing an obstacle or timer (unless the judge determines the cause was the dog's tail)

10 faults:

- Missed Obstacle (**Novice Only**)
- off course obstacle
- take an obstacle in the wrong direction

Elimination:

- missed obstacle (**Intermediate, Advanced, Proficient**)
- Carrying something in the hand once in the ring, except for a mobility aid
- Feeding a dog entering or exiting in the ring
- Starting before told to do so, by the scribe/timer or judge
- Dogs running in the wrong level
- Hanging tag on collar

All general rules apply (see Rule book)

Rules and Guidelines

Ring Size: Advanced 60'X80' **minimum**, Proficient 80'X100' **minimum**

Novice Level Requirements

Skills: Maintaining a line along the dog's intended path

After the front cross, the dog must continue on a path toward/ beside handler without a lead change away from handler to next obstacle

Threadle is not permitted in the Novice level course (clarification)

Intermediate Requirements

Front cross must be within **30'** from handler area (using DHB or 15-point CL) or turning towards the handler area

Threadle (must be within **25'** of the handler area) #5 on barrel and #5 on gate

1 to 2 discriminations required: at least 1 should be on a repeated line

Beginner Level: Fault Line Rule Update

The fault line rule no longer applies for the Beginner Level. As long as the dog successfully completes the obstacle, no fault will be given for crossing the fault line.

If the dog is unable to complete the obstacle after three attempts, they must proceed to the next obstacle. In this case, a missed obstacle fault will be assigned.

