

Canine Hoopers of Canada Level Requirements – January 2026

Revisions Beginner Level CHC (Intro Class)

Dogs with emerging distance skills and/or little trial experience should enter competition at the Beginner level. Dogs more experienced in distance work and trialling may start at the Novice level

Number of Obstacles:

12-15 obstacles

Distance Handling Box:

- DHB 16'X16' or 12'X20' (circle is no longer permitted)
- Max distance challenge to furthest obstacle – 20' to 25' (15 or 20 points)
- Mini distance challenge – 10 points (10' to 16') (**obstacles 1-5**)
- Mini distance challenge – 5 points (up to 10') (**obstacles 1-3**)
- **Please note: in the Beginner level, mini challenges must be at the beginning of the course (i.e. obstacles 1 to 3 for 5 points OR obstacles 1 to 5 for 10 points) please note the distances**

Challenge Lines:

- Up to 3 challenge lines: 15 point, 10 point, 5 point
- A minimum of 2 challenge line options
- 15 point line to furthest obstacle: 25' to 30'
- 10 point line to furthest obstacle: 10' to 16'
- 5 point line to furthest obstacle: 5' to 10'

Beginner Level Skills:

- Go forward
- Turn towards the handler
- Wrap a barrel (must be towards the handler)
- Front cross (must be turning towards the handler or crossing no further than 10' by the handler)
- Working at a distance

Course Design:

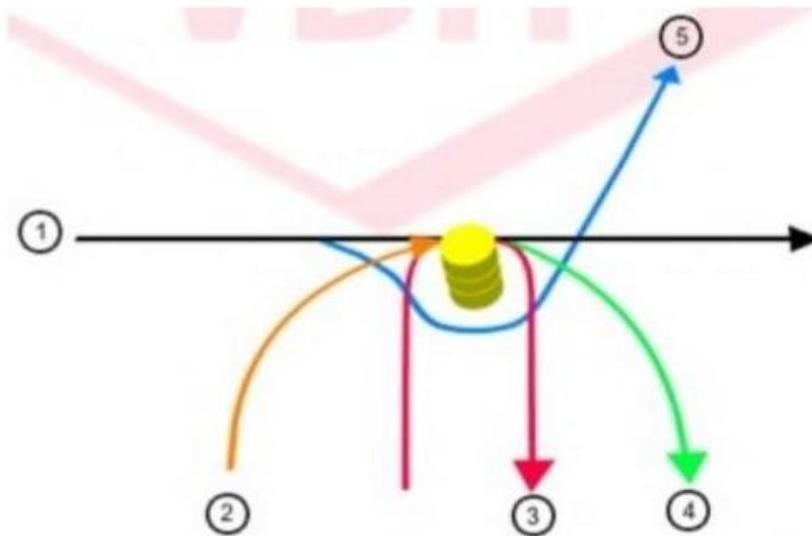
- 12-15 obstacles
- Course should run on the dog's natural line
- Obstacles spacing 16' to 18' with 20' allowance for turns
- One lead change permitted in this level (towards the handler)
- After the front cross, the dog must continue on a path toward/ beside handler without a lead change away from handler to next obstacle
- No less than 15' spacing to the nearest obstacle not in flow
- Handler must be able to start ahead of the dog
- First and last obstacle can be a hoop or tunnel
- Starting obstacle must be no further than **10' from the handler area**
- Finishing obstacle must be moving towards the handler area
- Wrapping a barrel to a tunnel is **NOT** permitted in this level
- Ring size Min. 60'X65' - Max 60'x80'



Acceptable ways to use a barrel to allow for a smooth path:

- Using the barrel to go straight on e.g. #1
- Using the barrel to take a curved turn e.g. #1 to #4
- Using the barrel for a right or left turn e.g. #2 to #4
- Using the barrel for a complete turn (dog goes all the way round) e.g. #3

Note: The blue line (#5) would not be permitted for Beginner and Novice



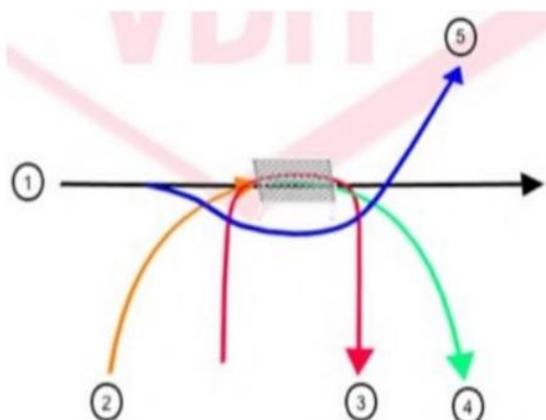
Acceptable ways to use a gate to allow for a smooth path:

- Using the gate to go straight on e.g. #1
- Using the gate to take a curved turn e.g. #1 to #4
- Using the gate for a right or left turn e.g. #2 to #4

Note: Using the gate for a complete turn (#3) or the blue line (#5) would not be permitted for Beginner Level courses

Use of gate for #3 is permitted in Novice but #5 is not permitted for Novice

Position of the gate: The gate is ideally placed so the handler is positioned level with its flat side



Revisions For CHC Novice Level

Teams must earn a Novice title to progress to the Intermediate Level

Number of Obstacles:

Regular: 15 to 20 obstacles Preferred: up to 16 obstacles

Distance Handling Box:

- 13'X13', 10'X16', 14.5' diam
- Must contain at least one mini challenge and a full course challenge
- Mini challenge 5 points – up to 20' (3 obstacles)
- Mini challenge 10 points – 20' to 25' (4-5 obstacles)
- Full course – 15 or 20 points (max distance to furthest obstacle 30' to 35')

Challenge Lines:

- Up to 3 challenge lines 15 point, 10 point, 5 point
- Must have at least 2 lines
- 15 point line to furthest obstacle 35' to 45'
- 10 point line to furthest obstacle 25' to 35'
- 5 point line to furthest obstacle 15' to 20'

Novice Level Skills:

- Go forward
- Wrap barrel
- Turn towards handler
- Turn away from the handler
- Front cross (must be within 20' of handler area)
- Working at a distance
- Holding a line on the dogs path

Course Design:

- 15 to 20 obstacles (Regular), up to 16 (Preferred)
- No more than 2 lead changes (one towards the handler, one away from the handler)
- Course should run on the dog's natural line
- Obstacles spacing 16' to 24' allowing extra for turns
- No less than 15' spacing to the nearest obstacle not in flow
- First and last obstacle can be a hoop or tunnel
- Starting obstacle must be no further than **15' to 20' from the handler area**
- Finishing obstacle must be moving towards the handler area
- Handler must be able to start ahead of the dog
- **After the front cross, the dog must continue on a path toward/ beside handler without a lead change away from handler to next obstacle**
- **It is permissible for the dog's path to lead to the inside of a barrel—moving towards the handler—and then continue along that established line.**
- Threadle is not permitted in the Novice level course
- Ring size min. 60'X65'



CHC Intermediate Level Revisions

Number of Obstacles:

Regular: 18 to 25 obstacles Preferred: up to 16 obstacles

Distance Handling Box:

- 10'X10' OR 11.5' diam.
- Mini challenge – 5 points up to 25'
- Mini challenge – 10 points 30' to 35'
- Full course 20 points (max distance 40' to 45')

Challenge Lines:

- Up to 3 challenge lines 15 point, 10 point, 5 point
- 15 point line (distance to furthest obstacle) 45' to 55'
- 10 point line to furthest obstacle 35' to 45'
- 5 point line to furthest obstacle 20' to 30'

Intermediate Level Skills:

- Go forward
- Wrap barrel
- Turn towards handler
- Turn away from the handler
- Front cross (must be within 30' of handler area or turning towards the handler)
- Threadle (must be within 25' of the handler area) #5 on barrel and #5 on gate
- Working at a distance

Course Design:

- 18 to 25 obstacles (Regular), up to 16 obstacles (Preferred)
- No more than 3 lead changes
- Obstacles spacing 18' to 26' ft allowing extra for turns
- No less than 15' spacing to the nearest obstacle not in flow
- Ring size minimum 60'x80'
- First and last obstacle can be a hoop or tunnel
- Starting obstacle must be no further than **30' from the handler area**
- Finishing obstacle must be moving towards the handler area
- Handler must be able to start ahead of the dog
- **1 to 2 discriminations required: at least 1 should be on a repeated line**



CHC Advanced Level Requirements:

- Number of Obstacles: 20 to 25 (Regular), up to 16 (Preferred)
- Distance between obstacles 20' to 26'
- Handler Area Size: DHB: 8'x8' square or 9' diam DHA
- Distance to furthest obstacle from DHB/ DHA: 50' to 55'
- Mini Challenge 5 points - up to 5 obstacles = up to 30'
- Mini Challenge 10 points - up to 10 obstacles = 35' to 40'

No CL permitted in this level

Advanced Skills and Course design:

- Skills from Beginner to Intermediate
 - Front cross (up to 40' from DHB/DHA)
 - Threadle (up to 40' from DHB/DHA)
 - No more than 5 lead changes
 - Finishing obstacle can be moving away from handler area. Starting obstacle may be up to 45' from handler area
 - No less than 15' spacing to the nearest obstacle not in flow
 - 2 to 3 discriminations required: at least 1 should be on a repeated line
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- Dogs must earn distance bonus points (5 points or higher) in at least **one** qualifying run for their Advanced Title
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- Minimum ring size 60'X80'

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