



Canine Hoopers International

Rules & Regulations

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1. Introduction

Canine Hoopers International (CHI) was launched in 2025 to provide UK handlers and their dogs with the opportunity to experience European style hoopers but under the same fundamental ethos as Canine Hoopers UK (CHUK).

Whilst CHI will differ to CHUK regarding certain aspects of permitted course design and handling, other aspects such as eligibility, safety, equipment, instructor and judge accreditation will remain consistent to maintain Canine Hoopers high standards globally.

CHI courses may be run alongside CHUK classes, or as stand alone.

2. Eligibility

Dogs

- Dogs must be registered with CHI or CHUK to be eligible to compete in CHI.
- Dogs must be a minimum of 15 months of age. If a dog turns 15 months during a multi-day show then they are eligible to enter the entire competition.
- Dogs must be fit, healthy and trained. Dogs that have been exposed to infectious diseases within 21 days prior to the show will not be admitted.
- No puppies under the age of 8 weeks allowed to attend shows.
- Bitches in season are allowed to compete but must be kept away from the ring areas when not competing. Bitches in season must be kept on lead except when in the ring. No mating of bitches allowed within the precinct of the show.
- Pregnant or lactating dogs are not eligible.

Handlers

- All handlers must be registered members of CHI or CHUK to be eligible to compete in CHI.
- Competitors and all who attend CHI shows are expected to behave in a civilised and sportsmanlike manner towards other people and dogs. Failure to do so may lead to disciplinary procedures.
- No competitors, handlers or spectators, or their dogs may enter a ring when it is out of use. Anyone found to be in a ring without permission may be formally warned or excluded from the remainder of the event without a refund.
- Children are always the responsibility of their parents or guardians whilst in attendance at CHI shows.

- Judges have the authority to dismiss dogs and handlers from their rings. The judge's decision is final.
- Show managers have the authority to dismiss any dog or person from the showground without a refund. The show manager's decision is final.
- All dogs and persons entered at CHI shows are entered at their own risk. Whilst every care will be taken to ensure the health and safety of all attendees, CHI and any subsequent show managers will not be held responsible for loss, damage or injury however caused, to dogs, persons or property whilst at the event.

3. Dog Sizes

The height categories are determined by the height at the withers:

- Category 'S' (Small): dogs with a height at the withers of less than 43 cm
- Category 'L' (Large): dogs with a height at the withers equal or greater than 43 cm

Dogs must be a minimum of 15 months old for their first measure. Dogs must have a second measure once they turn 2 years old. Their second measure must take place at the first show they attend after turning 2 years old. If a dog is over the age of 2 years when they are first measured, then they do not need to have a second measure.

Kennel Club agility measures can be presented as proof of height for CHI classes. Team GB Management are also able to provide measures.

Dogs that are obviously large do not need to be officially measured. However, any handler choosing to compete their dog at large height without first obtaining a measure, will not be allowed to request a measure later. Once a dog has competed at large without obtaining a measure, they must remain at large height.

'Yellow' or nervous dogs may be measured by the owner/handler under the supervision of Hoopers Team GB management. The supervising hoopers Team GB management is responsible for the determined measure.

Once a dog has been measured, their official measurement must be submitted to CHI (chi@caninehoopersuk.co.uk) by the measurer to be recorded on the CHI database.

In the event of any controversy over a dog's measure the dog's owner/handler may ask for an appointed CHI Official to re-measure the dog, this will determine the official measure. This must be requested at the time of measuring. Failing to do so will confirm acceptance of the original measure being recorded as the official measure. The dog's owner/handler may only dispute a dog's measure once.

A dog's measure may be challenged by a third party. This request must be submitted to CHI along with a £20 fee. If the challenge proves to be correct the third party will receive a full refund and the dog's correct measure will be updated on the CHI database. A dog's measure may only be challenged once.

CHI reserve the right to request a re-measure for any dog. This may only be requested once.

4. Grades

There are three grades. As an approximate guide to the difficulty:

Level 1 – those new to the European style, or those in CHUK level starters.

Level 2 – those working on CHUK novice or intermediate level courses and achieving mid-distance.

Level 3 – those working on full distance and on CHUK advanced or master's level courses.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Number of obstacles	12-15	15-18	18-22
Spacing between obstacles (small dogs)	6-8m	6-10m	6-10m
Spacing between obstacles (large dogs)	8-12m	10-13m	10-15m
Distance Handling Area diameter	6-10m	3-5m	2m

Handlers can choose the Level to enter their dog at the first CHI competition.

Progression from

Level 1 to Level 2 is by achieving 8 clear round runs.

Level 2 to Level 3 is by achieving 12 clear round runs.

Once you have progressed you cannot return to a lower grade.

Dogs aged over 7 years are eligible to register and enter as Veterans, they will run Level 1 courses only.

Show hosts may choose to combine grades for any particular show if number of entries suggest such e.g. Level 1 and Level 2/3.

5. Equipment Specifications

- Equipment available for any course will be: 20 hoops, 4 gates, 4 barrels and 4 chutes.
- A set of course numbers 1 to 22.

5.1 Hoop

The hoop measurements should be:

- height of the hoop should be 90-110cm.
- width of the base should be 85-90cm.
- Uprights of the base should be 40-45cm
- Support feet extend 30cm in each direction on one side of the base

Hoops should be made of plastic and should not be made of metal.

Hoop bases must have no sharp areas where a dog could injure themselves. All parts must be round/spherical, no squares/rectangles or corners etc. Providing Hoops maintain the correct size, they are not required to have a base bar across the bottom of the hoop.

Hoops can be weighted down or pegged down to maintain their position outside in the elements.

5.2 Barrels

Barrels used should be made of either a mesh material, fibre, cloth or plastic material. Barrels should be such that they can be weighted if windy conditions require this.

Barrels should be 55 – 70cm in diameter and not less than 70cm tall.

All barrels must be of solid structure so that if jumped on by a dog they will not collapse.

5.3 Chutes

The height of the chute should be 80-90cm, the width is 90cm and length 1m.

The chute will ideally be made of plastic. However, metal chutes are permitted if appropriately padded to ensure the safety of the dog.

There will be a minimum of 3 connecting beams connecting the entrance and exit of the chute, this will ensure that the chute will maintain the correct shape and height when in use. The material must be pulled taught when the chute is assembled.

The chute can be pegged/weighted along the side pipes when being used outside if needs be in windy conditions. Indoors the chute does not need to be pegged.

Providing chutes maintain the correct size, they are not required to have a base bar across the bottom of the chute.

5.4 Gates

The gate should measure:

- Height: 80cm–90cm
- Width: 120cm–130cm
- Feet Supports: 35cm–40cm in total

Gates are to be made up of a PVC pipe frame. The centre part of the gate must be filled. A mesh material is recommended to allow for visual contact between handler and dog, however a solid material may also be used. Plastic barrier netting that is used to fence rings must NOT be used as the filler material. If made using mesh material, the mesh is to have small holes, no bigger than 25mm. The middle material must wrap the exterior frame uprights/sides so that the dog is presented with a consistent picture. The sides of the frame must NOT be exposed. The material should be fairly tight so

as not to overly flap/move. All material must be secured. The centre part of the gate may be multicoloured/branded providing this doesn't negatively affect the dogs during test.

5.5 Distance Handling Area

The distance handling area can be any shape with an approximate

- Diameter of 6-10m for Level 1
- Diameter of 3-5m for level 2
- Diameter of 2m for Level 3

The distance handling area may be defined using flat rubber markers (e.g. those used to define bonus boxes or challenge lines in CHUK courses) or rubber piping e.g. hose pipe with diameter no more than 5cm.

6. Ring Requirements

1. The competition ring will be no less than 30x30m.
2. The surface should be suitable for the safe running of dogs and handlers and be free from rocks, trees, holes, and so on, and must allow for all obstacles to sit level where placed. Rings must be fully fenced and include an entrance and exit chute.

7. Course Design

1. Judges are responsible for the design of their courses.
2. When designing their courses, the judge must at all times consider the safety of the dog and handler. Care should be taken to make sure that the course is smooth and flows from one obstacle to another.
3. Courses will contain:

Level 1: 12-15 obstacles
Level 2: 15-18 obstacles
Level 3: 18-22 obstacles

4. Distances between obstacles will be:

Level 1:	small dog: 6-8m	large dog: 8-12m
Level 2:	small dog: 6-10m	large dog: 10-13m
Level 3:	small dog: 6-10m	large dog: 10-15m

5. When measuring courses, the judges should measure the dog's path between obstacles.
6. Small dogs and large dogs may run the same course design providing the distances between obstacles is satisfied i.e. a large dog course may be shrunk for small dogs.

7. Courses should be technically similar for small and large dogs of the same grade without prejudice.
8. Obstacles will be numbered and must be taken in the correct order. All numbers will face the DHA. Hoops and chutes may be numbered on either side, barrels and gates will be numbered on the opposite side that the dog should pass.
9. The distance handling zone will be placed:

Level 1: 10 - 15m away from the furthest obstacle.
Level 2: 12 - 18m away from the furthest obstacle.
Level 3: 15 - 25m away from the furthest obstacle.
10. Dogs must start from the numbered side of the first obstacle and cannot be sent around from the wrong side.
11. Maximum course time is 90 seconds.
12. There should be no unused equipment inside the ring perimeter.

8. General Rules

1. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that dogs are adequately trained to a safe standard for the nature of the competition entered.
2. 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.
3. It is the competitor's responsibility to be available for their class.
4. All awards must be collected on the day of the show.
5. All dogs must always be kept under proper control whilst at the show venue including exercise areas, car parking and camping areas. Dogs are required to be ON LEAD in car parks. Dogs may only be running around in designated areas. Dogs must be under control within the show boundaries.
6. Any person in charge of a dog is required to remove, as soon as possible any fouling caused by their dogs within the show venue including car parks and camping areas. This includes any adjacent dog exercising areas.
7. No person shall carry out any physical disciplining or excessive harsh verbal correction of a dog at any time within the precincts of the show.

8. The mating of bitches within the precincts of the show is forbidden.
9. Judges must judge in accordance with these Rules and Regulations.
10. The Judge is responsible for the design of their course and must at all times give total consideration to the safety of the dog and handler.
11. Judges must submit course plans as and when requested by the show organisers.
12. Judges must observe the dog and handler at all times whilst they are in the ring.
13. Competitors to queue 2m apart – whilst exact spacing will not be completely enforced, competitors are expected to respect each other's space, especially in the case of reactive/yellow dogs.
14. Competitors to keep 2m back from the ring boundary when the ring is in use.
15. Dogs are not allowed to be lunging or barking around the rings, or at other competitors or dogs.
16. No skateboards/roller skates/bikes etc to be used around the show rings.
17. Prior to course walking, judges may run a white dog or ask for a white dog to be run to check their lines etc. White dogs are not allowed to compete in the same class where they are run as a white dog.
18. When entering the ring the dog may be kept on the lead until positioned at the start. The lead will be removed from inside the ring perimeter and left at the exit chute, it may not be retained by the handler (even if in a pocket), failure to hand in the lead will result in elimination.
19. Dogs must not wear anything whilst under test (collar, harness, bandana etc) else will result in an elimination.
20. You are not permitted to take food into the ring else will result in an elimination.
21. You are not permitted to take a toy into the ring else will result in an elimination.
22. Carrying something in the hand whilst under test, except for a mobility aid else will result in an elimination.
23. Handler may not wear a bum-bag/waist bag/treat bag or similar during competition else will result in an elimination.
24. NFC runs are permitted. Silent toys may be used. Competitors have 60 seconds.
25. Fouling in the ring will result in an elimination.

26. Harsh handling will not be tolerated; this MUST also be reported to show management immediately. Competitors will be eliminated.
27. Signs of aggression in the dog is not permitted; this includes the dog biting the handler. Competitors will be eliminated.
28. Reactive dogs will be given adequate space before, during and after their run to allow them to join in the fun.
29. Dogs running in the wrong grade will result in an elimination. Once a dog moves up a higher grade they cannot drop back down unless moving to a Veteran category.
30. Handlers may only compete when the judge is present at the ring.
31. Handler must not deliberately contact their dog during competition. Deliberately contacting your dog will result in an elimination, accidental contact will incur 10 penalty points.
32. Dogs may only enter the ring to complete their test but should not be in the ring at any other time.

9. Judging and Scoring

Every competitor starts with 200 points for each run. Faults occur depending on their nature or eliminations as defined below.

1. The handler or dog must not enter the ring before told to do so otherwise will be eliminated.
2. The handler has 1 minute from the point of first leaving the dog at the startline to enter the DHA. Failure to do so results in 10 penalty points. If the handler is not within the DHA within 2 minutes they're eliminated.
3. Once inside the DHA, the handler may start the run at their discretion.
4. If the dog starts prior to the handler reaching the DHA, 10 faults and they must reset the dog at the startline. 2 resets are allowed, each incurring 10 faults. A third reset is an elimination and dismissal from the ring.
5. Once the handler is inside the DHA the handler cannot leave the DHA until after the run has finished. If 1 foot exits the DHA during the run, then 10 faults. If 1 foot exits a second time during the run, then elimination. If both feet exit the DHA, then elimination.
6. The handler may guide the dog around the course using verbals, sounds, gestures or a combination.
7. The dog must perform each obstacle in the order and direction indicated by the course numbering.

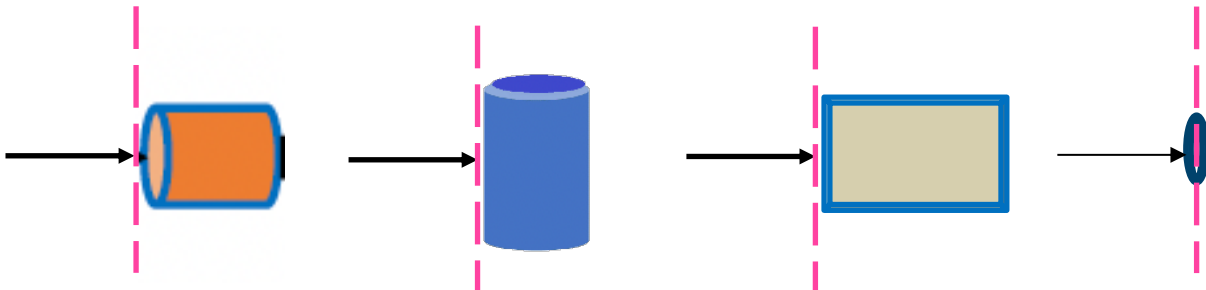
8. If the dog passes the plane of an obstacle but doesn't take the obstacle this obstacle is considered "skipped" and incurs 10 faults. The plane is defined as: -

hoop – any part of the dog passing the entrance to the hoop

chute – any part of the dog passing the entrance of the chute

barrel – any part of the dog passing the front edge of the barrel

gate – any part of the dog passing the front edge of the gate

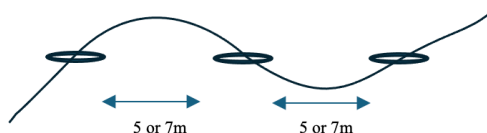


A maximum of 3 skipped obstacles at any time is permitted before then elimination.

9. Re-attempting a missed obstacle results in an elimination, the dog should continue moving forward.

10. If the dog takes a wrong course obstacle, they incur 10 faults. A maximum of 3 wrong course obstacles leads to an elimination.

11. The Wave: a sequence of 3 hoops aligned perpendicular to the crossing direction. The wave is considered a single obstacle that the dog must perform in one smooth undulating motion from beginning to end. The beginning is indicated by the obstacle number e.g. 8; additionally, the first hoop will be labelled with "A", the middle hoop with "B" and the last hoop by "C". The distance between hoops is 5m for small dogs and 7m for large dogs measured from the inner edge of each successive hoop.



The wave is considered an advanced sequence and will be found on higher grades only.

12. 15 faults if one or more hoops in the "wave" are not completed correctly on the first attempt.

13. 10 faults if an obstacle is knocked down or moved accidentally by handler or dog. If the knocked obstacle is to then be re-taken later in the course but is missed/skipped then a further 10 faults.

14. Handler intentionally moves any obstacle or the DHA during the test or whilst walking the course will result in elimination.

15. Exceeding the maximum course time will result in elimination.

16. Addressing the judge with inappropriate language or behaviour results in an elimination.

10. Running Shows, Rosettes and Awards

At every competition the show organiser/manager will make provision for:

- Copy of CHI Rules and Regulations
- Show Schedule
- Adequate toilet facilities
- Equipment to CHI Regulations
- Suitable ring surface
- Electronic Timing
- Back up stopwatches
- Rosettes and Trophies to CHI requirements
- Qualified Judges

The show schedule must include:

- CHI logo
- CHUK or CHI Show Licence Number
- Show Date(s)
- Announcement that the show is being held under CHI Regulations
- Closing date of entry
- Schedule of classes and fees
- Description of classes offered
- Show Name
- Name of Show Manager
- Venue address and details
- Nearest hospital and veterinary location
- Disclaimer

All shows must be fully insured and have their insurance documentation with them at the show.

In the event of cancellation of the show through circumstances beyond CHI or show management's control, the show management may defray such expenses from the entry fees to cover the cost of the show preparation. These accounts must then be made available to the public.

All competitions will be available to enter online through Agility Plaza.

All rosettes must clearly say CHI. Placement rosettes will be awarded to a minimum of 3rd place. Trophies may be provided at the discretion of the show host.

11. Judges

Only Level 2 Advanced CHUK Instructors, CHUK Judges or other suitably qualified judges from an appropriate national or international hoopers organisation.

Judges must judge in line with the current CHI Rules and Regulations at all times.

Judges will always treat everyone fairly and politely; however the judge's rule is final. If competitors or other instructors raise concerns with you, you will listen and address their concerns in a fair and polite manner. Sometimes this will mean reassuring them and showing them the rule book. Other times this may mean adjusting something in your course. Judges are under no obligation to look at video evidence, judge's decision is final.

12. CHI Open

Annually, there will be a Canine Hoopers International Open competition.

13. Ethics

- All CHI Accredited Trainers, Committee Members, Show Managers and any other representatives of CHI must adhere to the CHI Code of Ethics at all times.
- Cruelty, abuse or neglect to animals or humans will not be acceptable at any time. Anyone found being cruel, abusive or neglectful will be brought before the Committee and disciplinary action will be taken.
- To train dogs professionally with honesty, integrity and in the best interest of the dog, owner, the public and CHI.
- Actively provide and promote force-free training methods and actively reject any methods or equipment that may cause physical or mental discomfort. Treatment of dogs being trained, handled or cared for by members must always be in line with accepted standards of good practice.
- Treatment must be humane. CHI does not condone the use of prong collars, electric collars, electronic collars, choke chains or any other aversive tool.
- Respect the privacy and confidentiality of clients.
- Carry suitable professional insurance including public liability.

- Members agree to work within their professional limits and agree to refer owners with needs beyond those limits to a suitable professional.
- Accept CHI Committee decisions as final after appeals process.
- Proactively benefit dogs and dog owners.
- Proactively promote CHUK and CHI.
- Not to bring the name of CHI or CHUK into disrepute.
- You will be expected to act at all time within the law. Anyone breaking the law should not expect to receive any support from CHUK or CHI.
- Members have a duty to ensure that the general public are not put at risk as a result of their activities.
- Every member should at all times act in good faith towards their employer or client.
- Members should not act in any way, which might be detrimental to relationships with other professions.
- Members must act in good faith towards fellow members and to the organisation.
- CHI rules should always be complied with, even in training.

14. Disciplinary Procedure

If a person wishes to make a complaint against another person or their dog, it must be made to the Show Manager on the day of the event. All details of the incident must be given, along with a required £50 fee. A judge, Show Secretary or Show Manager may make a formal complaint without the required fee.

The Show Manager must then investigate the incident by interviewing the accused and all witnesses. If the Show Manager feels that there is a case to answer, all details and information of the incident and £30 (£20 is kept by the show) must be sent to CHI. At this time a cooling down period of 7 days begins.

If the Show Manager feels that there is no case to answer, then this will be stated to the complainant.

The complainant may choose to either drop the charge or still proceed. If the decision is to proceed, the information gathered and the £30 must be sent to CHI. If the decision is to drop the complaint, then £30 will be refunded to the complainant and the show will still keep £20. In addition, all information will still be sent to CHI.

Once CHI receives the formal complaint the accused will be notified in writing, to which they should reply within 14 days. At the end of this period, the complainant will be asked if they still want to continue. If they wish to proceed then CHI will decide whether or not they feel there is a case to answer. If the complainant decides not to continue, then £20 will be refunded and CHI will keep the remaining £10.

At any point that the complainant chooses to drop the charges, CHI may still proceed with the case should they feel that it is warranted. CHI may choose to investigate matters further before making a decision. If CHI finds there is no case to answer both parties will be notified and all money will remain with CHI. If the accused is found to be in breach of CHI regulations, CHI will inform the accused in writing and may impose fines, written or verbal warnings, bans, and costs. If fines are not paid, the account will be frozen and the accused will not be allowed to compete. In addition, the complainant will be notified of the decision and all money will be refunded.

The accused party will then have 14 days to appeal to CHI in writing. An appeals hearing will then be set and conducted.

The following are examples of causes for a dog/handler being involved in a disciplinary process:

- Person to person aggression
- Dog to person aggression
- Dog to dog aggression
- Harsh or abusive handling of dog
- Serious breach of CHI rules
- Impugning a judge's decision(s)
- Bringing the name of CHUK or CHI into disrepute
- Copying or reproducing any material belonging to CHI without prior consent.
- Using social media to impugn or undermine a judge's decision or a committee decision or bringing the name of CHI into disrepute.