

## HOOPERS BRIEFING FOR EXHIBITORS

1. A Hoopers course consists of "non-test hoops" and "test hoops". The Judge will brief the class to clearly indicate which Hoops are "test hoops" and which are "non-test hoops". The non-test hoops will be in a straight line on one side of the ring. The test hoops will be set in the ring as separate tests (either numbered or designated by a pattern; e.g., serpentine). The Judge will brief the test hoops clearly identifying the "pattern tests" or "numbered tests".
2. To start, the handler must direct their dog through three (3) non-test hoops before entering the test area to perform a test. You may do the non-test hoops in any direction but you cannot do the same hoop back to back and have it count towards your three (3) hoop count. You stay in the non-test hoops until you have done a total of three (3) hoops in any direction. If your dog prematurely enters the test hoop area your three (3) non-test hoop count will drop to zero and you will have to redo three (3) non-test hoops.
3. Once you enter the test hoop area you can choose any test you want to do. If you fault the test at any stage (e.g., if you go off course or bypass a hoop with all four paws) then you may either start the test over in any direction (unless it numbered to be completed in a certain direction) **OR** you may give up on that test and return to the non-test hoops to do three (3) non-test hoops again. You are allowed three (3) attempts of a test before a Judge will ask you to move on (which means you need to go out and do three (3) non-test hoops before attempting another test). If you abandon a test or have been asked to move on by the Judge because of three (3) failed attempts then you may not re-attempt that test again during your run (that test becomes invalid for you).
4. At the Novice level you must do the following:
  - Three (3) non-test hoops,
  - Successfully perform a test in the test hoop area,
  - Three (3) non-test hoops,
  - Successfully perform a test in the test hoop area,
  - Exit the course by genuinely attempting the designated Finish Hoop.
  - All of the above is performed in the designated SCT for Novice Hoopers:
    - 40.8 secs for small dogs,
    - 37.4 secs for medium dogs, and
    - 34 secs for large dogs

- There will be four (4) tests in the test area for the handler to choose from. There will also be a bonus line on one of the tests - if you successfully perform the test from the correct side of the bonus line you can potentially earn a 15 point Q.

5. At the Open level you must do the following:

- Three (3) non-test hoops,
- Successfully perform a test in the test hoop area,
- Three (3) non-test hoops,
- Successfully perform a test in the test hoop area,
- Three (3) non-test hoops,
- Successfully perform a test in the test hoop area,
- Exit the course by genuinely attempting the designated Finish Hoop.
- All of the above is performed in the designated SCT for Open Hoopers:
  - 48 secs for small dogs,
  - 44 secs for medium dogs, and
  - 40 secs for large dogs
- There will be four (4) tests in the test area for the handler to choose from. There is a bonus line on one of the tests - if you successfully perform the test from the correct side of the line you can potentially earn a 15 point Q.

6. At the Elite level you must do the following:

- Three (3) non-test hoops,
- Successfully perform a test in the test hoop area,
- Three (3) non-test hoops,
- Successfully perform a test in the test hoop area,
- Three (3) non-test hoops,
- Successfully perform a test in the test hoop area,
- Exit the course by genuinely attempting the designated Finish Hoop.
- All of the above is performed in the designated SCT for Elite Hoopers:
  - 48 secs for small dogs,
  - 44 secs for medium dogs, and
  - 40 secs for large dogs

ONE (1) OF THE THREE (3) TESTS PERFORMED SHOULD BE A DESIGNATED BONUS TEST OF WHICH AN EXHIBITOR WILL HAVE TWO (2) TO CHOOSE FROM (if you do the test from the wrong side of the bonus line you can still get a 10 point Q).

If you do the test observing the bonus line (e.g., staying on the correct side) you can earn a 15 point Q - The bottom line is that one (1) of your three (3) tests must be a bonus test in order to qualify - it does not mean you have to work the test from behind the line if you do not wish to do so)

There will be five (5) tests in the test area for the handler to choose from. Of those five (5) tests there will be two (2) designated bonus tests. If two (2) out of your three (3) required tests include successful performance of the bonus (handling from the correct side of the line) you can earn a 20 point Q. Only at the Elite level can you earn a 20 point Q.