

Hungarian

Hoopers

Regulation



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HOOPERS HUNGARY REGULATION

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Its goal is to promote Hoopers as a dog sport in Hungary. The rules are aligned with the internationally accepted Hoopers rules.

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1. Introduction

Hoopers is a canine sport suitable for all healthy or medically certified dogs. It provides an experience for both the dog and the handler.

Hoopers aims to:

- The dogs must complete various obstacles in a specific order and within a certain time frame
- The dog, under the remote control of the handler, completes the obstacles independently and continuously, while they must not jump over them
- The development of the dog's intelligence and the mutual relationship between man and dog

A prerequisite for the sport is a good relationship between the dog and the handler, which results in perfect harmony, so the pairs must have basic training and basic obedience training.

1.1 Hoopers Hungary

The goal of Hoopers Hungary is to popularize this new dog sport in Hungary, as well as to inform, unite and help dog schools, clubs and sports associations interested in Hoopers.

Hoopers Hungary is involved in holding presentations and workshops, organizing competitions, and training trainers and judges.

1.2 Mission statement

We are committed to ensuring that hoopers instructors teach at a high standard and use the most modern training techniques. All Hoopers Hungary instructors must promote responsible dog ownership.

1.3 General Information

All dogs can participate in the events organized by Hoopers Hungary, as long as they are healthy. Dogs with disabilities require a veterinary certificate that this type of movement of the dog is allowed. Orthopedic aids (prostheses, orthoses, etc). are allowed.

All dogs participating in competitions and events must have valid vaccinations and a registered chip number.

The minimum age of the dog must be 15 months in the FUN and H0 categories and 18 months in other categories.

The use of rubber bands or buckles above the eyes is allowed for long-haired breeds. No collar, harness or any other object is allowed on the dog. Exceptions are assistance dogs and bitches in heat.

Bitches in heat can participate in competitions, training sessions, events, but they can only start from a mat of the appropriate size, or they must wear fire panties.

At competitions and other Hoopers-related events (training sessions, workshops) the dog owner is always responsible for any damage caused. In the case of a handler under the age of 15, one adult companion must be present at the event or competition.

2. Size classes

SMALL: dog's height at withers up to 40 cm

LARGE: dog's height at withers from 40.01 cm

2.1 Official measurement

The dogs are classified into different size categories according to the size classes above. The dogs must be measured during the first competition to be able to compete in the appropriate size category.

After the measurement they will receive their registration card, which must be presented at the competitions.

For the first measurement, the dog must be at least 15 months old. However, on the first competition in an official category (H0) a final measurement is also required.

For dogs that have an official measurement in the agility sport (the measurement certificate must be presented at the first official competition), a new measurement is no longer necessary for the first hoopers competition.

3. Performance categories:

The competition has five different levels.

- FUN
- H0
- H1
- H2
- H3

Categories	Minimum number of obstacles (pcs)	Minimum number of obstacles (pcs)
FUN	10	16
H0	14	18
H1	16	20
H2	18	22
H3	18	25

Categories	Distance between obstacles (min. - max. meters)	Square - Farthest distance between obstacles (meter)
FUN	3 - 6	(5*5m square) - 5
H0	3 - 6	(3*3m square) - 8
H1	4 - 8	(3*3m square) - 9
H2	6 - 10	(3*3m square) - 12
H3	8 - 12	(3*3m square) - 15

3.1. FUN category

Open category for all dogs (minimum 15 months of age) that not yet started in the H0 category. This category is not an official competition category. Toys during the race can be used, but treats are not allowed. The handler can move in the designated area (square 5*5 m) with the dog. Crossing the designated area results in a fault point. – (See: 7.2 point Course defects)

The distance between obstacles is a minimum of 3 meters - maximum of 6 meters.

The handler's designated area (square) 5*5 meters

The course must contain a minimum of 10 - maximum of 16 obstacles. An obstacle may appear more than once in the course.

It is allowed to use a helper to keep the dog in place at the start.

3.2. Category H0

Open category for all dogs (minimum 15 months of age) that have not yet started in the H1 category. This category is the official competition category.

In this category, it is possible to use a toy during the race, but no treats are allowed. The handler can move within the designated area (square 3*3 m) and control the dog. Crossing the designated area results in a fault point. - (See 7.2 point Course defects)

The distance between obstacles is a minimum of 3 meters - a maximum of 6 meters.

The handler's designated area (square) 3*3 m

The course must contain a minimum of 14 - a maximum of 18 obstacles. One obstacle may appear more than once.

It is not allowed to use a helper to keep the dog in place at the start.

The maximum distance between the designated area (square) and the farthest obstacle is 8 meters.

3.3. Category H1

If the dog has reached the minimum age of 18 months and the conditions for moving

up to the H1 category are met (see point 8), the competitors can start in the H1 category. This category is the official competition category.

The use of toys and treats are not allowed during the race.

The handler must stay in the designated area (within the square). Crossing the designated area results in a fault point. - (See 7.2 Course defects)

The distance between obstacles is a minimum of 4 meters - a maximum of 8 meters.

The course must contain a minimum of 16 - a maximum of 20 obstacles, one obstacle may be included more than once in the course.

The use of assistance at the start to keep the dog in place is not allowed.

The handler's designated area (square) 3*3 m

The maximum distance between the designated area (square) and the farthest obstacle is 9 meters.

3.4. Category H2

If the conditions for moving to the H2 category are met (see point 8), the competitors can start in the H2 category. This category is the official competition category.

The use of toys and treats are not allowed during the race.

The handler must stay in the designated area (within a square). Crossing the designated area results in a fault point. - (See 7.2 Course defects)

The distance between obstacles is a minimum of 6 meters - a maximum of 10 meters.

The course must contain a minimum of 18 - a maximum of 22 obstacles, one obstacle may be included more than once in the course.

The handler's designated area (square) 3*3 m

The maximum distance between the designated area (square) and the farthest obstacle is 12 meters.

3.5. Category H3

If the conditions for moving to the H3 category are met (see point 8), the competitors

can start in H3. This category is the official competition category. The use of toys and treats are not allowed during the race.

The handler must stay in the designated area (within a square). Crossing the designated area will result in disqualification.

The distance between obstacles is a minimum of 8 meters - a maximum of 12 meters.

The course must contain a minimum of 18 - a maximum of 25 obstacles, one obstacle may be included more than once in the course.

The handler's designated area (square) 3*3 m.

The maximum distance between the designated area (square) and the farthest obstacle is 15 meters.

4. Obstacles

- Hoop
- Tunnel
- Gate
- Barrel

Obstacles must not pose a danger to dogs under any circumstances, they must comply with the following regulations.

4.1. Hoop

The lower part of the hoop is 85-90 cm, height 90-105 cm. The hoop consists of two parts, the base and the arch. The width of the support leg is 60 - 75 cm. The material of the bent part is always plastic, the base part can be plastic or aluminum. The upper part cannot be made of metal. The base of the hoop must not be higher than 2.5 cm and the arch must be stable.

4.2. Tunnel

The tunnel is 1-3 m long and 80 cm in diameter. Creepers must be weighted down so that they are stable and do not move. For dog safety reasons, tunnels should not be attached to the ground using hooks or spikes. The tunnels can only be used straight, they cannot be bent into a curve.

4.3. Gate

The gates can be made of aluminum or plastic, equipped with a net with a maximum mesh width of 5 cm. Width between 100 - 120 cm, height between 80 - 105 cm. The width of the supporting legs of the gates are no more than 60 - 75 cm. The mesh/material of the gate must be such that you can see through it. The center of the gate cannot be made of solid material.

The gate must be stable. The gate can be completed by the dog from the outside or inside in accordance with the line of the track compared to the handler, and it is also possible to run between two gates starting from category H2. The gate cannot be used for sharp reverse translation.

4.4. Barrel

Barrels can be made of soft (fabric) or hard (plastic) material, with a diameter of 50 - 75 cm and a height of 50 - 110 cm. Barrels must be weighted (inside) if necessary, e.g. with a sandbag.

The dog must pass the barrels from the side where the number is located, if the number is on top of the barrel, it can be avoided from any direction. The number must be placed in a safe place for the dog. Barrels must not be attached to the ground with hooks.

5. Hoopers field

The track area must be non-slip and safe for both the dog and the handler.

The recommended floor area of the Hoopers track:

- 20*30 meters

The handlers designated area (square):

- 5*5 meters FUN
- 3*3 meters (H0, H1, H2, H3)

The square does not have to be in the middle of the field, the judge always determines its location.

In case of bad weather, the quality of the course must be judged by the referee, who in extreme cases may interrupt the competition due to unforeseen circumstances.

The field must always be surrounded.

Judges are responsible for designing the courses. When planning the courses, the judge must keep in mind that the course is continuous from one obstacle to the next.

The minimum number of obstacles on the courses is determined by the categories. Before the races, the participants must be allowed to walk around the track, the time of which is minimum: 5 - maximum: 10 minutes. Depending on the number of people, it is the task and responsibility of the competition organizer to determine the time to enter the track.

The obstacles must be numbered so that they are clearly visible to the handler from the designated area (square), but not in the dog's path.

Every track always starts and ends with a hoop. A maximum of 2 obstacles can be placed in the handler's designated area.

6. PROCEDURE OF THE COMPETITION

Each competition has 2 runs per category. The combined result of the two runs provides the necessary qualification for leveling up.

The appointed judge will build the track according to the category, after which a 5-10 minute walk around the track must be ensured in all cases.

The timing starts when the dog has crossed the line of the first obstacle. The handler leads the dog through the obstacles, according to the rules of the given category. The handler must not touch the obstacles. Training is not allowed on the race track, neither during the race nor during breaks during the race. After the disqualification of the competitor, the course can be run after the faulty obstacle has been re-done, but no further practice is possible.

Before the walk-around, the judges can ask for a white dog to check the line of the course.

White dog: The dog that starts outside the competition, at the request of the judge. Your performance will not be included in the result list. Therefore, no extra entry and judging fees can be charged

No competitor can dispute the judge's decision, the judge's decisions are final.

6.1. Determination of the time of a run

The task of the designated judge is to determine the basic time - standard time (ST) and maximum time (MT) of the track.

Determination of the base time (ST): the length of the course track (m), divided by the chosen speed (m/s) in meters per second.

$$ST = m / (m / s)$$

Determination of the maximum time (MT): base time (ST) * 1.5 - maximum (ST) * 2

$$MT = ST * 1.5 - ST * 2$$

7. Scoring

Each pair starts the race with 50 points, from which obstacle faults, course faults, disqualifications and time faults are deducted.

Mistakes	Fault points (HBP)
Obstacle fault	-5 HBP
Path fault	-20 HBP
Disq	-50 HBP
Time fault	-1 HBP / +1 sec

7.1. Obstacle fault

A mistake means 5 penalty points. The device fault does not need to be re-done.

- It is considered an obstacle fault if the dog kicked or moved the obstacle clearly visible to the judge.
- Starting from category H1, if the dog started the course before the handler occupied the designated area the pair will receive 5 penalty points.

7.2. Trackfault

A track fault means 20 penalty points.

- Complete or partial crossing of the obstacle line, without completing the obstacle.
- The dog avoids the obstacle from wrong side (barrel, gate)
- If the handler consciously stops the dog on the track
- The dog misses an obstacle and immediately completes the next one.

Eg: the dog runs lines 1-7 according to numbering, but skips obstacle 8 (barrel) and continues the course from obstacle 9

- After the dog starts, the handler leaves the area designated for him (FUN, H0, H1, H2 categories)

7.3. Disqualification

Disqualification means 50 penalty points.

The following are exclusions:

- The pair collected 3 track fault (so they did not get 3*20 penalty points, but 50 penalty points)
- The dog overturned an obstacle that it should have completed again in the race.
- The dog puts its paw or nose into the tunnel when it is not the following obstacle if the tunnel is not the obstacle following after the course fault.
- If the dog does not complete the obstacle according to the line management and that stops the photocell timing, the pair is automatically disqualified.
- The handler leaves the designated area after the start of the dog (from category H3)
- Use of toys, except in categories H0 and FUN
- The owner deliberately touched/grabbed the dog or the obstacle.
- The dog pees on the track area
- The dog skips one or several obstacles and then completes an obstacle not in the alignment of the course
E.g.: the dog runs obstacles numbered 1-7 according to numbering, but skips obstacle 8 (barrel) and then completes obstacle 10.
- The pair starts the race before the judge's permission.
- Use of reward treat
- The dog is in a collar or harness (assistance dogs are an exception to this)
- Exceeding the maximum time (MT)
- The dog leaves the track area

7.4. Time fault

Exceeding ST (Base time) results in – 1 HBP per second

If the MT (Maximum time) is exceeded, the pair will be disqualified (-50 HBP)

The standard time and the maximum time are determined by the judge. (See: point 6.1)

7.5. Disqualification from the entire competition

- Rough behavior with the dog during the competition(not only during the run, the whole race area)

7.6. Rankings

Based on the two runs, the winner of the category is the pair that loses the fewest points.

In the event of a tie, the faster pair will advance, based on the combined time of the two runs.

8. Level up

After competing in the H0 or higher category, it is no longer possible to return to the FUN category.

To move up to a higher category, you must obtain at least 3 „Qualifications”.

Each competition has 2 runs per category. The combined result of the two runs gives the qualification.

Qualifications is available if the following conditions are met:

- H0 – H1 – The total score of the two runs is at least 70 points in the H0 category
- H1 – H2 – The total score of the two runs is at least 80 points in the H1 category
- H2 – H3 – The total score of the two runs is at least 95 points in the H2 category

After leveling up, the pair can compete in the lower category for 3 more competition days.

Then the pair must level up. Checking this is the task of the competition organizer, which can be checked on Hoopers Hungary website.

<http://www.hoopershungary.hu/2023-evi-verseny-eredmenyek/>

Example:

1. *In H0, 1 qualification can be obtained when:*

Each run starts at 50 points, the dog misses an obstacle in the first run and completes the next one. In this case, a course with -20 penalty points is considered an error. If their second race is flawless, they have qualified with a total of 70 points on the given race day.

2. *In H1, 1 qualification can be obtained when:*

Each run starts at 50 points, in the first run the dog goes around the barrel from the wrong side, that is – 20 penalty points. This you must complete a flawless race in the other race in order to obtain a Qualification on the given race day with the minimum 80 points based on the summation of the two runs.

9. Additional runs (unofficial categories)

9.1. Hoop competition

The course can only contain hoops. Maximum of 14 obstacles.

9.2. Tunnel competition

A course that contains mainly tunnels, but may also contain barrels (to change direction) and Hoops (start and finish obstacles). Maximum of 14 obstacles.

9.3. Team competition

Two or three handlers and two or three dogs make up a team (according to the competition notice). Faults and times also add up. The team must complete the run with the shortest time and with the fewest mistakes.

9.4. Barrel competition

A course consisting mainly of barrels, but the first and last obstacle must be a hoop. Maximum of 14 obstacles.

9.5. Open competition

It is not an official category, it does not give a qualification. The distance between obstacles is 5 – 8 meters, the farthest obstacle from the square (3*3 m) is 10 meters. The track must contain a minimum of 18 – a maximum of 25 obstacles, one obstacle can be included more than once in the track.

10. Unforeseen circumstances

An events other than the handler's fault that adversely affects the pair (e.g. a dog runs into the course, an obstacle collapses due to the wind blowing it away)

The judge may stop the competitor, and when the obstacle has been restored or the hindering factor has been removed, the judge will restart the pair from the start.

Errors acquired before shutdown remain. No other errors can be obtained until that point. However, the handler must complete the course to the best of his ability. Further faults can only be acquired by the handler by continuing from the point of stopping.

11. Competition organization

Any club, company or individual may request permission from Hoopers Hungary to organize competitions according to the rules of Hoopers Hungary. Licensed competitions are considered official competitions, and the results achieved in such competitions count towards leveling up as well as the national ranking list (under development)

At each competition, the organizer must ensure the following:

- Making the rules of Hoopers Hungary available
- Making the start list and result list available online
- Equipment in accordance with the rules of Hoopers Hungary
- Adequate quality track
- Optional electronic timer
- Safety timer – stopwatch

- After leveling up, the pair can compete in the lower category for 3 more competition days. Then the pair must level up. Checking the list is the task of the competition organizer, which can be checked on the HH website: <http://www.hoopershungary.hu/2023-evi-verseny-eredmenyek/>
- Prizes
- Qualified judge for the races – official judges of Hoopers Hungary (under development)
- Helpers for the smooth running of the competition (2 scribes, timekeepers, track assistant)
- At the request of the judge, it is the task of the assistant to watch the exit from the square, which a competition organizer provides for the judge.
- The organizer is obliged to hold a ceremonial results announcement for teams that achieved a podium position based on composite results.
- Hoopers Hungary has the exclusive right to organize the Hungarian National Hoopers Championship

The request for permission to organize the competition must be submitted in writing to Hoopers Hungary to e-mail address: hoopershungary@gmail.com

The request must include:

- Marking the location of the competition
- The date of competition
- The announced runs
- The name of the requested judge/judges
- The maximum number of entries

12. Organization

Currently being developed by Hoopers Hungary

- Procedure for registration of Hoopers competitors (program under development)
- Performance books
- Approval of level steps
- Appointment and delegation of Trainers and Judges recognized by Hoopers Hungary