

CARO COURSE DESIGN CHECKLIST V8-2025 04

Please note that this checklist contains general information and should be used in conjunction with the MGH for all requirements. This checklist may be updated on occasion – please make sure you are using the most current version.

In General:

- Clearly legible (may be hand drawn)
- Same map as provided to competitors
- Map made to scale using a 10 ft grid
- Ring boundary clearly marked

Header:

- Level & Round #
- Host Name
- Trial Date & Number
- Ring Size
- Time limit for class(es) offered
- Designed by Judge "your name"

Map:

- Any pillars or obstructions indicated
- All stations are numbered
- Correct icons are used
- 400+ signs are orange/all others are white
- Directional arrows **required** for Novice/Novice team and may be used for all other levels
- All cone exercises (incl food bowls) have entry and exit clearly indicated with arrows for **all** levels
- For Team – both team waiting areas are clearly marked

Legend:

- Regular levels have 15 to 20 stations
- Team levels have 16, 18, or 20 stations
- All stations include description and sign number
- Legend and icons on map match
- HALT** stations are in **BOLD** (Max 5 all levels)
- Sign level descriptions are indicated with colour (N-black/Adv-blue/Exc-green/V&VE-orange)
- Bone icon for reward stations may be used and if so, clearly marked
- (R) & (L) clearly indicated for V/VE

Design:

- Min 8 ft from boundary before START station and after FINISH station and before TEAM 2' s first station
- All signs are to the right or, in front for change path of travel
- Change path of travel, directional change stations have adequate space
- Stations 318/319/541/542 are 5' min from boundary (back up side)
- Correct distances between stations (generally 10 ft or 15 ft min)
- Correct minimum distance between last cone/weave pole/obstacle to next station
- All signs can be clearly seen regarding the line of travel
- Handler's path is min 5 ft wide and clear throughout
- Considers the needs of large dogs and brace (extra foot for cones/food bowls)
- Cone exercises and obstacles are not placed consecutively
- Spirals are not preceded by or followed by a turn of greater than 90 degrees in the same direction (not incl HALT stations)

Design continued:

- All cone exercises and obstacles must have an entrance path straight into the first cone or send zone of no more than 45 degrees

Obstacles:

- All obstacles minimum 3 ft from ring boundary or any obstructions
- Jump – Adv 3X10
- Jump/Tunnel - Exc/V/VE 6X10
- Broad – all levels 3X10
- Length of tunnel indicated
- Tunnel curve does not exceed maximum allowance of 70 degrees
- Path into and out of obstacles is clear of obstruction – including other station signs on or near the lines (5' and 14' lines)
- Food bowls are not in line of travel of dog entering/exiting an obstacle

Regular (15-20 stations)	Team (16/18/20 stations)
<p>NOVICE (3 to 4 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 100-109 – min 2/max 5 (HALT stations) <input type="checkbox"/> 118-120 – min 1 (pace change) <input type="checkbox"/> 121-125 – min 2 (fronts) <input type="checkbox"/> 126-129 – min 1 (cones) 	<p>NOVICE (4 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> same requirements as regular <input type="checkbox"/> Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
<p>INTERMEDIATE (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced – min 6 – excludes 201, 212, 213, 214, 220 	<p>INTERMEDIATE (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> same requirements as regular <input type="checkbox"/> Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
<p>ADVANCED (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced – min 8 (including 220) <input type="checkbox"/> 220 – 1 (jump) 	<p>ADVANCED (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> same requirements as regular PLUS: <input type="checkbox"/> One team – 220 <input type="checkbox"/> Other team – one of 203, 204, 205 <input type="checkbox"/> Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
<p>EXCELLENT (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced – min 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent – min 5 (including obstacle(s)) <input type="checkbox"/> 311-314 – min 1 (obstacle) 	<p>EXCELLENT (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> same requirements as regular PLUS: <input type="checkbox"/> One team – one of 311-314 <input type="checkbox"/> Other team – one of 303/304/305 <input type="checkbox"/> Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
<p>VERSATILITY (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 400-408 – 3 or 4 (change of sides) <input type="checkbox"/> 311-314, 439-442 - 1 (obstacle) <input type="checkbox"/> 100-131 - Left sided stations <input type="checkbox"/> 400-444 - Right sided stations <input type="checkbox"/> Min 2 stations follow each change of side 	<p>VERSATILITY (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> same requirements as regular PLUS: <input type="checkbox"/> One team – one of 311-314, 439-442 <input type="checkbox"/> Other team – one of 415/416 or 313/314/441/442 (same obstacle may be used for both) <input type="checkbox"/> Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
<p>VERSATILITY EXCELLENT (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 400-408, 500-502 – 3 or 4 (change of sides) <input type="checkbox"/> 439-442 – min 1 (obstacle on right) (may have 2nd obstacle on left or right) <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced series 200-223 (left), series 500-522 (right) – min 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent series 300-320 (left), series 523-542 (right) – min 5 (including obstacle(s)) <input type="checkbox"/> Min 2 stations follow each change of side 	<p>VERSATILITY EXCELLENT (3 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> same requirements as regular PLUS: <input type="checkbox"/> One team – one of 439-442 (obstacle on right) <input type="checkbox"/> Other team – one of 507/511/529 or 313/314/441/442 (same obstacle may be used for both) <input type="checkbox"/> Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down