

CARO COURSE DESIGN CHECKLIST V10-2025 09

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, signs for obstacles are placed at the send zone line (to the right for left-sided stations and to the left for right-sided stations)
- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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
- ☐ 50% of station signs (based on the sign number) are swapped out or change locations from one map to the next in the same level including team (ie:16 stations including S & F, 8 stations are changed)
- ☐ Considers the needs of large dogs and brace (extra foot for cones/food bowls)

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)
NOVICE (3 to 4 minutes) ☐ 100-109 – min 2/max 5 (HALT stations) ☐ 118-120 – min 1 (pace change) ☐ 121-125 – min 2 (fronts) ☐ 126-129 – min 1 (cones)	NOVICE (4 minutes) ☐ same requirements as regular ☐ Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
INTERMEDIATE (3 minutes) ☐ Advanced –min 6 –excludes 201,202,212,213,214,220	INTERMEDIATE (3 minutes) ☐ same requirements as regular ☐ Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
ADVANCED (3 minutes) ☐ Advanced – min 8 (including 220) ☐ 220 – 1 (jump)	ADVANCED (3 minutes) ☐ same requirements as regular PLUS: ☐ One team – 220 ☐ Other team – one of 203, 204, 205 ☐ Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
EXCELLENT (3 minutes) ☐ Advanced – min 3 ☐ Excellent – min 5 (including obstacle(s)) ☐ 311-314 – min 1 (obstacle)	EXCELLENT (3 minutes) ☐ same requirements as regular PLUS: ☐ One team – one of 311-314 ☐ Other team – one of 303/304/305 or 311/312/313/314 (same obstacle may be used for both) ☐ Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
VERSATILITY (3 minutes) ☐ 400-408 – 3 or 4 (change of sides) ☐ 311-314, 439-442 - 1 (obstacle) ☐ 100-131 - Left sided stations ☐ 400-444 - Right sided stations ☐ Min 2 stations follow each change of side	VERSATILITY (3 minutes) ☐ same requirements as regular PLUS: ☐ One team – one of 311-314, 439-442 ☐ Other team – one of 415/416 or 313/314/441/442 (same obstacle may be used for both) ☐ Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down
VERSATILITY EXCELLENT (3 minutes) ☐ 400-408, 500-502 – 3 or 4 (change of sides) ☐ 439-442 – min 1 (obstacle on right) (may have 2nd obstacle on left or right) ☐ Advanced series 200-223 (left), series 500-522 (right) – min 3 ☐ Excellent series 300-320 (left), series 523-542 (right) – min 5 (including obstacle(s)) ☐ Min 2 stations follow each change of side	VERSATILITY EXCELLENT (3 minutes) ☐ same requirements as regular PLUS: ☐ One team – one of 439-442 (obstacle on right) ☐ Other team – one of 507/511/529 or 313/314/441/442 (same obstacle may be used for both) ☐ Last station for team one ends with a sit or a down