

Sequencing 2, Week 6

Skill: Running a Novice Course

Instructors may use any novice level standard course that they choose. I am giving two novice courses that may be used. You can even do both in one night. But if it is windy, determine which is best for the chute to be placed to accommodate the wind, and do only that course. If students are repeating, try using a different course. Notice the weave poll entrances. They are quite difficult, but this is what we are seeing in Novice. Use off-set weave polls and wire guides if necessary. Six poles is all they will need.

Start out showing the handlers how to walk a course using the white numbers. Look for the turns that the dog makes. Ask handlers how they can negotiate those turns. There is a sharp turn between 4 and 5, but a cross would not be beneficial because of where the dog goes next. A front cross between 6 and 7 would be better. A rear cross could also be done between 7 and 8, but they would need to use the out command. There is another turn between 11 and 12 with lots of options. The handler can front cross between 10 and 11, rear cross between 10 and 11, or use the out command and a rear cross between 11 and 12. If they do not have a good lead out on the table, I would suggest a rear cross between 10 and 11. If the dog is slow, I would suggest the out command with the rear cross between 11 and 12. My personal favorite would be the front cross after the tunnel.

Following the black numbers, there is a sharp turn after 4 to 5 and 6. A front cross between 4 and 5 would show the dog a wrong course toward the see-saw. Can they do a front cross between 5 and 6? Yes, if they can get ahead of their dog, and if they have good contacts and lateral distance from the dog. Most will probably want to do a rear cross between 5 and 6. Handlers need to call their dog before they leave the tunnel to let them know that they are on a different side than what they started out on. After the weaves a front cross could be done, but the handler needs to get very far ahead of the dog. They could also do a rear cross between 9 and 10, or a front cross between 9 and 10.

Try to get the handler's to run the course one way to start with and a different way the second time. The instructors may time the students if they want. Discuss refusals, wrong courses and other faults that each may receive. They may have 2 of each type of fault in novice, but no more than three total to qualify.

Let the students know if they have met the criteria for moving into the competition class. If not, then remind them that every dog and handler learns at different speeds. We do not want them to be frustrated in having to repeat the sequencing classes or in jumping ahead too fast.