



## Part 1: Competitor Rules

**Hurdle Over 2020** is a just-for-fun competition and a Club Fundraiser aimed at lifting spirits in the Barn Hunt community in the face of a difficult year. Dogs at any level can compete. All competitions must be held by a Barn Hunt Club. Scores do not count toward any Barn Hunt title.

In **Hurdle Over 2020**, the dog must jump over a series of five 4" tall hurdles or jumps to reach 3 tubes openly secured on the ground in front of a hay bale "stop." One tube will be empty, one will have litter and one will have a live rat. The racing lane will be a 4-foot high fenced area that is 4-5 feet wide by 80 feet long. The fencing will butt up against the ends of the hurdles/jumps. Hurdles/jumps are placed evenly along the length of the track at 20' 30' 40', 50' and 60'. Course time is 1 minute. The numbers 1, 2, and 3 will be prominently affixed to the hay bale stop just above each respective tube, left to right from the handler's viewpoint. There will be two rounds, and the combined score of both rounds will count toward the Club and National awards and placements. All times are recorded to the 100th of a second.

### **All COVID rules must be followed at this event.**

- All dogs entering must have a Barn Hunt registration number. Competitors must ensure their address and email is up to date in the Barn Hunt Register as national awards will be mailed.
- Competitors may enter multiple dogs and can run multiple times if the Club allows, but only one set of two runs is considered for Awards.
  - If the Club is allowing practice runs, the competitor must declare in advance if the run is a practice run or an Official run. If a practice run, no scribe sheet is used. The run may be timed, but no score is given and the run does not count toward the Club or National competition. Once the handler has declared the run an Official run, their scribe sheet is pulled. That run and the next run the Handler makes with that dog are their two official allotted runs. There are no practice runs allowed between the two Official runs, and teams may not continue to try for a faster time.
- Dogs may run without a collar or may wear a flat buckle or snap collar. No chain, martingale, choke, or prong collars allowed.
- Two people are required for each dog – a handler and holding partner. The holding partner will restrain the dog behind the start line inside the fenced area/lane. The handler will be stationed behind the start line outside the fenced area and can run on either side.
  - All dogs must be capable of being held by another person for release.
- The judge will give a hand signal and/or call GO (or electronic timers signal GO), after which the holding partner releases the dog without bowling.
- Handlers may not cross the start line until the judge/timer says GO and the dog has been released. Handlers cannot lead out.
- Time starts when any part of the dog crosses the start line, and stops when the handler calls the rat and the judge stops the time.
- Handlers may run down the line with the dog to the end or send the dog ahead. Holding partners must stay behind the start line.
- Handlers cannot call a rat tube number until the dog has crossed all 5 hurdles. Dogs who do not cross all 5 hurdles do not receive a qualifying score.
- Knocking over a hurdle/jump does not incur a penalty.
- Leaving the course (dog jumps out of the lane) will result in an NQ score.

### **Hurdle Over 2020 Awards:**

**Hurdle Over 2020** is a nationwide competition. Local clubs will offer ribbons and/or prizes for the top 4 dogs in each height plus first, second and third place overall. However, offerings may be modest; this event is a Club fundraiser. Nationally, ribbons will be given for first through fourth place overall in each height. First, second, and third place overall will also receive a ribbon and award. In the case of a tie at the National level, duplicate ribbons/awards for that level will be given. Nationwide awards will be announced via a livestream event at a date to be determined in December.

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## Part 2: Club and Judge Rules

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In order to hold a **Hurdle Over 2020** Event, a Club must be active and in good standing with the BHA. A licensed Judge is preferred but not required.

- Clubs wishing to hold a **Hurdle Over 2020** Event must apply via the Hurdles application in Secretary functions and use the excel spreadsheet and scribe sheets available on the website. Do not alter the spreadsheet columns or add columns. The completed spreadsheet must be returned to [info@barnhunt.com](mailto:info@barnhunt.com) within 3 days of the Club's event. Each dog will only be recorded once, with a cumulative time (do not enter each run time separately).
- Each Club can only hold one event, but that event may be held over more than one day. See the competitor rules about practice vs official runs.
- There are no Event Application Fees or Run fees charged for this event. Clubs are urged to keep dog entry fees reasonable to encourage entries.
- Clubs may not use brown qualifying ribbons for this event as it is not an event where qualifying scores count toward a title. The Club's regular Barn Hunt 1-4 placement ribbons can be used for placements by height. If the Club wishes to offer a qualifying ribbon, use black with silver as an homage to this dumpster fire of a year. Overall first, second, and third prizes must be offered and can be ribbons or other prizes.
- Logowear and mugs are available at [zazzle.com/barnhunt](https://www.zazzle.com/barnhunt). You can also request the logo to use on your own prizes.
- The event may be scheduled on a date of the Club's choosing between October 16 and November 30, 2020. It can be held as a stand alone event, or in conjunction with a regular Barn Hunt event. If held during an Event, this special event can have open hours during the event, or be scheduled before and/or after.
- Typically, this event works best without a specific running order; scribe sheets are alphabetized by handler then dog and put in a box at the head of the course.
- Judges may run their dogs. All Club members may run their dogs. Judging may be traded off as necessary.
- The rat tube location is switched every dog, with the judge using a number randomizer to dictate placement. Plan on switching out Rat Wranglers often. The RW can be in the fenced area with the judge standing behind or to the side.
- The scribe sheet has a place for both runs on it. The judge will pull the scribe sheet for the dog only after the competitor has informed the judge that it is an official run. Then that run, and the dog's next run, are the two official recordings for that dog. An NQ for any reason is given a full time of 60 seconds for that run.
- Clubs can designate that first runs happen at a specific time and second runs at a different time (i.e., first runs 8 to noon, second runs 1 to 4), or can allow competitors to run both runs consecutively.

## Part 3: Setting up the Course and Area

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- Clubs will need 100' of level ground, indoors or out, with space for a competitor to be able to choose which side they wish to use when running their dog.
- Clubs may use either 4' or 5' wide jumps, or PVC hurdles. The fencing needs to butt right up against the end of the jump/hurdle so the dogs don't go around.
- The startline must extend outside the fenced lane to each side so handlers know where to stand. Only holding partners are inside the fence. Electronic timers can be inside the fence.
- One blind must be used, to stage the next competitor. One blind chair should be provided, and sanitary wipes nearby so the next competitor can wipe down the chair.
- In addition to the judge at the end of the lane, an observer/judge must be at the start of the lane to get teams ready and make sure there are no startline faults. Walkie-talkies are strongly encouraged. The end line judge releases team with a hand and/or verbal signal and the team can leave the start any time after that.
- Both ends of the lane must be enclosed and have gates. The start area should be about 10' deep but can be the width of the lane. The hay bale stop is right at 80' with the tubes directly in front of the stop. The back area needs to be wider with a place for the judge. It is preferred to have an entry gate on each side of the back area. The judge may stand or sit on a high stool or director's chair.
- The scribe should be outside the lane, 10' away except when reading the judge's stopwatch.
- Electronic timers are encouraged but not required. If electronic timing is used, the electronic timer can start the run but the judge must push the button to stop it after the handler calls the rat.
- The cradles used for this event must be VERY SECURE since there will be some delay in the handler being able to get into the fenced area and to their dog. Weighted and/or anchored if at all possible. Dogs must not be able to yank a tube out of the cradle. Bungee cords are not sufficient.