



NADAC Equipment Specifications and Recommendations

January 15, 2025

Contact Obstacle Specifications

Contact obstacles should always have a non-slip surface that provides good traction for the dogs without being so rough as to damage the dog's pads. Surfaces must be maintained on a regular basis to ensure that dogs will not slip or injure themselves when performing these obstacles.

Either rubber matting or rubber granules are allowed. Surfaces should be matching materials for all contact obstacles used in the same ring.

All contact zones must have a clear line of demarcation (top **and** sides), 42" from the bottom of the ramp to the top of the line. This may be done by painting the lower 42" with a contrasting color or applying a minimum of a 1" wide white line at the 42" point on the contact ramp.

Non-slatted contacts are the NADAC default and the recommended style. Slatted are allowed, with stipulations, as shown below, copied from the Trial Secretaries Handbook.

"NADAC is currently allowing Clubs to use Slatted contacts with the following stipulations:

- 1) The slats are **required** to be low profile, rounded and rubber coated
- 2) The Club is **required** to state that slatted contacts are being used in their premium
- 3) The Club will **not** be eligible to host national or regional type events.
- 4) The Club is **required** to post the following in their premium as an informational section:

"The trial you are entering is using slatted contact equipment. For many years slats have NOT been used in NADAC trials. The reasons for this are, with the lowered height of the NADAC A-frame and the advent of rubber coated equipment, NADAC found that slats became unnecessary in the sport, because the dogs had more than enough grip with the rubber coatings. NADAC was the first organization to use rubber contact equipment and we feel that the removal of slats was the correct, logical next move. The reason for this allowance is to encourage new clubs to try NADAC, without needing to purchase a specific set of equipment for NADAC. The current generation of slats, we feel, are no longer a safety concern, like many of the previous generations, so, while we believe they are not needed for dogs competing in NADAC, we also feel that it won't hurt to have them either. It should be noted that, any and all national NADAC events (i.e. Championships) that you attend will be using non-slatted contact equipment, only."

The following table shows the allowable heights, the width and length of the ramps allowed, and the length of the contact zone for each obstacle.

	Ramp Length	Ramp Width	Height	Contact Zone
A-frame	8' or 9'	3' to 4'	4'8" for 8' ramps 5' for 9' ramps	42 inches
Dog Walk	11'6" to 12'	11.25" to 12" (12" recommended)	46" to 50"	42 inches

Weave Pole Specifications

Weave poles shall be of rigid construction.

The poles are **required** to be 24" spacing, measured from the center of one pole to the center of the next pole.

The base of the weave poles shall be no more than 1/2" in height.

If the width of the base is 2 inches or less, a non-slip coating is **recommended**.

If the width of the base is more than 2 inches wide, a non-slip coating is **required**.

Any joints in the bases are **required** to have a positive connection. This ensures weave pole spacing stays true and aligned at those locations.

There shall be no rough or protruding edges along the base of the weave poles, nor any bolts or nuts in an area which a dog may step on while weaving. Consideration should be taken for the many sizes of dogs which will be using the weave poles.

The weave poles shall be 40" - 48" in height. The poles should be constructed from 3/4" (1" Outside Diameter (OD)) Schedule 40 PVC.

The support legs should be offset so that the dog's path never crosses over a support leg and are to be of sufficient length (12-18") to support the poles without staking. The sets of weave poles should be of sufficient weight as to not need staking to remain in place.

Staking of weave poles is **not** allowed for NADAC Sanctioned events or VT's.

Open Tunnel Specifications

The diameter (opening/exit) of the open tunnel shall be 24-26”.

The length shall be no less than 10’ and no more than 20’. 15’ and 20’ are standard for trials.

Tunnels should be of a 4” pitch.

Tunnels not in good repair should not be used. This includes those with holes, loose threads, or easily collapsible ends. These issues pose a safety hazard to the dogs.

Tunnel Holder Specifications

NADAC recommends “saddle bag” type tunnel holders be used for all NADAC classes. At Least 20 pounds of sand or 3 gallons of water, in **each** bag, has proven to be sufficient to hold tunnels in place. **Note:** If sand is used, it is recommended that it be dispersed into individual zip lock baggies and then inserted into the tunnel bag.

Tunnel Snugglers, “Omega” holders, or holders with flat plates and straps are allowed.

Bungee cords or chains are **not** allowed.

Metal “cradle” type tunnel holders are **not** allowed.

Required Tunnel Bag Spacing:

15’ Tunnels: 4 bags are **required**. They should be **spaced evenly** throughout the tunnel.

20’ Tunnels: 5 Bags are **required**. They should be **spaced evenly** throughout the tunnel.

Use of more than the recommended number of bags is allowed and encouraged.

See diagram at the end of this document for pictures of correct and incorrect tunnel bagging.

Non-Winged Jump Specifications

All jumps are to be 4’ to 5’ wide.

Uprights/stanchions are to be a minimum of 32” high and adjustable for the jump heights: 4”, 8”, 12”, 16”, and 20”.

As of June 1, 2023: Jumps should be made of all Plastic/PVC. The only allowed variance is, specifically, 2 piece (no bottom connecting bar) light weight metal (aluminum) jump stanchions. All jump cups are **required** to be made of Plastic or Rubber.

Bars must be easily displaceable, and made of PVC/Plastic. 1" (1¼" Outside Diameter OD) Schedule 40 PVC is the recommended material. ¾" (1" OD) & 1¼" (1 ½" OD) Schedule 40 PVC are allowed.

Only one bar per jump is required for all non-winged jumps.

NADAC recommends the use of individual jump stanchions constructed out of plastic. This is to ensure that if a dog collides with a jump, it falls easily without causing injury.

Winged Jump Specifications

Winged Jumps are allowed with the same specifications as above applied.

Wings should be free of sharp or hazardous edges and shall be a **minimum** of 6" to 12" higher than the highest jump height of 20".

Only one bar per jump is required for all winged jumps.

Barrel Specifications

Barrels used should be made of either a mesh, cloth, or plastic material.

Barrels should be 23"-28" in diameter and no less than 28" tall.

One end of the barrel should be solid or have a design that allows a tunnel holder/weighted item to be placed inside to hold the barrel down. This ensures the barrel will stay in place in case of windy situations.

Hoop Specifications

The Hoop is constructed of two pieces, the "base" and the "hoop", joined together. Both pieces shall be made of plastic.

See diagram below

Overall Hoop height should be 36" and the width 34"-36".

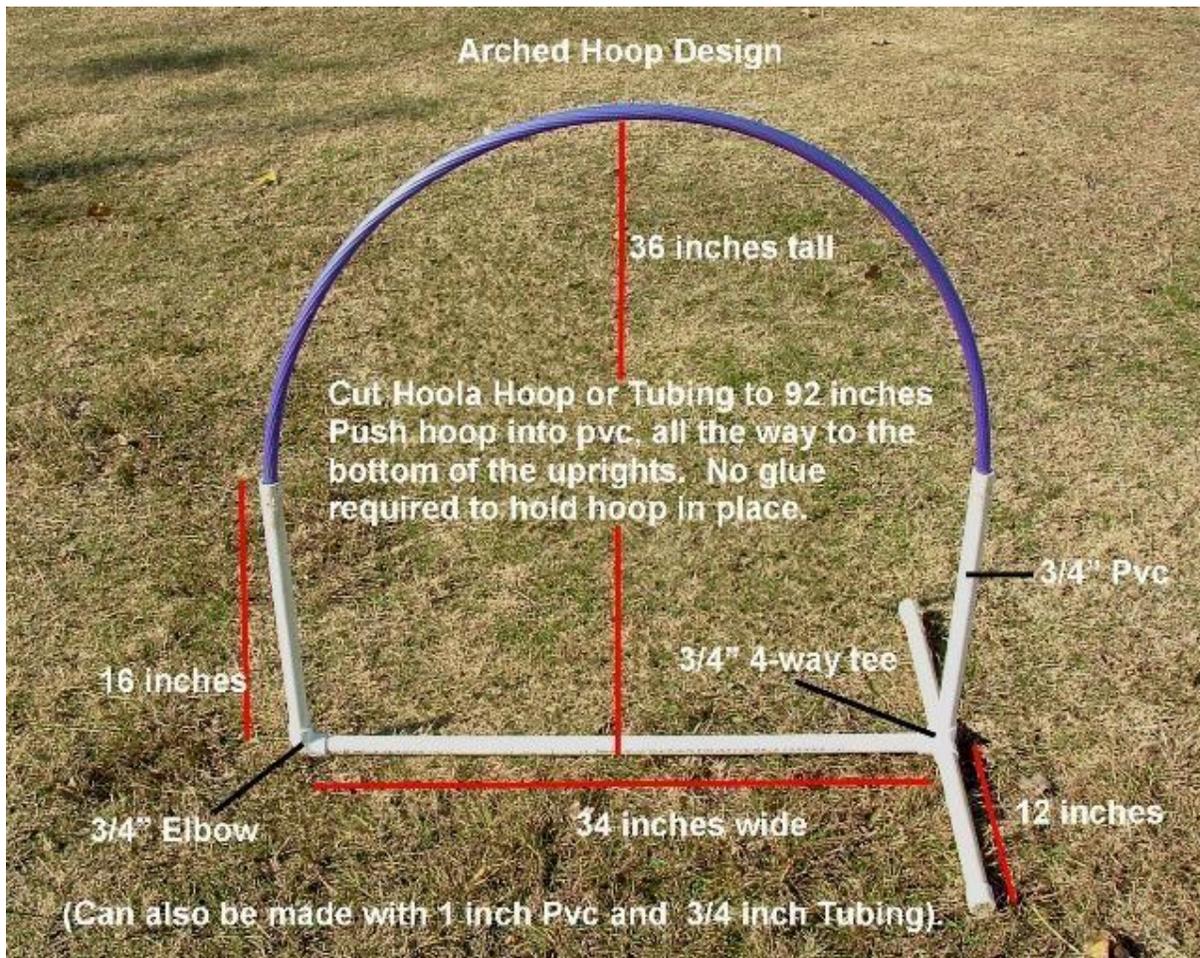
There should be support feet extending 12" in each direction, on one side.

Uprights should be 16" tall.

It is recommended the "base" (white in diagram below) should be made of 1"(1 ¼" Outside Diameter (OD)) Schedule 40 PVC. ¾" (1" OD) Schedule 40 PVC is allowed.

The "hoop" (purple in diagram below) should be made of "PEX Pipe" material (Hula Hoops or other semi-rigid plastics allowed) cut to 92" long and inserted into the 16" base uprights. (½" Pex for ¾ PVC and ¾" Pex for 1" PVC) The "hoop" material should be pushed into the uprights until it contacts the bottom of the base, resulting in a 36" overall height to the top of the arc.

****picture shows ¾" PVC and ½" Pex being used****



Correct Tunnel Bagging



Incorrect Tunnel Bagging

