

## Session 2023-3 Course Descriptions (June-August 2023)

Below is a list of classes being offered in the upcoming NADA session 2023-3 for which you may be eligible. Courses with different numbers indicate different levels of training.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE START DATES AS THEY VARY**

**All courses will be held at our training facility at 10 Pearl Place.  
For the most recent information on NADA & COVID please go to  
<https://www.nfldathleticdog.com/covid-19-updates>**

### **DOG SPORTS FOUNDATIONS:**

A: Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm, **for 8 weeks, starting June 7th**, with Lois Hammond & Bev Stevenson

B: Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting June 7th**, with Jennifer Clarke & Lesleigh vB  
**Prerequisite for this course: your dog should be at least 6 months old.**

The purpose of this class is to provide handlers and dogs with the necessary skills and information needed to create great teams entering sports such as Agility, Flyball and Rally Obedience. It is well known that the skills sports dogs need are the same as those that dogs need to be great family pets! The key to any Foundations class, including the NADA Foundations class, is to teach skills that will enable the dog to give attention, offer behaviours, respond to cues, target and exhibit self-control. Some topics that will be covered are Marker Based Training, ways to start a behavior including capturing, shaping and luring, the importance of play in learning. impulse control, loose leash walking/reinforcement zone and recalls. **The first class is without dogs.**

### **LEVEL 1 AGILITY:**

A: Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00pm, **for 8 weeks, starting June 6th**, with Paul Marino & Paula Neville

B: Thursdays, 11:30am-12:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting June 15th**, with Carla McGrath & Terry Parrell

**Prerequisite for this course: successful completion of Dog Sports Foundations.**

This class will further improve your relationship and communication with your dog, and give you and your dog the confidence, awareness, and skills, which are foundations to the sport of agility. Exercises and homework will focus on basic obedience, impulse control, body awareness, and confidence on solid/narrow/moving obstacles. Dogs that have these skills will learn agility faster and more safely, preparing them for the introduction to obstacles.

### **LEVEL 2 AGILITY:**

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm, **for 8 weeks, starting June 7th**, with Marguerite Foote & Fred Rowe

**Prerequisite for this course: successful completion of Level 1 Agility.**

This class focuses on introducing canine partners to each of the agility obstacles, while getting them used to working off leash. Teams will train on obstacles such as, the dog walk, teeter, A-frame, jumps and tunnels. Teams will build on 2o2o skills introduced in Level 1, will work to advance handling skills, and will be introduced to the running contact for the A-Frame.

### **LEVEL 3 AGILITY:**

Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting June 6th**, with Dawn Bignell

**Prerequisite for this course: successful completion of Level 2 Agility.**

Agility Level 3 continues to build on the skills acquired in Agility Level 2 and will enable teams to work through sequences in upper-level agility courses. At the end of the course, dogs will have greater value for the equipment, and handlers will have knowledge of the basic skills needed to 'handle' their dog through an agility course. Classes will run for 8 weeks and will be divided into two parts. The first part will consist of 4 handler-only classes, during which handlers will be introduced to basic handling terms and skills, including drive lines, dog leads, crosses (front, rear, blind), pivot turns/shoulder rotations, running and support arms, and ketschker turns. In addition, the handler-only classes will cover some basic handler fitness, speed and agility exercises. The second part of the course will consist of 4 dog-handler classes in which we will aim to (i) continue building the dog's value for the teeter and other equipment, (ii) introduce teams to small sequences, (iii) practice flatwork exercises that test the dog's understanding of basic handling skills, and (iv) continue working on the running A-frame. The course includes 4 weeks of free facility drop-ins for independent practicing of skills with dogs.

### **JUMPS AND TUNNELS:**

Thursdays, 6:00-7:15pm, **for 8 weeks, starting June 15th**, with Heather Skanes

**Prerequisite for this course: completion of Level 3 Agility.**

This class is designed for those students who have completed Level 3 agility. The dogs are proficient on all obstacles and handlers are just starting to gain confidence in their handling with understanding of the different crosses and handling maneuvers used in agility. Jumps and tunnels will be used to solidify this knowledge and introduce teams to simple lines and skills to confidently sequence multiple obstacles.

### **Sequencing and Reading Lines:**

Mondays, 5:45-7:15pm, **for 8 weeks, starting June 5th**, with Dianne Ford

**Prerequisite for this course: Triple Double Basic is recommended, in addition to those prior to this course, including Jumps & Tunnels and Contacts & Sequencing.** Note: Weaves will be incorporated into this course's sequences. Description: In this course, handlers learn how to find the most efficient and safest path for their dog and then how to support the dog's path via their own handling path. The courses in the class start around the Beginner/Novice level (UKI rating), Starters/Advanced (AAC level). However, they will be run as full courses, but instead typically as two sequences of 9-11 obstacles. All equipment is used in this course.

### **Games Skills & Strategy -- Going the Distance:**

Mondays 7:30-9:00pm, for 8 weeks, starting June 5<sup>th</sup>, with Kim Cullen.

**Prerequisites for this course: L3 agility, Triple Double Basic, and Contacts & Sequencing are recommended courses prior to this course.**

**Description:** Designed for teams interested in building their handling skills and strategy for the games classes in agility. The course will primarily focus on Gamblers and Snooker but will also cover other games such as Power & Speed (UKI), Snakes & Ladders (UKI) and Points & Distance (CKC) events. Teams will learn the rules of these games and work on building skills and handling strategies to be successful in these events. This class would be appropriate for novice teams and/or more advanced teams wanting to build their experience for these games classes. All equipment (including contacts and weaves) will be used in this course.

### **HEELING SKILLS 1:**

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30pm, for 8 weeks, starting June 15<sup>th</sup>, with Elizabeth Zedel

**Prerequisite Level 1: successful completion of Dog Sports Foundations.**

Dogs coming into this class should have a solid understanding of shaping and luring mechanics, hand touches, wrapping a cone in both directions, and be highly food motivated.

The goal of this course is to work on building both joyful and precise heeling behaviours for use in sports such as Rally, Obedience, and Freestyle. Teams will learn a variety of games to build drive and enthusiasm while also balancing those games with precision-based skills, to create dogs who both love to heel and do so with great accuracy. This course is suitable both for dogs who have no previous heeling experience as well as dogs who already have a trained heeling behaviour and need to work on balancing the joy and precision in their performance. This is a homework-heavy course and consistent training at home between classes will be necessary to be successful. Crating is required for this class.

### **HEELING SKILLS 1 & 2\*\*:**

Wednesday, 2:15-3:15pm, for 8 weeks, starting June 7<sup>th</sup> with Lois Hammond

**Prerequisite Level 1: successful completion of Dog Sports Foundations.**

Dogs coming into this class should have a solid understanding of shaping and luring mechanics, hand touches, wrapping a cone in both directions, and be highly food motivated.

**Description:** The skill of heeling is a major component in Obedience and Rally Obedience. It is a complex skill and takes time to learn well. In Heeling Skills 1, you will be introduced to platforms and games that will lay the foundation for you and your canine partner to achieve the precision and enthusiastic drive required for excellent heeling. We will pay particular attention to handler mechanics as your ability to teach your dog directly influences your dog's ability to successfully learn. We continue building on these skills throughout Heeling Skills 1 and Heeling Skills 2 courses. This course is appropriate for students who have no heeling experience as well as for those who have taught their dogs to heel but who now want to work on creating more precision and confidence.

In addition, we will work on a number of positions (i.e. Down from a Stand Position; Sit from a Stand Position) using clean training loops. We will explain the method of training as well as the reason for asking our dogs to move in specific ways from one position to another.

During this combined course, students who are new to Heeling Skills will work on the beginning skills while any student who has already completed Heeling Skills 1 will work on the skills that are part of the next course. The prerequisite for Heeling Skills 1 is successful completion of the Foundation Course. To advance to Heeling Skills 2, students should have successfully completed Heeling Skills 1. There will be an evaluation at the end of this course. To be successful, consistent training at home between classes will be necessary.

Crating is required for this class. Students who are still teaching their dogs to love their kennels may attend but must be willing to work on that skill throughout the course.

*\*\* Note: If there are at least two people interested in Heeling Skills 2 and if there are more than 5 people in total interested in this class, Lois would be willing to offer the Heeling Skills 2 class separately from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. That would mean there would be three back to back classes on Wednesdays at the NADA facility: Foundations, Heeling Skills 1, and Heeling Skills 2.*

#### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO OBEDIENCE:**

Mondays, 11:00am-12:00pm, **for 8 weeks starting June 5th**, with Lois Hammond

**The prerequisite for this course is successful completion of emBARKing on Obedience.**

During emBARKing, we learned foundational components of several Obedience exercises: Sit/Stand for Examination; Retrieve; Broad Jump; and Change of Positions. Digging Deeper will continue to develop skills for these exercises and will introduce some foundational skills related to Drop on Recall.

#### **RALLY OBEDIENCE DEDICATED DROP-IN:**

Friday, 6:30pm-8:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting June 9th, 2023.**

Please note there is no designated instructor for this course; therefore, everyone is responsible for directing their own training. This is an opportunity for participants to set up a full course adaptable for all teams to work on at their own level or, if there is a consensus, to choose to work on shorter sequences or individual rally skills. Each team will be allocated timed turns. **This is open to NADA members only. Completion of Level 1 Rally or an equivalent Novice-level course is recommended.**