

## Session 2023-2 Course Descriptions (March – May 2023)

Below is a list of classes being offered in the upcoming NADA session 2023-01 for which you may be eligible. Courses with different numbers indicate different levels of training.

**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: Sundays, 6:00-7:00pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 26th**, with Jennie Murphy & Andrea Dillon.

B: Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 29th**, with Jennifer Clarke & Lesleigh vB

C: Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 29th**, with Jennie Murphy & Andrea Dillon.

**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 Mar 28th**, with Dianne Ford & Paul Marino

B: Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 25th**, 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 Mar29th**, with Marguerite Foote, Fred Rowe & Paula Neville.

**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:**

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar30th**, with Dawn Bignell & Carolyn Parsons

**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, 6:00-7:00pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 30**, with Terry Parrell.

**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. This class will also introduce teams to back sides of jumps and threadles.

### **Contacts and Sequencing:**

Sundays, 9:30-11:00am, **for 4 weeks, starting Mar 26th**, with Carolyn Parsons.

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

This class is designed for those students who have completed Level 3 agility. Teams will continue to work on independent 2o2o contacts and start using them in simple sequences broken down and handled in a way that works for you and your dog.

### **Starters/Novice Sequencing and Reading Lines:**

Tuesday, 7:30-9:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 28th**, with Heather Skanes.

**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.

### **ACE (Agility Competing with Ease) Preparation for High-level Competitions:**

Saturday, 2:30-4:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 25th**, with Kim Cullen.

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

**Description:** Designed for teams interested in preparing for competition at the AAC Regionals or UKI Cup/Classic level. Teams will work on course sequences that they will see at those competitions (i.e., Jumping, Agility, Steeplechase, Gamblers, Snooker) along with learning the methodology of being successful at these types of competition. The courses in the class will be at the Advanced-Masters (AAC) or Senior-Champ (UKI) levels. All equipment (including contacts and weaves) will be used in this course.

### **AGILITY DEDICATED DROP-INS:**

Saturday, 4:45-6:15pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 25th**.

Please note that in a Dedicated Drop-In there are no instructors, and everyone is responsible for directing their own training. This dedicated drop-in time is an opportunity for people to get together to set up long sequences and/or full courses. Each team will be allocated their timed turns (depending on your experience level, teams could work certain obstacles or run the full course). Dogs that are waiting their turn must be crated or must wait outside. Participants will take turns bringing in a course map to set up. **This is open to teams who have completed classes beyond Level 3 Agility, and who are comfortable sequencing greater than 8 obstacles (half of a regular course). This is ideal for teams preparing to compete in trials.**

### **HEELING SKILLS 1:**

A: Wednesday, 2:15-3:15pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 29th**, with Lois Hammond

B: Monday, 7:30-8:30pm, **for 8 weeks, starting Mar 27th**, 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.

**EMBARKING ON OBEDIENCE:**

**Saturday, 1:00-2:00pm**, for 8 weeks **starting Mar 25th**, with Lois Hammond

Begin learning skills you will need to compete in the sport of Obedience. In this course, you will work on Sit/Stand for Examination, Retrieve, Broad Jump, and Change of Positions. As with any training, these exercises will be split into small pieces and we will begin to learn some of these pieces. The prerequisite for this course is completion of Heeling Skills 1 and 2 or permission of the instructor.

**RALLY DEDICATED DROP-IN:**

**Friday, 6:30-8:30pm**, for 8 weeks, starting **Mar 24, 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.**