

FREE WEBINAR

The Evolution of the AKC National Agility Championship Finals Course
with Judge Heather Dickinson

NAC Finals Course Development – The starting point

What is a National Champion?

The **TEAM** that best demonstrates physical and mental skills from both dog and handler and also demonstrates exceptional training, teamwork, and trust.

Dog

- Jumping skills
- Turning skills
- Extension and collection

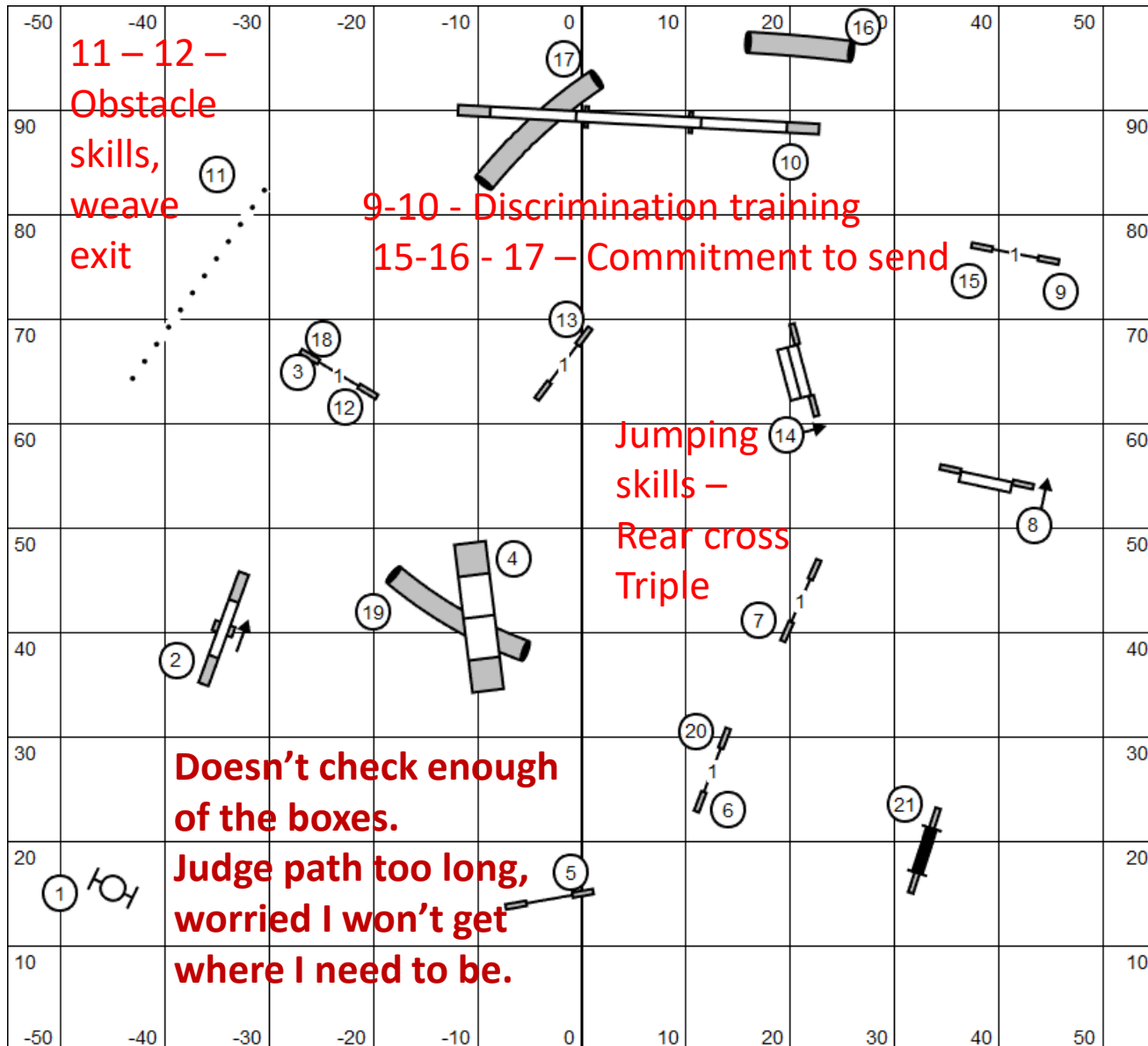
Handler

- Proprioception
- Strategy
- Handling choices

Dog Training

- Commitment
- Advanced independent obstacle performance

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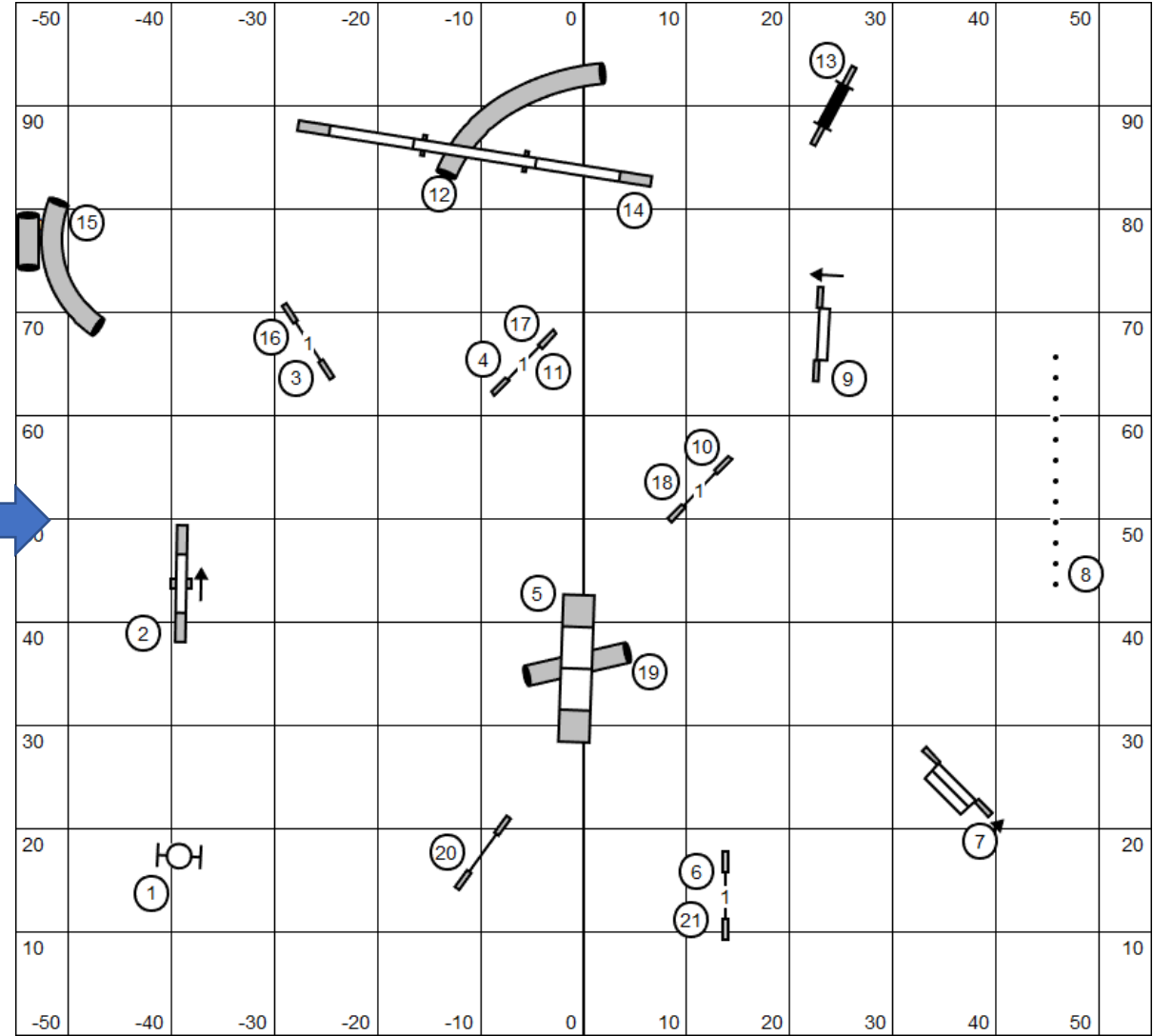
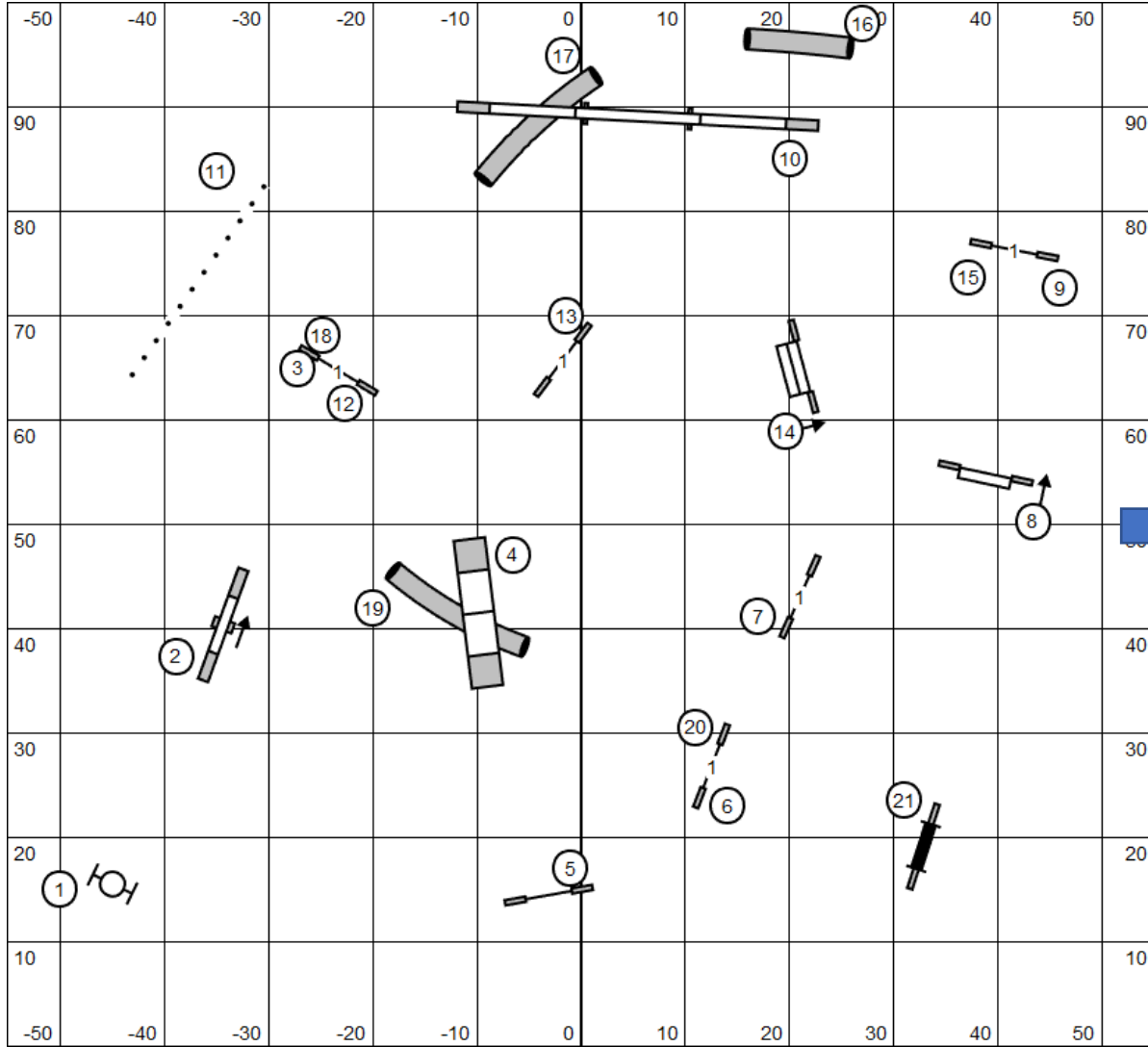
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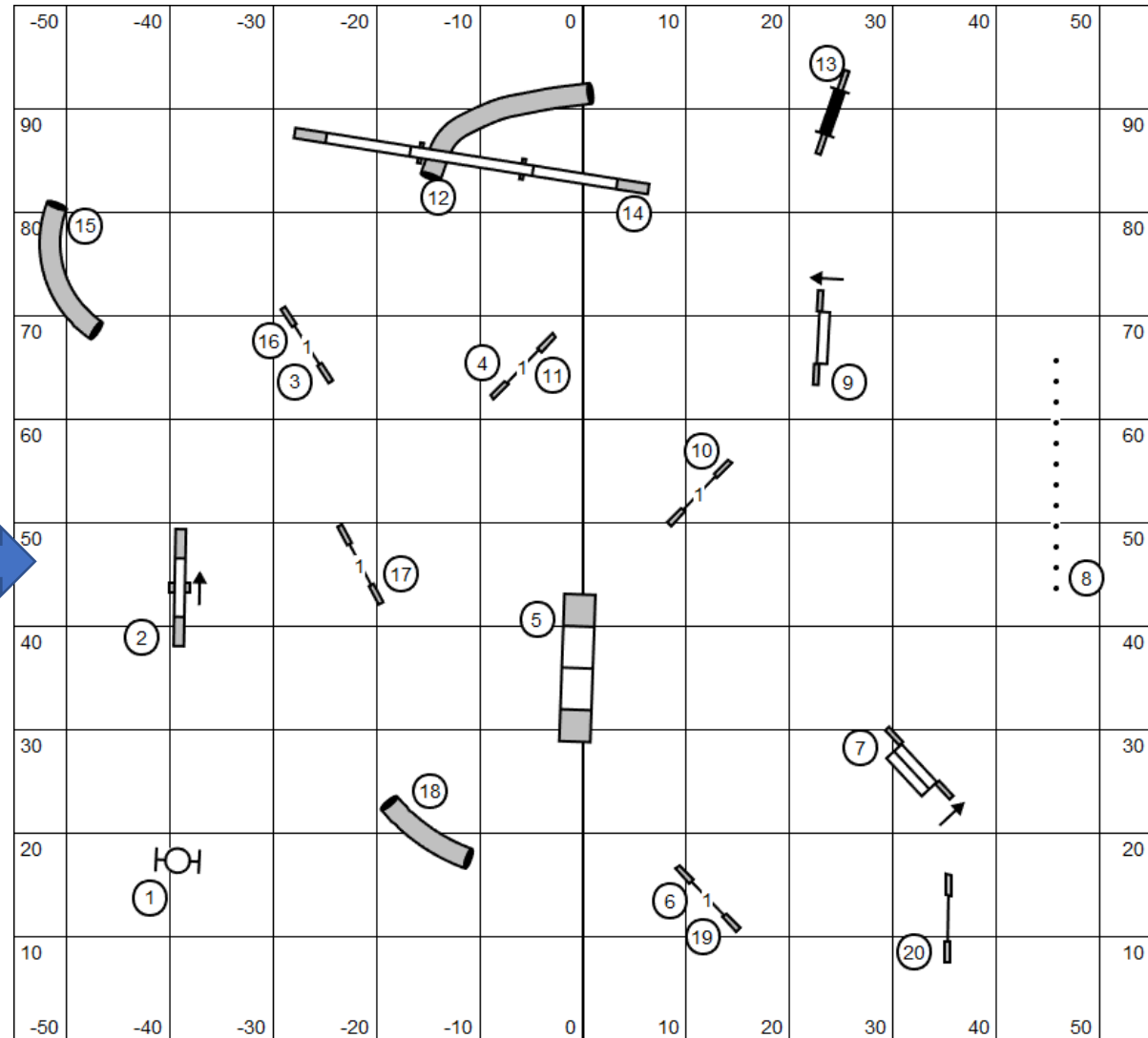
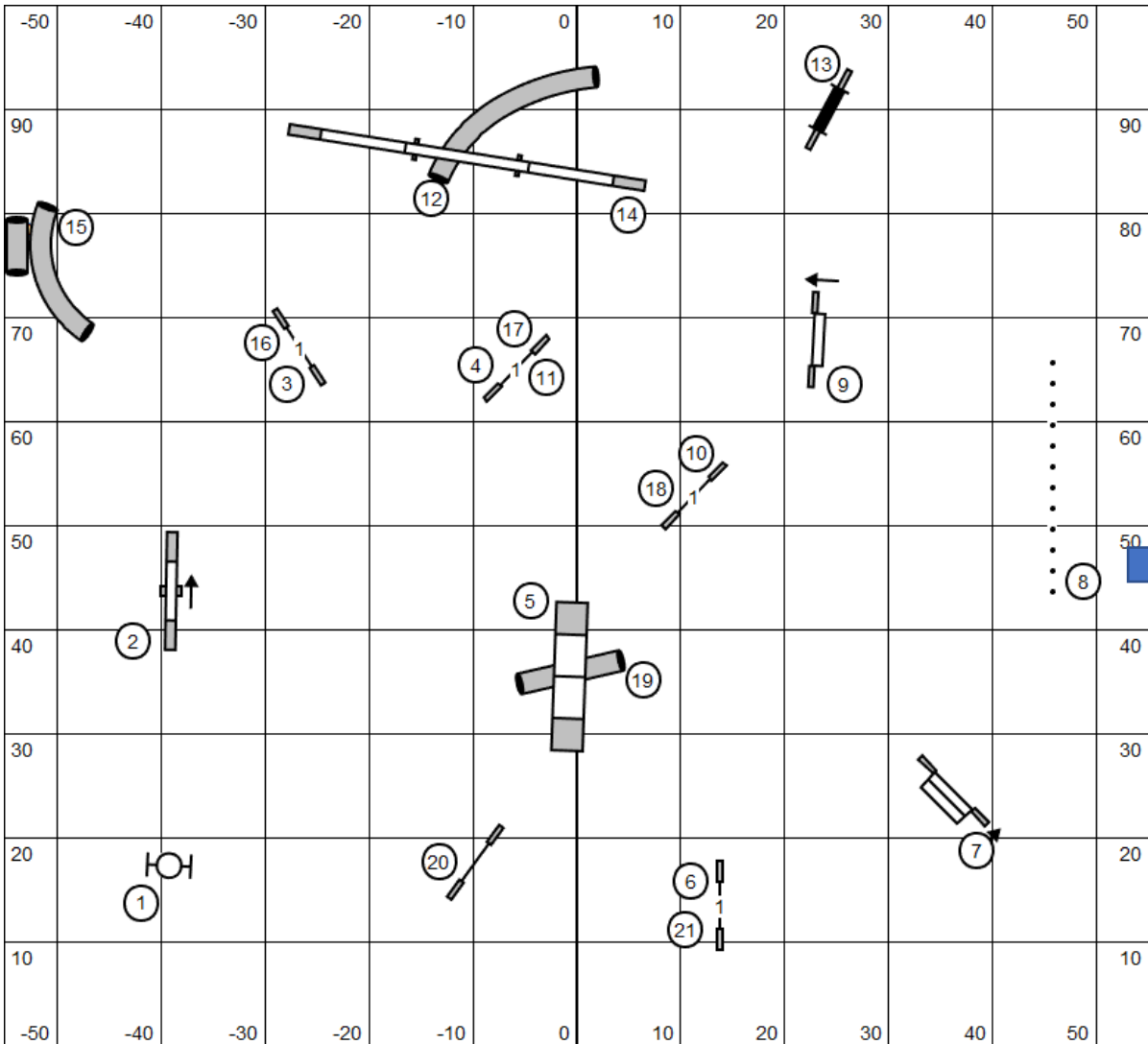
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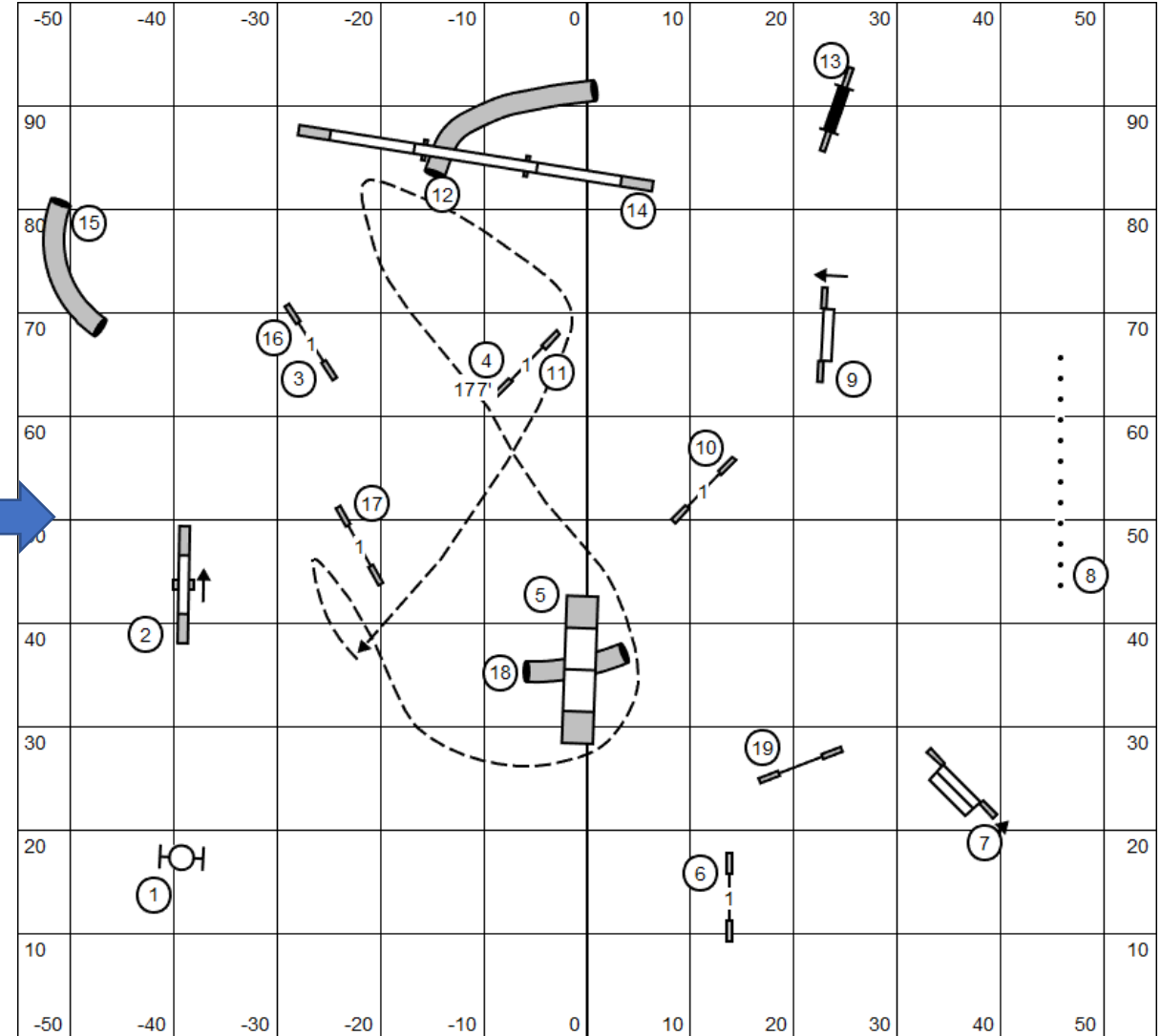
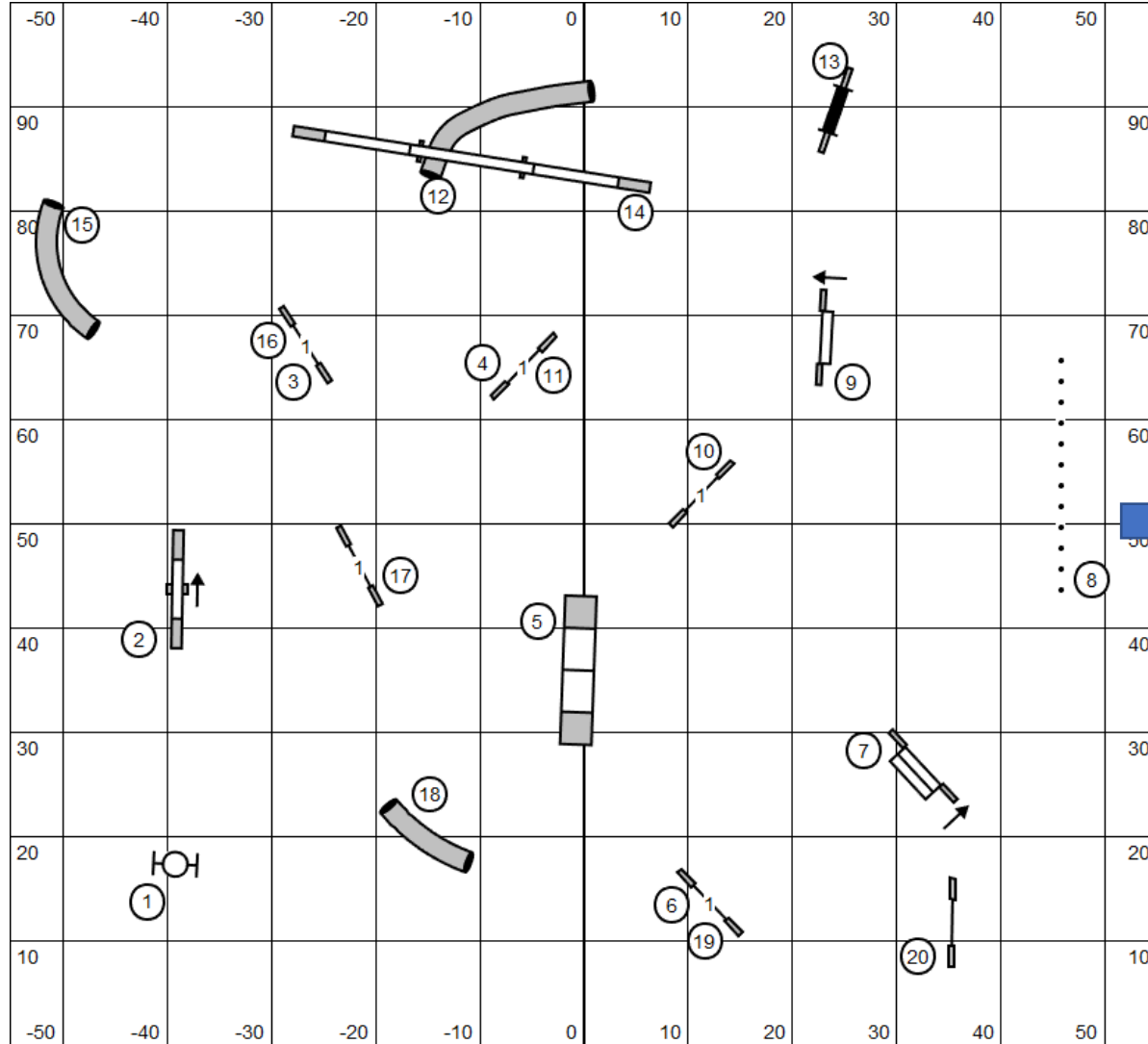
NAC Finals Course Development – Take 2



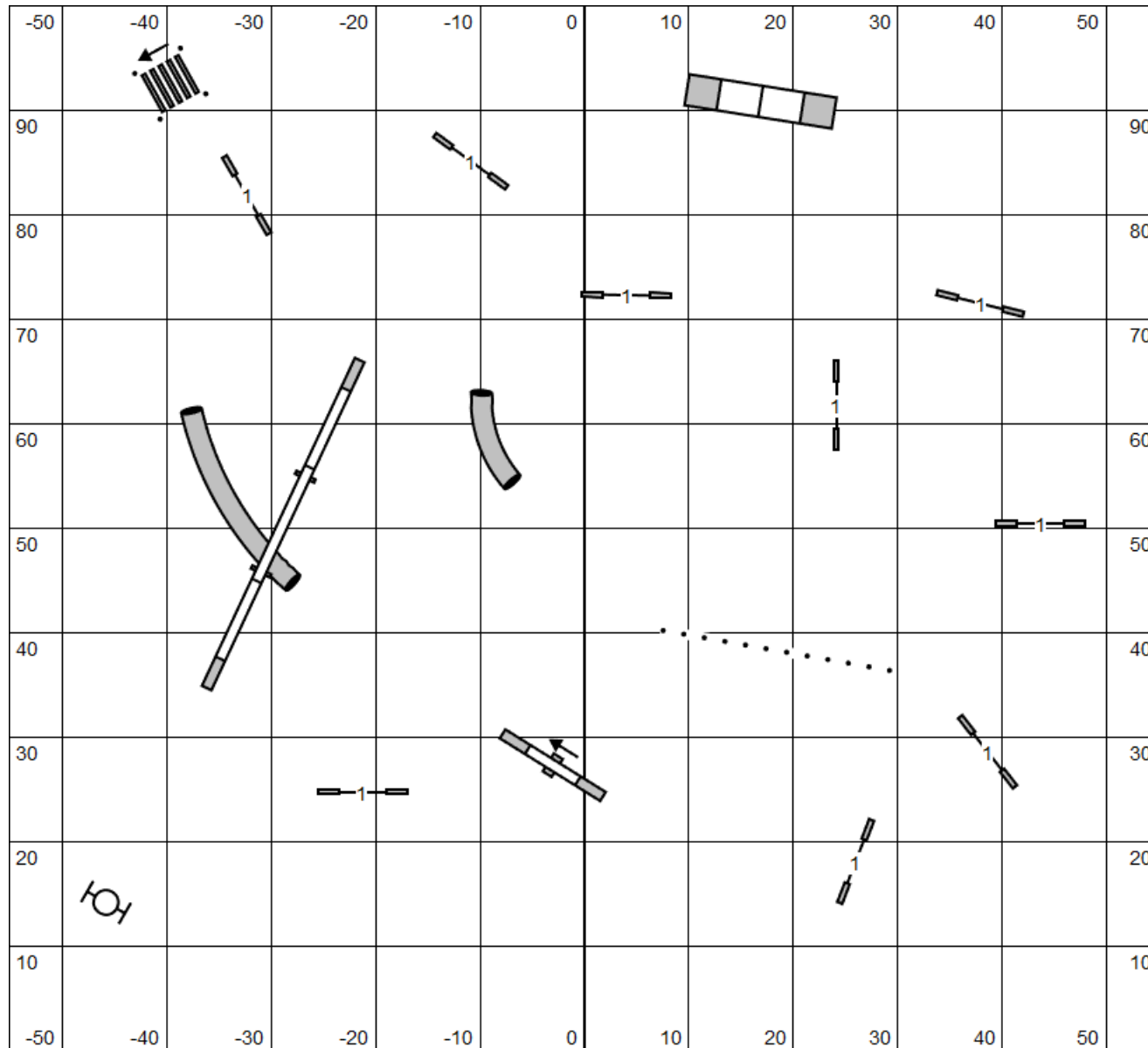
NAC Finals Course Development – Take 3



NAC Finals Course Development – Take 4



NAC Finals Course Development – Back to the beginning

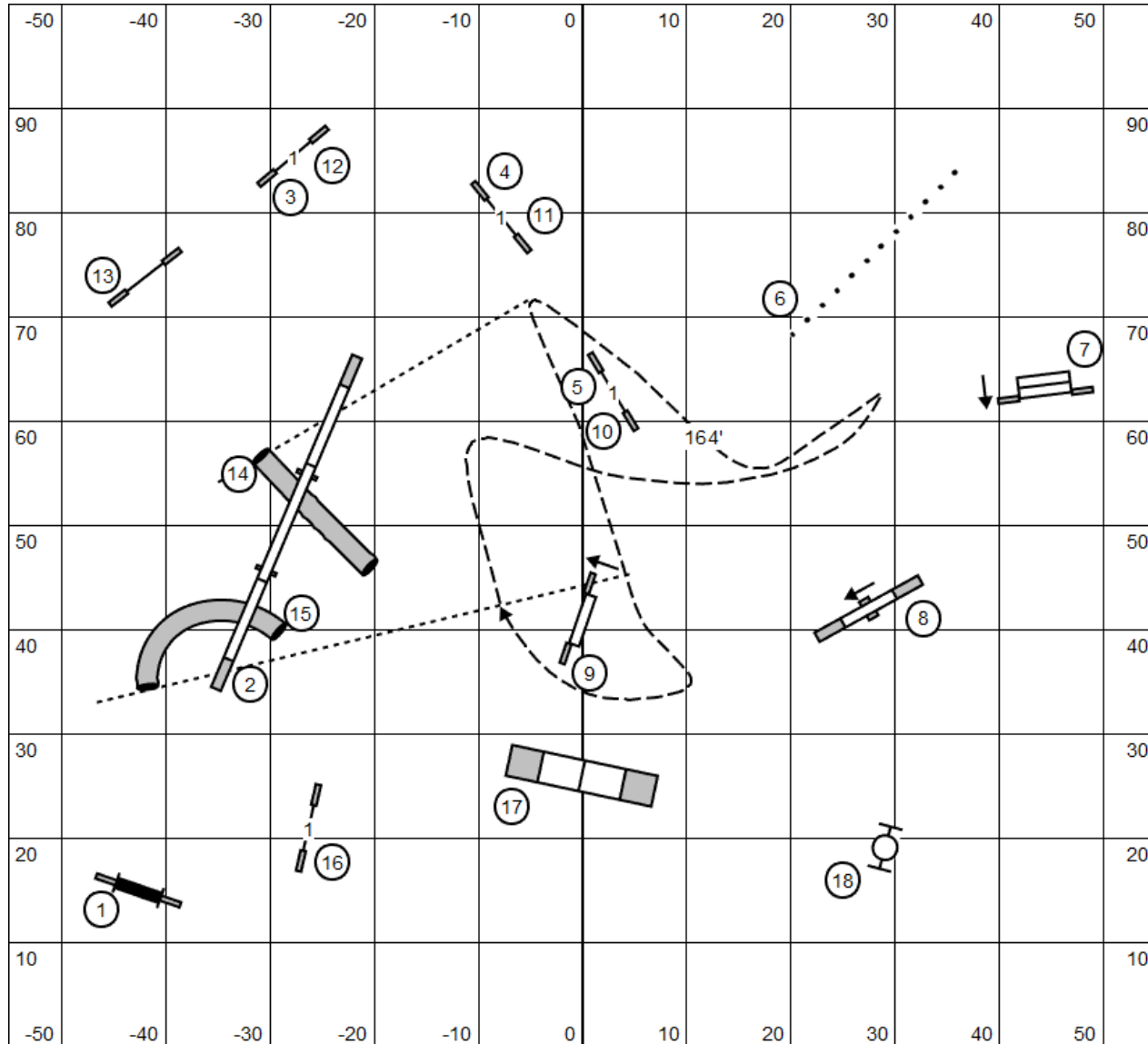


Could not make previous layout work.

Start again from scratch!

The CRCD obstacle shuffle - looking for inspiration!

NAC Finals Course Development – Take 1 AGAIN

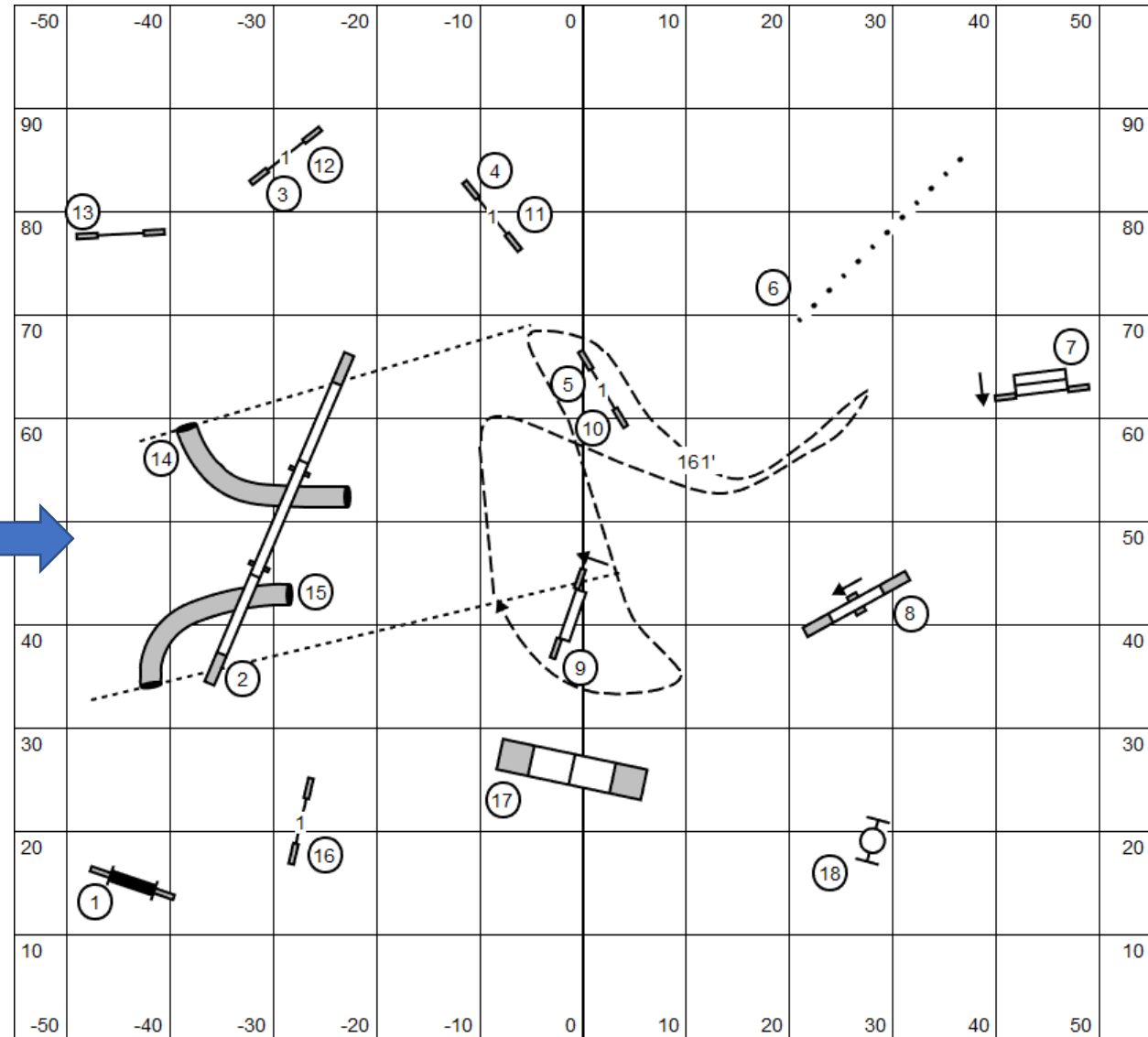
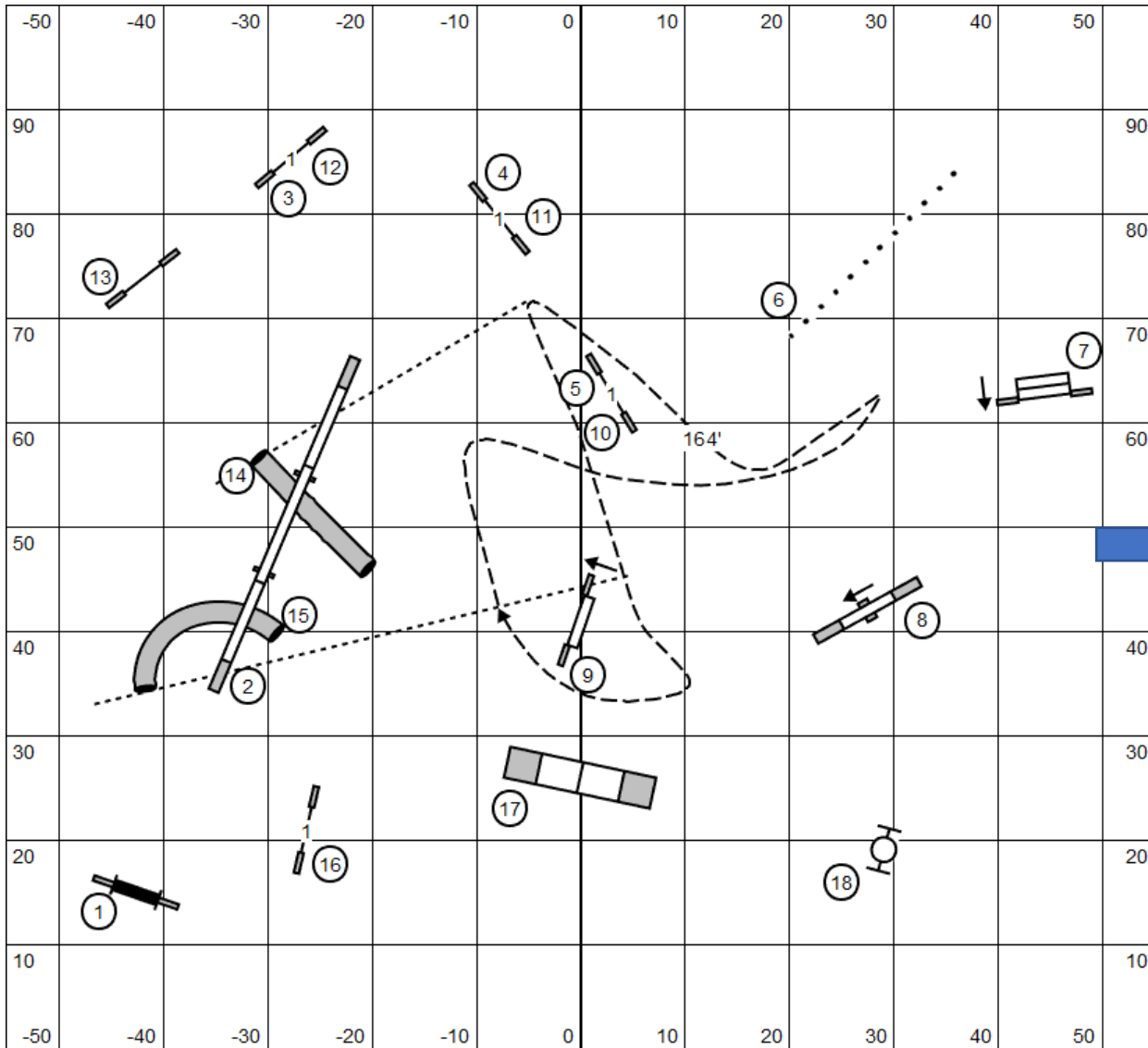


Original course had 270 – 15 to panel to 16. Wanted handler on the other side of Aframe from Judging Path, which the 270 would do. However, concern with timer eyes being in the way.

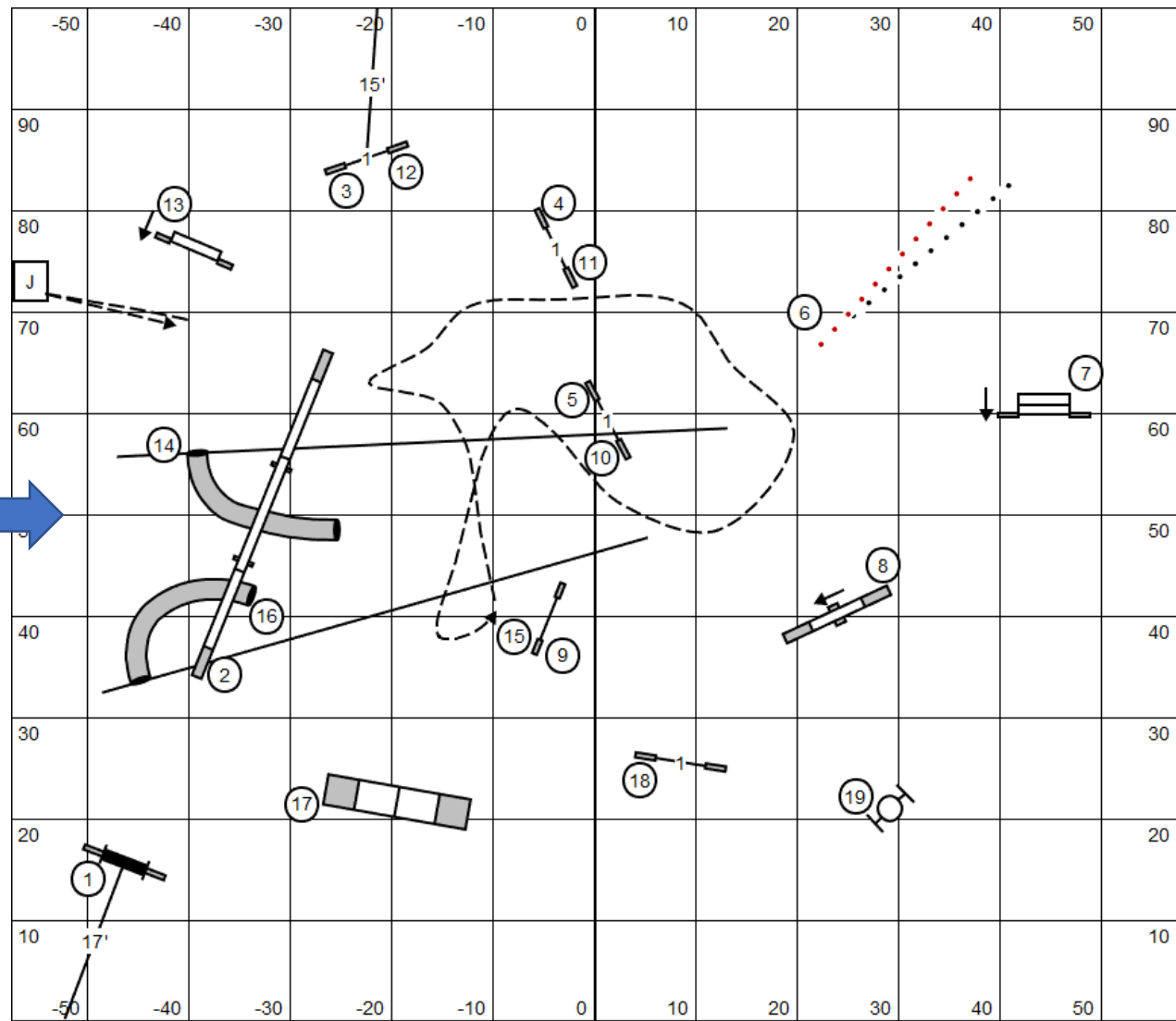
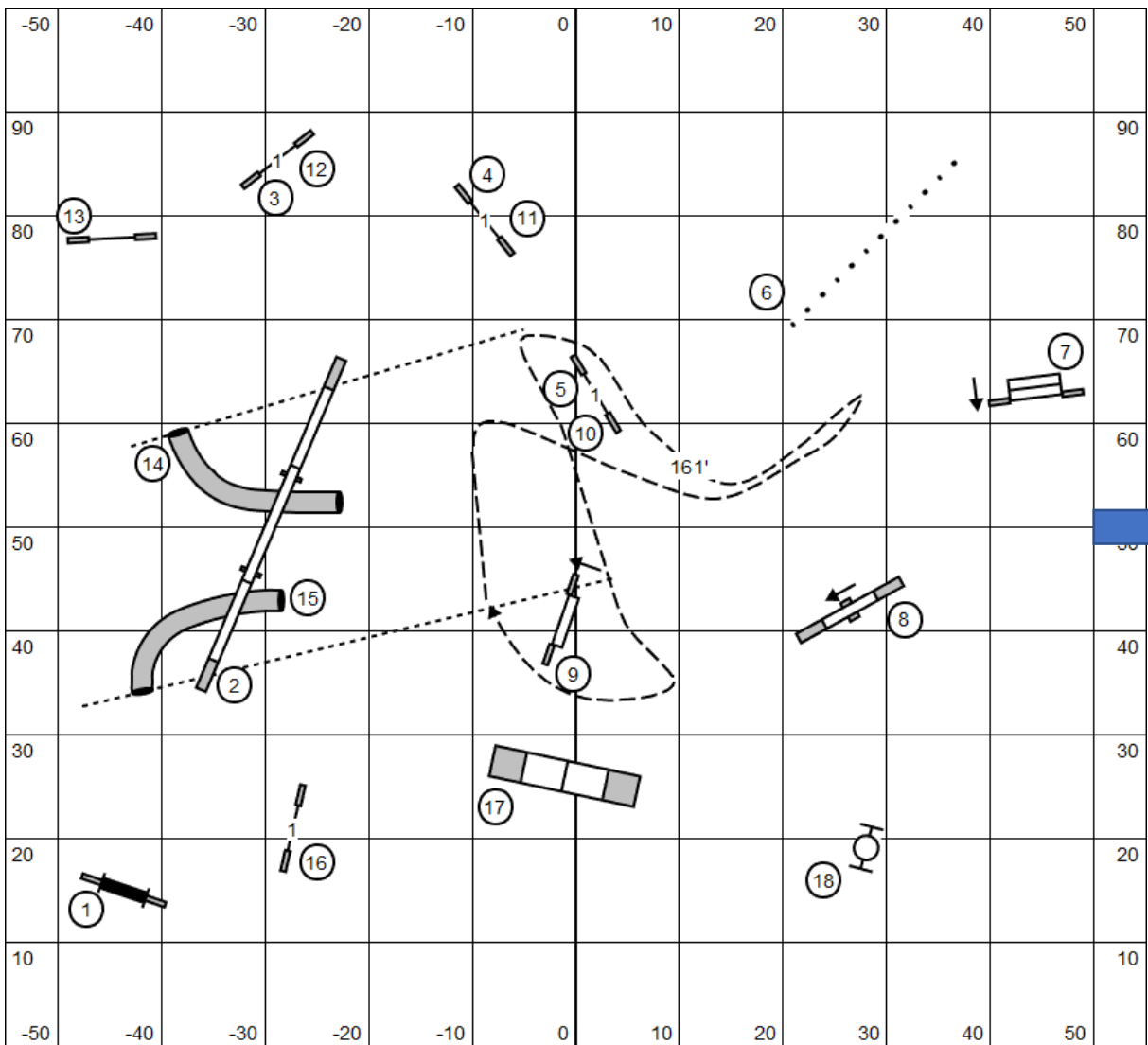
Wanted people to be able to handle from either side of dogwalk.

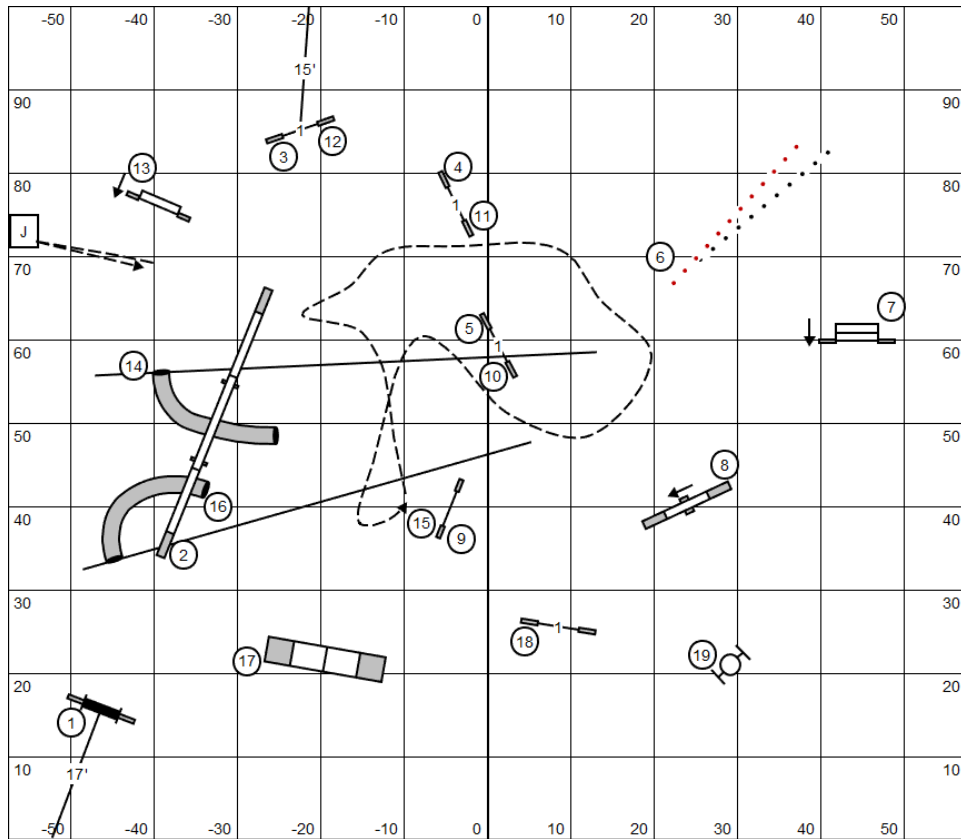
Test ran this – I ran it from both sides of dogwalk, and both worked, so yay for that. However, when I was on the right side of dogwalk per the map, I had a near collision with a dog coming out of 14, sorry K! Made 14 a long tunnel and curved to allow more time for handler to maneuver.

NAC Finals Course Development – Take 2



NAC Finals Course Development – Take 3 SUCCESS!!





Dog

- Jumping skills
 - Wrap at 15, lots of slices
- Turning skills
 - Handler's ability to control turns after 3, 5, 9, and at 15 can save yards and time
 - Extension and collection
 - A lot of extension but also a little collection, matches 'my style'

TEAM!

Handler

- Proprioception
 - Blinding tunnel 14 but not moving far enough past it will block 15 and send dog to backside; handler being in the right spot to cue 16 after the wrap
- Strategy
 - Choice on which wing to wrap at 15
 - Knowing which turns to control

RUN!!!

Dog Training

- Handling Choices
 - Various, easy to end up in rear cross land if handler doesn't trust dog and move on
- Commitment (send)
 - 13-14 – about equivalent to an 'Open FAST send'
- Advanced independent obstacle performance and dog training
 - Start line stay had a lot of value on this course
 - Weave exit – could stay with the dog in the poles but that was a disadvantage as it set a line to off-course jump after teeter and it didn't allow handler to get ahead to help control turn at 9
 - Incentive to leave at Teeter and Aframe and trust dog to complete obstacle correctly while handler moved ahead

TRUST!

Shout outs and thank you's

- Arlene Spooner, AKC Rep – for your outstanding collaboration and ideas through all the drafts.
- All the AKC Reps – for your review & input and for being so supportive!
- Carrie DeYoung, AKC Agility Director – for your review, input, and most especially for the extra 5' added to the ring 😊