

# Obedience Regulations

This insert is issued as a supplement to the *Obedience Regulations* amended June 2008.

**Effective January 1, 2009**

## CHAPTER 1

### GENERAL REGULATIONS

**Section 1. Obedience Clubs.** An obedience club that meets all the requirements of the American Kennel Club® and wishes to hold an obedience trial must apply on the form the AKC provides for permission to hold such a trial. The trial may be held either in conjunction with a dog show, agility trial, or as a separate event. A club that is not a member of the AKC must pay a license fee in order to hold a trial. The AKC Board of Directors determines this fee. If the trial is not held at the approved time and place, the license fee will be returned.

A club may hold two all-breed obedience trials at the same site on the same day, or two all-breed obedience clubs may hold their obedience trials one following another, if the events are held on the same site on the same day.

No judge will be assigned to judge for more than eight hours in one day, including any breed judging assignment when the obedience trial is held in conjunction with a dog show.

No part of the trials may be held concurrently.

**Section 3. Entries.** To be acceptable, an entry must:

- Be submitted with the required entry fee
- Be on an official AKC entry form
- Be signed by the owner or his duly authorized agent
- Include all of the following information:

- Name of show/trial-giving club
- Date of show/trial
- Breed
- Variety, if any
- Sex
- Name of class(es) entered
- Full registered name of dog
- Name of owner(s)/co-owner(s)
- Address of owner

Include one of the following:

- AKC registration number
- AKC litter number
- PAL/ILP number
- Foreign registration number and country of registration for an unregistered imported dog
- Identification number issued by AKC

Include the following, if known:

- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Name of breeder(s)
- Name of sire

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- Name of dam
- Jump height

**NOTE:** A club may arrange entries according to jump height order in all classes in which jumps are used. If a club should choose this option, it will be stated in the premium list what jump height will begin the class and if the order will be ascending or descending. Handlers with multiple entries in the same class and with the same jump height should be accommodated.

**Section 4. Obedience Classes.** A licensed or member obedience trial need not include all the regular obedience classes, but a club will not be approved to hold Open classes unless it also holds Novice classes. Nor will it be approved to hold Utility classes unless it also holds Novice and Open classes. Any club that has been approved to hold a licensed or member obedience trial may offer additional optional titling and/or non-regular classes upon AKC approval. If a non-regular class is one that is not defined in these *Regulations*, a clear and complete description of both the eligibility and performance requirements will appear in the premium list.

**Section 14. Dogs That May Not Compete.** No dog under six months of age may compete. No dog belonging wholly or in part to a judge, show, or obedience trial secretary, superintendent, or any member of such a person's household may be entered in any dog show or obedience trial at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate. Nor may they handle or act as agent for any dog entered at that dog show or obedience trial. The official veterinarians will not exhibit or act as agent or handler at the show, and dogs owned wholly or in part by them will not be eligible to be entered at that show.

No dog owned wholly or in part by a superintendent, any other employee of that superintendent, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing will be eligible to be entered at any show held 30 days before or after a show that the superintendent has been approved to service by the AKC. Nor may that person exhibit or act as an agent or handler.

For the purpose of this section, the employees of a superintendent would include only those individuals who represent the superintendent or superintending organization at dog shows.

No judge or any person residing in the same household as the judge will exhibit or act as agent or handler at a dog show or obedience trial at which they are judging. Dogs owned wholly or in part by such judge or any member of their household will not be eligible to be entered at such event.

This applies to both obedience and dog show judges when an obedience trial is held in conjunction with a dog show.

Subject to the foregoing, members of a judge's immediate family who no longer live in the same household may enter or handle a dog at a show, trial, or test if the judge is not officiating over any competition that might involve that dog. If a club does not advertise in its premium list who is to judge run-offs between classes, an exhibitor will automatically be considered to have lost the run-off of any tie scores between classes if the judge of the run-off is a member of the exhibitor's immediate family.

No dog may be entered or shown under a judge at an obedience trial if the dog has been owned, sold, held under lease, handled in the ring, or has been regularly trained or instructed within six months prior to the date of the obedience trial by the judge or by any person residing in the same household as the judge. "Trained or instructed" applies equally to judges who train professionally or as amateurs and to judges who train individual dogs or train or instruct dogs in classes with or through their handlers. (See "Glossary of Terms")

No dog may be entered or shown under a judge at an obedience trial if the dog is owned or handled by any person who has regularly served as a trainer or instructor of that judge within six months prior to the date of the obedience trial, either individually or through classes.

**Section 15. Qualifying Score.** A qualifying score means that the dog has earned more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise with a total score of at least 170 points. This score must be earned in a regular class or optional titling class at a licensed or member obedience trial. There is no minimum number of dogs necessary in any class to earn a qualifying score toward a title. Insert Light Blue Issued October 2008 RO2999 (06/08) Page 3 of 23

## **Section 16. When Titles are Won**

After a dog earns a title from an “A” class, it may continue showing in that “A” class for 60 days.

After 60 days, it may continue to compete in that level “B” class.

A dog may continue to compete in Novice B until it receives either a qualifying score in the Open class or earns the Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Classes award.

An unlimited number of the Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Class awards may be obtained from the Novice A class within the 60-day time period after earning the initial Companion Dog title.

Once a Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Class award is received after the 60-day period, the dog may no longer be entered in Novice B at future trials, for which entries have not closed.

A dog may compete indefinitely in Open B and/or Utility B after the Open or Utility title is earned.

A dog may compete in a more advanced class if it receives the prerequisite title prior to the trial in which the advanced entry is to be made.

Once a dog has competed in Open, it may not again be shown in Novice A.

Once a dog has competed in Utility, it may not again be shown in Open A.

## **Section 16a. Move-ups.**

The club will clearly state in its premium list whether move-ups will be or will not be allowed.

After a dog earns a title, it may be moved up to the next class in a future trial even though the closing date for the trial has passed, providing the club offers move-ups.

Move-ups may be approved, provided the next level class (e. g. Novice to Open) and judge is available and the class has not reached its limit.

This move-up may be requested if, according to the owner’s records, the dog has completed the requirements for the title after the closing date of the trial in which the advanced entry is to be made.

The request for a move-up must be in writing and presented to the superintendent or trial secretary at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial.

Movement between an “A” and “B” class at the same level is not considered a move-up and is not allowed after close of entries.

**Section 17. Disqualification, Ineligibility, Excusal, and Change in Appearance of Dogs.** If an ineligible dog has been entered in any licensed or member obedience trial or dog show, the name of the owner on the entry form is not the person(s) who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, the dog is shown in a class for which it has not been entered, no dog shall be entered in the same class more than once, or the dog’s entry is unacceptable to the AKC, all resulting awards will be cancelled. In computing Obedience Trial Championship points, such ineligible dogs will not be counted as having competed regardless of whether they have received awards. Any time a judge marks a dog “Disqualified” or “Excused,” the judge must state the reason in the judge’s book and will give the superintendent or show or trial secretary a brief report of the dog’s actions. The judge’s book will be submitted to the AKC with the report of the show or trial. A dog that is blind or deaf or has been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons (other than changes customarily approved for its breed) may not compete in any obedience trial or tracking test and will be disqualified. Blind means without useful vision. Deaf means without useful hearing. The judge will not obtain the opinion of a veterinarian. The judge will disqualify any dog that attempts to attack any person in the ring and fill out the required “Disqualification for Attacking” form (AEDSQ1).

When a dog has been disqualified under this section as being blind or deaf, for having been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons, or for having attacked or attempted to attack a person in the ring, all awards made to the dog at the trial will be cancelled by the AKC. The dog may not again compete unless the owner applies for and receives reinstatement.

The judge must excuse a dog that attacks another dog in the ring and fill out the required “Dog on Dog Attack” form (AEDSQ3). The owner of any dog that has been excused on two occasions for attacking or attempting to Insert Light Blue Issued October 2008 RO2999 (06/08) Page 4 of 23

attack another dog in the ring will be notified that the dog is no longer eligible to be shown in obedience classes. The judge must excuse a dog that appears dangerous to other dogs in the ring. Any dog whose appearance has been surgically altered to correct a congenital or hereditary defect may participate in obedience trials and all tracking tests provided that dog has been neutered or spayed.

Spayed bitches, monorchid, cryptorchid, or castrated dogs, and dogs that have disqualifying conformation faults may compete in obedience trials and tracking tests, if eligible under these *Regulations*.

A dog that is lame in the ring at any obedience trial or at a tracking test may not compete in that class. Lameness is defined as any irregularity of locomotion. The judge must determine, without a veterinarian's opinion, whether a dog is lame. If the judge deems a dog lame, that judge will not score the dog and will mark the judge's book, "Excused-lame."

No dog will be eligible to compete in an obedience trial or tracking test if it is taped, stitched, or bandaged in any way or if it has anything attached to it for medical or corrective purposes. Such a dog must be immediately excused and may not be judged under any circumstances.

Any dog whose hair surrounding the eyes, ears, or beard interferes with the performance of the dog, may have its hair tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes or in the manner as they are normally shown in the breed ring.

No dog will be eligible to compete if it appears to have been dyed or colored in any way, if its coat shows evidence of chalk or powder, or if the dog has anything attached to it for protection or adornment. Such a dog may be judged later if the condition has been corrected and if the judge desires to do so.

An obedience judge is not required to be familiar with the breed standards or to scrutinize each dog as in dog show judging but will be alert for conditions that may require disqualification or excusal under this section.

**Section 17a. Dog Attacks/Event Committee Hearing.** Any dog that, in the opinion of the Event Committee, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of the American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated. Refer to Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 11 Section 8-A, "Event Committee Procedural Checklist" (RDEOB1) and "Dog Disqualified by Event Committee" (AEDSO4).

**Section 19. Obedience Ribbons.** At licensed or member obedience trials, the following colors must be used for prize ribbons or rosettes in all regular and optional titling classes, for the ribbon or rosette for Highest Scoring dog in the Regular classes, and for the ribbon or rosette for the dog with the Highest Combined Score in Open B and Utility:

First Prize	Blue
Second Prize	Red
Third Prize	Yellow
Fourth Prize	White
Qualifying Prize	Dark Green
Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Classes	Blue and Gold
Highest Combined Score in Open <u>B</u> and Utility	Blue and Green

Obedience Regulations

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**Effective January 1, 2009**

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Section 1. Obedience Clubs. An obedience club that meets all the requirements of the American Kennel Club® and wishes to hold an obedience trial must apply on the form the AKC provides for permission to hold such a trial. The trial may be held either in conjunction with a dog show, agility trial, or as a separate event. A club that is not a member of the AKC must pay a license fee in order to hold a trial. The AKC Board of Directors determines this fee. If the trial is not held at the approved time and place, the license fee will be returned.

A club may hold two all-breed obedience trials at the same site on the same day, or two all-breed obedience clubs may hold their obedience trials one following another, if the events are held on the same site on the same day.

No judge will be assigned to judge for more than eight hours in one day, including any breed judging assignment when the obedience trial is held in conjunction with a dog show.

No part of the trials may be held concurrently.

Section 3. Entries. To be acceptable, an entry must:

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Be submitted with the required entry fee

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Be on an official AKC entry form

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Be signed by the owner or his duly authorized agent

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Include all of the following information:

- Name of show/trial-giving club
- Date of show/trial
- Breed
- Variety, if any
- Sex
- Name of class(es) entered
- Full registered name of dog
- Name of owner(s)/co-owner(s)
- Address of owner

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Include one of the following:

- AKC registration number
- AKC litter number
- PAL/ILP number
- Foreign registration number and country of registration for an unregistered imported dog
- Identification number issued by AKC

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Include the following, if known:

- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Name of breeder(s)
- Name of sire

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- Name of dam
- Jump height

NOTE: A club may arrange entries according to jump height order in all classes in which jumps are used. If a club should choose this option, it will be stated in the premium list what jump height will begin the class and if the order will be ascending or descending. Handlers with multiple entries in the same class and with the same jump height should be accommodated.

Section 4. Obedience Classes. A licensed or member obedience trial need not include all the regular obedience classes, but a club will not be approved to hold Open classes unless it also holds Novice classes. Nor will it be approved to hold Utility classes unless it also holds Novice and Open classes. Any club that has been approved to hold a licensed or member obedience trial may offer additional optional titling and/or non-regular classes upon AKC approval. If a non-regular class is one that is not defined in these Regulations, a clear and complete description of both the eligibility and performance requirements will appear in the premium list.

Section 14. Dogs That May Not Compete. No dog under six months of age may compete. No dog belonging wholly or in part to a judge, show, or obedience trial secretary, superintendent, or any member of such a person's household may be entered in any dog show or obedience trial at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate. Nor may they handle or act as agent for any dog entered at that dog show or obedience trial. The official veterinarians will not exhibit or act as agent or handler at the show, and dogs owned wholly or in part by them will not be eligible to be entered at that show.

No dog owned wholly or in part by a superintendent, any other employee of that superintendent, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing will be eligible to be entered at any show held 30 days before or after a show that the superintendent has been approved to service by the AKC. Nor may that person exhibit or act as an agent or handler.

For the purpose of this section, the employees of a superintendent would include only those individuals who represent the superintendent or superintending organization at dog shows.

No judge or any person residing in the same household as the judge will exhibit or act as agent or handler at a dog show or obedience trial at which they are judging. Dogs owned wholly or in part by such judge or any member of their household will not be eligible to be entered at such event. This applies to both obedience and dog show judges when an obedience trial is held in conjunction with a dog show.

Subject to the foregoing, members of a judge's immediate family who no longer live in the same household may enter or handle a dog at a show, trial, or test if the judge is not

officiating over any competition that might involve that dog. If a club does not advertise in its premium list who is to judge run-offs between classes, an exhibitor will automatically be considered to have lost the run-off of any tie scores between classes if the judge of the run-off is a member of the exhibitor's immediate family.

No dog may be entered or shown under a judge at an obedience trial if the dog has been owned, sold, held under lease, handled in the ring, or has been regularly trained or instructed within six months prior to the date of the obedience trial by the judge or by any person residing in the same household as the judge. "Trained or instructed" applies equally to judges who train professionally or as amateurs and to judges who train individual dogs or train or instruct dogs in classes with or through their handlers. (See "Glossary of Terms")

No dog may be entered or shown under a judge at an obedience trial if the dog is owned or handled by any person who has regularly served as a trainer or instructor of that judge within six months prior to the date of the obedience trial, either individually or through classes.

Section 15. Qualifying Score. A qualifying score means that the dog has earned more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise with a total score of at least 170 points. This score must be earned in a regular class or optional titling class at a licensed or member obedience trial. There is no minimum number of dogs necessary in any class to earn a qualifying score toward a title.

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Section 16. When Titles are Won

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After a dog earns a title from an "A" class, it may continue showing in that "A" class for 60 days.

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After 60 days, it may continue to compete in that level "B" class.

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A dog may continue to compete in Novice B until it receives either a qualifying score in the Open class or earns the Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Classes award.

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An unlimited number of the Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Class awards may be obtained from the Novice A class within the 60-day time period after earning the initial Companion Dog title.

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Once a Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Class award is received after the 60-day period, the dog may no longer be entered in Novice B at future trials, for which entries have not closed.

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A dog may compete indefinitely in Open B and/or Utility B after the Open or Utility title is earned.

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A dog may compete in a more advanced class if it receives the prerequisite title prior to the trial in which the advanced entry is to be made.

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Once a dog has competed in Open, it may not again be shown in Novice A.

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Once a dog has competed in Utility, it may not again be shown in Open A.

Section 16a. Move-ups.

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The club will clearly state in its premium list whether move-ups will be or will not be allowed.

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After a dog earns a title, it may be moved up to the next class in a future trial even though the closing date for the trial has passed, providing the club offers move-ups.

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Move-ups may be approved, provided the next level class (e.g. Novice to Open), and judge is available and the class has not reached its limit.

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This move-up may be requested if, according to the owner's records, the dog has completed the requirements for the title after the closing date of the trial in which the advanced entry is to be made.

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The request for a move-up must be in writing and presented to the superintendent or trial secretary at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial.

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Movement between an "A" and "B" class at the same level is not considered a move-up and is not allowed after close of entries.

Section 17. Disqualification, Ineligibility, Excusal, and Change in Appearance of Dogs. If an ineligible dog has been entered in any licensed or member obedience trial or dog show, the name of the owner on the entry form is not the person(s) who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, the dog is shown in a class for which it has not been entered, no dog shall be entered in the same class more than once, or the dog's entry is unacceptable to the AKC, all resulting awards will be cancelled. In computing Obedience Trial Championship points, such ineligible dogs will not be counted as having competed regardless of whether they have received awards.

Any time a judge marks a dog "Disqualified" or "Excused," the judge must state the reason in the judge's book and will give the superintendent or show or trial secretary a brief report of the dog's actions. The judge's book will be submitted to the AKC with the report of the show or trial.

A dog that is blind or deaf or has been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons (other than changes customarily approved for its breed) may not compete in any obedience trial or tracking test and will be disqualified. Blind means without useful vision. Deaf means without useful hearing. The judge will not obtain the opinion of a veterinarian.

The judge will disqualify any dog that attempts to attack any person in the ring and fill out the required "Disqualification for Attacking" form (AEDSQ1).

When a dog has been disqualified under this section as being blind or deaf, for having been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons, or for having attacked or attempted to

attack a person in the ring, all awards made to the dog at the trial will be cancelled by the AKC. The dog may not again compete unless the owner applies for and receives reinstatement.

The judge must excuse a dog that attacks another dog in the ring and fill out the required "Dog on Dog Attack" form (AEDSQ3). The owner of any dog that has been excused on two occasions for attacking or attempting to

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attack another dog in the ring will be notified that the dog is no longer eligible to be shown in obedience classes. The judge must excuse a dog that appears dangerous to other dogs in the ring.

Any dog whose appearance has been surgically altered to correct a congenital or hereditary defect may participate in obedience trials and all tracking tests provided that dog has been neutered or spayed.

Spayed bitches, monorchid, cryptorchid, or castrated dogs, and dogs that have disqualifying conformation faults may compete in obedience trials and tracking tests, if eligible under these Regulations.

A dog that is lame in the ring at any obedience trial or at a tracking test may not compete in that class. Lameness is defined as any irregularity of locomotion. The judge must determine, without a veterinarian's opinion, whether a dog is lame. If the judge deems a dog lame, that judge will not score the dog and will mark the judge's book, "Excused-lame."

No dog will be eligible to compete in an obedience trial or tracking test if it is taped, stitched, or bandaged in any way or if it has, anything attached to it for medical or corrective purposes. Such a dog must be immediately excused and may not be judged under any circumstances.

Any dog whose hair surrounding the eyes, ears, or beard interferes with the performance of the dog, may have its hair tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes or in the manner as they are normally shown in the breed ring.

No dog will be eligible to compete if it appears to have been dyed or colored in any way, if its coat shows evidence of chalk or powder, or if the dog has anything attached to it for protection or adornment. Such a dog may be judged later if the condition has been corrected and if the judge desires to do so.

An obedience judge is not required to be familiar with the breed standards or to scrutinize each dog as in dog show judging but will be alert for conditions that may require disqualification or excusal under this section.

Section 17a. Dog Attacks/Event Committee Hearing. Any dog that, in the opinion of the Event Committee, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of the American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to

the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

Refer to Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 11 Section 8-A, “Event Committee Procedural Checklist” (RDEOB1) and “Dog Disqualified by Event Committee” (AEDSQ4).

Section 19. Obedience Ribbons. At licensed or member obedience trials, the following colors must be used for prize ribbons or rosettes in all regular and optional titling classes, for the ribbon or rosette for Highest Scoring dog in the Regular classes, and for the ribbon or rosette for the dog with the Highest Combined Score in Open B and Utility:

First Prize

Blue

Second Prize

Red

Third Prize

Yellow

Fourth Prize

White

Qualifying Prize

Dark Green

Highest Scoring Dog

in the Regular Classes

Blue and Gold

Highest Combined

Score in Open B and Utility

Blue and Green

The following colors shall be used for non-regular classes:

First Prize

Rose

Second Prize

Brown

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Third Prize

Light Green

Fourth Prize

Gray

Each prize ribbon or rosette in all regular and optional titling classes, for the ribbon or rosette for Highest Scoring dog in the regular classes, and for the ribbon or rosette for the dog with the Highest Combined Score in Open B and Utility will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long and will bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the AKC, the words “Obedience Trial,” the name of the placement, and the name of the trial-giving club. The date of the trial and the name of the city or town where the trial is held must appear on the face, back tab, or on a label attached to the specific ribbon.

Qualifying ribbons or rosettes, and ribbons or rosettes for non-regular classes, will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long, and will bear on the face a facsimile of the seal of the AKC, the words "Obedience Trial," the name of the placement and the name of the trial-giving club. The date of the trial and the name of the city or town where the trial is held may be on the face of the ribbons.

Section 21. Ribbons and Prizes. Ribbons for the four official placements and all prizes offered for competition within a single regular or optional titling class at licensed or member trials will be awarded only to dogs that earn qualifying scores. Qualifying scores will not be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes in the non-regular classes. Awards for the four placements in these classes will be based solely on the number of points earned. The ribbon and any prizes offered for the dog with the highest combined score in Open B and Utility at a licensed or member trial will be awarded only to a dog that earns qualifying scores in both Open B and Utility.

Prizes for which dogs in one class compete against dogs in one or more other classes at licensed or member trials or at sanctioned matches will be awarded only to dogs that earn qualifying scores.

Prizes at a licensed or member obedience trial must be offered to be won outright.

However, a prize requiring three wins by the same owner for permanent possession, but not necessarily with the same dog, may be offered for the dog with the highest qualifying score in one of the regular classes, the highest scoring dog in the regular classes, or the dog with the highest combined qualifying scores in the Open B and Utility classes.

Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this section, prizes may be offered for the highest scoring dog of the groups as defined in Chapter 3 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows or for the highest scoring dogs of any breeds, but not for a breed variety, with the following exceptions: In accordance with Chapter 3 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, all Miniature and Standard Poodles are in the Non-Sporting Group and all Toy Poodles are in the Toy Group. In addition, Standard Manchester Terriers are in the Terrier Group, and Toy Manchester Terriers are in the Toy Group.

Prizes offered only to members of certain clubs or organizations will not be approved for publication in premium lists.

If an award in any of the regular or optional titling classes is cancelled, the next highest scoring dog will receive that award. If there is no dog to move up, the award will be void. If the AKC cancels a dog's win, the dog's owner must return all ribbons and prizes to the show-giving club within ten days of receiving the AKC's cancellation notice.

Optional titling classes are not considered regular classes.

Section 22. Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Classes and the Dog with the Highest Combined Score in Open B and Utility. The dog receiving the highest qualifying score in the regular classes will be awarded the ribbons and any prizes offered for these placements after the announcement of final scores of the last regular class to be judged.

The dog receiving the highest combined score in Open B and Utility may be awarded the ribbon and any prizes offered for this placement after Open B and Utility Classes have been judged and after the announcement of those final scores. The superintendent or show or trial secretary will mark the catalog to identify the dogs receiving these awards. In the case of a tie between dogs eligible for either of the above awards, each dog will be tested again, individually, by performing the entire Novice Heel Free exercise. The judge for a run-off will be designated by the Event Committee from among the judges of the

obedience trial. When a run-off has been completed, the judge will record the results on a special sheet that identifies the dogs taking part in the run-off by catalog number, class and

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breed. When the judge has marked and signed the sheet, it will be turned over to the superintendent or show or trial secretary who will mark the catalog accordingly and forward the sheet to the AKC as part of the records of the trial.

Scores from the optional titling and the non-regular obedience classes are not eligible for High in Trial from the regular obedience classes.

Section 27. Limitation of Entries. If a club anticipates an entry to exceed the capacity of its facilities for a licensed or member trial, it may limit entries, not to exceed up to eight hours of judging time per day, per judge. Non-regular classes, however, may be included, if so desired.

Prominent announcement of such limits will appear on the title or cover page of the premium list for an obedience trial or immediately under the obedience heading in the premium list for a dog show. This announcement must state that entries in one or more specified classes will automatically close when certain limits have been reached, even if this occurs before the official closing date.

When entries are limited in the Open B and/or Utility B classes, a club must designate a UDX class in the premium list. Dogs entered in this UDX class would be entered in both Open B and Utility B, and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. Once the limit has been reached in either the Open B or the Utility B class, the UDX class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

Section 30. Split Classes, Official Ribbons, Prizes. A club that holds a split class will award AKC qualifying ribbons in each division, even if the split is made after entries close. The four dogs with the highest qualifying scores in each division will be awarded the four AKC official placements.

Section 35. Judges' Education. Obedience judges must attend at least one obedience judges' seminar presented by AKC staff in every three-year period and will be ineligible to accept assignments if this requirement is not met.

To assist in their education, prospective judges may apprentice under a judge who has been approved to judge the Utility Class. The apprentice judge will score dogs and handlers from outside the obedience ring. Proper notification to and consent from the judge must be given prior to the start of the class.

A person who is not currently suspended from the privileges of the AKC and who has trained and exhibited a dog to the Utility Dog title may be approved to judge non-regular classes, unless these Regulations state otherwise.

## CHAPTER 2

### REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING

Section 11. Announcement of Scores. The judge will not disclose any scoring to anyone until the entire class has been judged. Nor should anyone else be allowed to do so.

Immediately after the group exercises for Novice, Graduate Novice, and Open, the judge

will inform the handlers of a qualifying performance. In Graduate Open, Versatility, and Utility, the judge will inform the handler immediately following the last exercise. After all the scores are recorded for the class, or division of the class, the judge will call the qualifying dogs back into the ring. Before awarding the placements, the judge will inform the spectators of the maximum number of points required for a perfect score. After scores of each placement have been announced, the judge will tell each handler their dog's score.

Section 12. Explanations and Errors. Judges are not required to explain their scoring and need not enter into a discussion with a dissatisfied exhibitor. After the class is finished and the judge's book has been turned in, however, the judge is encouraged to discuss the scoring with the exhibitors. Any interested person who thinks that there may have been a numerical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards, the judge, the superintendent, or to the show or trial secretary so that the matter may be checked.

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Section 19. Hands. In all exercises where the dog is required to heel free, one of these options should be followed: (1) when the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the sides and must hang naturally at the sides when stopped or (2) the right hand and arm must move naturally at the side, while the left hand must be held against the front of the body, centered in the area of the waist, with the left forearm carried against the body.

In either of the above situations, the hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of an exercise in order to maintain balance.

There will be a substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of the positions stated above.

In any exercise that requires a dog to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front. The handler must receive a substantial deduction for not doing so.

Any movement of the handler's hands or arms from the time the dog sits in front and prior to the dog returning to the heel position will be considered an additional signal or command and will be penalized unless such movement is otherwise permitted by these Regulations.

### CHAPTER 3

#### NOVICE

Section 1. Novice A Class. The Novice A class shall be for dogs that have not won the CD title. A handler must own the dog entered, or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family, and may not have previously handled any dog that has earned an AKC Novice, Open, or Utility title. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person who handles the dog in the first four exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises; however, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first four exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercise. The additional handler for the group exercise need not be a member of the

owner's household or immediate family. No dog may be entered in both Novice A and Novice B at any trial.

Section 2. Novice B Class. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class to earn a CD title. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person who handles the dog in the first four exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises; however, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first four exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercise. No dog may be entered in both Novice A and Novice B at any one trial.

Section 12. Group Exercises. The principal feature of these exercises is that the dog remains in the sitting or down position, whichever is required by the particular exercise. Orders are "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs" and "Back to your dogs."

All competing dogs in the class perform these exercises together. If, however, there are more dogs competing than can be spaced 4 feet per dog on one side of a ring, some must be judged in another group. The judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections, and the Group Exercise will be judged after each section.

If the same judge judges both Novice A and Novice B and the combined class would not have to be divided into equal sections, the two classes may be judged in one group.

The dogs that are in the ring will be lined up in catalog order along one of the four sides of the ring. Each handler's armband, weighted as necessary, will be placed behind the dog.

Before starting the Long Sit, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. When the judge gives the order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit, if they are not already sitting. On further order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately will go to the opposite side of the ring, turn, and face their dogs.

The judge will promptly instruct the handler or a steward to remove any dog that interferes with another dog. Any dog that leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise must be excused from the remaining group exercise.

After one minute from the time the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order to return. The handlers must go back promptly, walking around and in back of their own dog to the heel position.

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The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position.

Before starting the Long Down, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. On the judge's order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to down, without touching either the dogs or their collars, so that the dogs are facing the opposite side of the ring. The rest of this exercise is done in the same manner as the Long Sit, except that the judge will order the handlers to return after three minutes, and the dogs must not move from the down position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished."

The dogs will not be required to sit at the end of this exercise.

Section 13. Group Exercises, Scoring. A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, going over to any other dog, not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from a sit to a down or from a down to a sit after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order, "Exercise finished." Depending on the circumstance, a minor or substantial deduction will be made for touching the dog or its collar while getting the dog into the down position.

A dog that is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog must be repositioned by its handler and will be substantially penalized. In extreme cases, the dog may be excused. A dog that interferes with another dog on the first group exercise must be excused from participating in the remaining group exercise.

During these exercises, the judge will stand so all the dogs are clearly visible and where the judge can see all the handlers in the ring without having to turn around.

Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit or lie down. These will be penalized substantially; in extreme cases, the dog may be excused.

The judge will not give the "Exercise finished" order until the handlers have returned to heel position.

#### CHAPTER 4

##### OPEN

Section 1. Open A Class. The Open A class will be for dogs that have won the CD title but have not won the CDX title. Anyone who has trained or exhibited a dog that has earned an OTCH may not enter or handle dogs in this class. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner's household or immediate family. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person who handles the dog in the first five exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first five exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercises. The additional handler for the group exercise need not be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. No dog may be entered in both the Open A and Open B classes at any one trial.

Section 2. Open B Class. The Open B class will be for dogs that have won the CD or CDX titles. A dog may continue to compete in this class after it has won the UD title. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person who handles the dog in the first five exercises must handle that dog in the group exercises. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first five exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercises. No dog may be entered in both Open A and Open B classes at any one trial.

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the order of exercises to be performed in that class.

This order will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes before the start of the class. In future assignments, judges are required to alternate the six orders of exercises so that each will be used approximately the same number of times.

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Section 11. Retrieve over High Jump. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes out over the jump, picks up the dumbbell, and promptly returns with it over the jump. Orders are "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish." This exercise will be executed in the same manner as the Retrieve on Flat, except that the dog will clear the high jump both going and coming. The handler will stand at least 8 feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump, will remain in the same spot throughout the exercise and will throw the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump.

(These 8-foot distances should be clearly marked.)

Jump heights shall be set in multiples of 2 inches with no dog jumping less than 4 inches or more than 36 inches. A jump height is determined by the height of the dog at the withers, see table below for standard jump heights. The actual height of the dog shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to determine the minimum jump height, with the exception of dogs eligible for the 4-inch jump height. Dogs eligible for the 4-inch jump height must be less than 7 ½ inches at the withers. Handlers who choose to have their dogs jump more than the minimum required height will neither be penalized nor receive extra consideration.

Standard Jump Height Table

Measured height of dog at withers

Height to be jumped

Less than 7 ½"

4"

7 ½" to less than 9"

8"

9" to less than 11"

10"

11" to less than 13"

12"

13" to less than 15"

14"

15" to less than 17"

16"

17" to less than 19"

18"

19" to less than 21"

20"

21" to less than 23"

22"

23" to less than 25"

24"  
25" to less than 27"  
26"  
27" to less than 29"  
28"  
29" to less than 31"  
30"  
31" to less than 33"  
32"  
33" to less than 35"  
34"  
35" to less than 37"  
36"

The minimum jump height for breeds listed in Appendix A shall be set to three-quarters the dog's height at the withers. This jump height shall also be rounded to a multiple of 2 inches. The minimum jumps for approved breeds will be set in accordance with the table listed in Appendix A. Handlers of these breeds may choose to have the dog jump higher than listed in the table.

The stewards, based on the jump height listed, will preset the jumps. The judge will make certain the jump is at least the minimum required height for each dog and must be aware that the jump may be set at a higher height if requested by the handler. Judges may, at their discretion, verify the height of any dog at the withers.

The high jump will be 5 feet wide and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and adjustable at 2-inch increments from 8 inches to 36 inches. The uprights of the high jump will be 4 feet high. In addition, four 8-inch boards, one 4-inch board, and one 2-inch board should be available for use. The jump will be a flat white. The height of each board will be indicated in black 2-inch numbers.

Section 13. Broad Jump. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays where left until directed to jump, that the dog clears the jump on a single command or signal, and that the dog returns to its handler after it has jumped. Orders are "Leave your dog," "Send your dog," and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump facing the lowest side of the lowest hurdle. (This 8-foot distance must be clearly marked.) On order from the judge to "Leave your dog"

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the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay and go to a position facing the right side of the jump. The handler may stand anywhere between the lowest edge of the first hurdle and the highest edge of the last hurdle with their toes about 2 feet from the jump.

On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler will execute a 90-degree pivot but will remain in the same spot. The dog will clear the entire distance of the hurdles without touching them and, without

further command or signal, immediately return to a sitting position in front of the handler, finishing as in the Novice Recall.

The broad jump will consist of four white telescoping hurdles, all about 8 inches wide. The largest hurdle will measure about 5 feet long and about 6 inches at the highest point. In the ring, they will be arranged in order of size, evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump setting for each dog. Four hurdles will be used for a jump of 48 to 72 inches, three for 28 to 44 inches, two for a jump of 16 to 24 inches and one for 8 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the distance jumped by each dog is in accordance with these Regulations.

## CHAPTER 5

### UTILITY

Section 10. Directed Retrieve. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays until directed to retrieve and that it goes directly to the designated glove and retrieves it promptly. In this exercise, the handler will provide three gloves that are predominantly white. They must be open and must be approved by the judge. Handlers will stand with their backs to the unobstructed end of the ring midway between and inline with the jumps. The dog will be sitting in heel position. The judge or steward will drop the gloves across the end of the ring while the handler and dog are facing the opposite direction. One glove is dropped about 3 feet in from each corner, and the remaining glove is dropped in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring.

The gloves will be designated "One," "Two," or "Three," reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The orders for the exercise are "One," "Two," or "Three," "Take it," and "Finish."

When the judge designates the glove by number, the handler will turn in place to face the glove, halting with the dog sitting in heel position. The handler may not touch the dog or reposition it. The handler will give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of the left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. Either simultaneously with or immediately following giving the direction, the handler must give a verbal retrieve command. The dog must then go directly to the glove, completing the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat.

Handlers may bend their bodies and knees as far as necessary to give the direction to the dogs but must then stand up in a natural position with their arms at their sides.

The judge will designate the same glove number for each handler. For each judging assignment, the judge must alternate the number of the glove used.

Section 12. Moving Stand and Examination. The principal features of the exercise are that the dog heel, stand, and stay as the handler moves away, accept the examination without shyness or resentment, and return to the handler on command. Orders for the exercises are "Forward," "Stand your dog," and "Call your dog to heel."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position at a point indicated by the judge.

The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" and then will order, "Forward." The handler will command or signal the dog to heel. After the handler has proceeded about 10 feet, the judge will order, "Stand your dog." Without pausing, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand and continue forward about 10 to 12 feet. The handler will then turn either to the right or to left to face the dog, which must stand and stay in position.

The judge will approach the dog from the front to examine it as in dog show judging, except the exam will not include the teeth, testicles, or tail.

When the judge orders, "Call your dog to heel," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the heel position. The dog should return to heel position in a brisk manner.

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Section 14. Directed Jumping. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring, stops, jumps as directed, and returns as in the Novice Recall. The orders are: "Send your dog," "Bar," "High," and "Finish."

The jumps will be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the longest sides of the ring and about 18 to 20 feet apart. The judge must see that the jumps are set at the required height for each dog, as described in the Retrieve Over High Jump.

The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring with the dog sitting in heel position, about 20 feet from the jumps and midway between them. Upon order from the judge, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to go forward at a brisk trot or gallop to a point about 20 feet past the jumps in the approximate center of the unobstructed end of the ring. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will give a command to sit. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but it need not sit squarely.

The judge will order either "Bar" or "High" for the first jump, and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of the handler and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. After the dog has returned to heel position, the judge will say, "Exercise finished."

When the dog is set up for the second half of this exercise, the judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the order for the second part of the exercise. The same procedure will be followed for the second jump.

It is optional which jump the judge first indicates, but both jumps must be included. The judge must not designate the jump until the dog has reached the far end of the ring.

The height of the jumps and construction of the high jump will be the same as required in the Open classes. The bar jump will consist of a bar between 2 and 2 ½ inches square with the edges rounded to remove any sharpness. The bar will be flat black and white in alternate sections each about 3 inches wide. The bar will have the weight of wood. It will be supported by two unconnected 4-foot upright posts about 5 feet apart and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and must be adjustable for each 2 inches of height from 8 inches to 36 inches. The jump must be built so that the bar may be knocked off without affecting the uprights.

Section 15. Directed Jumping, Scoring. A dog will receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it: anticipates the handler's command and/or signal to go out, fails to leave the handler, does not go out between the jumps, does not stop and remain at least 10 feet past the jumps without an additional command, anticipates the handler's command and/or signal

to jump, returns over the wrong jump, knocks the bar off the uprights, or uses the top of any jump for aid in going over.

Minor to substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not stop on command, that does not stop in the approximate center of the ring about 20 feet past the jumps, that does not sit, that receives an additional command to sit after the dog has stopped, or that anticipates the handler's command to sit.

Depending on the extent of the violation, minor or substantial deductions will be made for slowness in going out, for touching the jumps, or for any hesitation in jumping.

All applicable penalties of the Novice Recall exercises will apply.

## CHAPTER 6

### GRADUATE NOVICE

#### OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Graduate Novice Class. The Graduate Novice class shall be for dogs that have not won a

Graduate Novice title (GN). The Graduate Novice class is an optional class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. Judges for this class must be approved to judge novice or higher classes. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first five exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same Long Down Group Exercise. If eligible as defined in these Regulations, dogs entered in Graduate Novice may also be entered in any other obedience classes. Judging will be as in the regular classes.

The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging:

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1. Heel on Leash & Figure Eight

40 points

2. Drop on Recall

40 points

3. Dumbbell Recall

30 points

4. Recall over High Jump

30 points

5. Recall over Broad Jump

30 points

6. Long Down

30 points

Maximum Total Score

200 points

Section 2. Graduate Novice Title. The letters GN may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by three different judges to have received qualifying scores in Graduate Novice classes at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Graduate Novice certificate from the AKC.

Suggested judging rate of eight dogs per hour.

CHAPTER 7  
GRADUATE OPEN  
OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Graduate Open Class. The Graduate Open Class will be for dogs that have not won the GO title. The Graduate Open class is an optional class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. Judges for this class must be approved to judge Open or higher classes. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. If eligible as defined in these Regulations, dogs entered in Graduate Open may also be entered in any other obedience class.

The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging:

1. Signal Exercise  
40 points
  2. Scent Discrimination  
30 points
  3. Directed Retrieve  
30 points
  4. Moving Stand & Examination  
30 points
  5. Go Out  
30 points
  6. Directed Jumping  
40 points
- Maximum Total Score  
200 points

Section 2. Graduate Open Title. The letters GO may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by three different judges to have received qualifying scores in the Graduate Open class at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Graduate Open certificate from the AKC.

Suggested judging rate of seven dogs per hour.

CHAPTER 8  
VERSATILITY  
OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Versatility Class. The Versatility class will be for all dogs and is an optional titling class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. Judges for this class must be approved to judge the Utility class. Owners may enter more than one dog. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person and may be entered in another class or classes.

Six exercises will be performed: two each from the Novice, Open, and Utility classes. There will be no group exercises. The exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular classes. For the purpose of this class, scent discrimination articles # 1 and # 2 will be considered as a single Utility exercise. Prior to the start of judging, the

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judge will decide the combination and order of exercises to be performed in this class. This combination and order will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes prior to the start of the class. In future assignments, judges are required to alternate the combinations so that each will be used approximately the same number of times. Each handler will provide a dumbbell, scent discrimination articles, and directed retrieve gloves.

#### Versatility Exercises and Scores

Novice exercise No. 1

25 points

Novice exercise No. 2

25 points

Open exercise No. 1

35 points

Open exercise No. 2

35 points

Utility exercise No. 1

40 points

Utility exercise No. 2

40 points

Maximum Total Score

200 points

#### Versatility Combinations

V1- Stand for Exam, Recall, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Signal Exercise, Directed Retrieve

V2- Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Broad Jump, Moving Stand & Exam, Directed Retrieve

V3- Stand for Exam, Recall, Drop on Recall, Retrieve over High Jump, Signal Exercise, Directed Jumping

V4- Novice Heel Free, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve over High Jump, Moving Stand & Exam, Directed Jumping

V5- Stand for Exam, Recall, Heel Free & Figure Eight, Retrieve on Flat, Scent Discrimination, Directed Jumping

V6- Stand for Exam, Recall, Figure Eight & Heel Free, Retrieve over High Jump, Directed Retrieve, Directed Jumping

V7- Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Retrieve over High Jump, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve

V8- Stand for Exam, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Broad Jump, Signal Exercise, Moving Stand & Exam,

V9- Novice Heel Free, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Scent Discrimination, Moving Stand & Exam

V10- Stand for Exam, Recall, Figure Eight & Heel Free, Retrieve on Flat, Scent Discrimination, Directed Jumping

V11- Heel on Leash & Figure 8, Recall, Retrieve over High Jump, Broad Jump, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve

V12- Novice Heel Free, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Moving Stand & Exam, Directed Retrieve

Section 3. Versatility Title. The letters VER may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by three different judges to have received qualifying scores in the Versatility class at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Versatility certificate from the AKC. Dogs that have obtained the Versatility title (VER) may continue to compete in the Versatility class.

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Suggested judging rate of six dogs per hour.

## CHAPTER 11

### OBEDIENCE MASTER TITLE AND GRAND MASTER TITLE

Section 1. Dogs that May Compete. Obedience Master Title and Obedience Grand Master title points will be recorded for dogs that have earned the Utility Dog title. When a dog earns an Obedience Master title, it may continue to compete and earn points until it is awarded an Obedience Grand Master title.

Section 2. Master Title and Grand Master Title Points. Obedience Master Points will be recorded for those dogs earning a score of 190 or better in Open B or Utility B Class, according to the schedule of points established by the AKC Board of Directors.

To Acquire an Obedience Master Title. Dogs will be required to earn a total of 200 points, based on the points awarded for scores of 190 or better from the Open B or Utility B class as listed in the below point schedule. For a title to be earned 30% of the points earned (60 points) must come from the Open B Class and 30% of the points (60 points) must come from the Utility B Class, the remaining 40% of the points earned (80 points) can come from the Open B or Utility B class, for the total of 200 points.

When a dog earns a total of 200 points based on the below point schedule (Section 3), it will be awarded an Obedience Master title. Obedience Master titles will be awarded for 9 levels and upon completion of the 10th level, a dog will be awarded an Obedience Grand Master title. Points accumulated in excess of the 200 points required for each level will be applied towards the next level of award if available. Only one title for Obedience Grand Master will be awarded.

Upon being awarded an Obedience Master Title or the Grand Master title, dogs will be permitted to display the title of Obedience Master (OM#) or OGM after their names.

#### Section 3. Point Schedule.

Dog's Score

Points Awarded

190

6

190.5

6

191

6

191.5

6

192

9

192.5

9

193

9

193.5

9

194

9

194.5

9

195

12

195.5

12

196

12

196.5

12

197

15

197.5

15

198

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198.5

15

199

15

199.5

15

200

15

Succession of Obedience Master Titles

OM1 Obedience Master 1

OM2 Obedience Master 2

OM3 Obedience Master 3

OM4 Obedience Master 4

OM5 Obedience Master 5

OM6 Obedience Master 6

OM7 Obedience Master 7

OM8 Obedience Master 8

OM9 Obedience Master 9

## OGM Obedience Grand Master

### CHAPTER 14

#### NON-REGULAR CLASSES

Section 7. Wild Card Novice. The Wild Card Novice class is for any dog that is capable of performing the Novice exercises and that is eligible under the Obedience Regulations to compete in AKC events. No title is required to enter and handlers may enter more than one dog. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person, and may be entered in another class or classes. The Novice exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular Novice class, except that verbal praise during the exercises is to be encouraged and not penalized. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.) Handlers may give additional commands, but they will be penalized accordingly. Each handler may choose to select one exercise as a wild card. The exhibitor will have the option of performing the selected wild card exercise, but will receive the full point value regardless of how the dog performs. When checking in, the handler must inform the steward or judge which exercise will be used as the wild card. The exercises will be performed in the same order as the regular Novice class. The point values for the exercises, scoring, and maximum total points are the same as the regular Novice class.

Section 8. Wild Card Open. The Wild Card Open class is for any dog capable of performing the Open exercises and that is eligible under the Obedience Regulations to compete in AKC events. No title is required to enter and handlers may enter more than one dog. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person, and may be entered in another class or classes. The Open exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular Open A class, except that verbal praise during the exercises is to be encouraged and not penalized. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.) Handlers may give additional commands, but they will be penalized accordingly. Each handler may choose to select one exercise as a wild card. The exhibitor will have the option of performing the selected wild card exercise, but will receive the full point value regardless of how the dog performs. When checking in, the handler must inform the steward or judge which exercise will be used as a wild card. The exercises will be performed in the same order as in the regular Open A class. The point values for the exercises, scoring, and maximum total points are the same as in the regular Open class.

Section 9. Wild Card Utility. The Wild Card Utility class is for any dog that is capable of performing the Utility exercises and that is eligible under the Obedience Regulations to compete in AKC events. No title is required to enter and handlers may enter more than one dog. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person, and may be entered in another class or classes. The Utility exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular Utility A class, except that verbal praise during the exercises is to be encouraged and not penalized. (Good,

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yes, nice, super, great, atta boy, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.)

Handlers are allowed to praise their dogs during the performance of all Utility exercises

except the signal exercise. Handlers may give additional commands, but they will be penalized accordingly. Each handler may choose to select one exercise as a wild card. The exhibitor will have the option of performing the selected wild card exercise, but will receive the full point value regardless of how the dog performs. When checking in, the handler must inform the steward or judge which exercise will be used as a wild card. The exercises will be performed in the same order as in the regular Utility A class. The point values for the exercises, scoring, and maximum total points are the same as in the regular Utility class.

Section 10. International Class. The International class shall be for all dogs. Judges for this class must be approved to judge the Utility class. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. All exercises will be performed and scored as in the Open and Utility classes.

The exercises, minimum scores, and order of judging:

1. Drop on Recall

30 points

2. Retrieve over High

Jump

30 points

3. Heel Free (No Fig. 8)

30 points

4. Scent Discrimination

Article #1 15 points

Article #2 15 points

30 points total

5. Signal Exercise

40 points

6. Directed Jumping

40 points

Maximum Total Score

200 points

Note: The International class was developed as a non-regular class for possible future use by the AKC in the development and selection of dogs and handlers for competition in an AKC international competition. The selection process and international class exercise criteria have not been developed.

#### OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS

#### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

(The following term(s) have been added to the current glossary.)

Regularly trained or instructed – where a dog and/or handler meet on a regular basis for instruction. A regular basis is considered a set pattern of dates, such as monthly, or more often. Occasional training or seminar attendance is not considered a violation.

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APPENDIX A

Three-Quarters Jump Height Table

Measured height of dog at withers

Height to be jumped

Less than 10"

4"

10" to less than 12 ½"

8"

12 ½" to less than 15"

10"

15" to less than 17 ½"

12"

17 ½" to less than 20"

14"

20" to less than 23"

16"

23" to less than 25 ½"

18"

25 ½" to less than 28"

20"

28" to less than 31"

22"

31" to less than 33 ½"

24"

33 ½" to less than 36"

26"

36" to less than 39"

28"

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Breeds Approved for the Three-quarters Jump Height

AKITAS

ARGENTINE DOGOS

BASSET HOUNDS

BERGAMASCOS

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS

BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIERS

BLOODHOUNDS

BOLOGNESE

BORZOI

BULLDOGS

BULLMASTIFFS

CARDIGAN WELSH CORGIS

CAUCASIAN MOUNTAIN DOGS

CHINESE SHAR-PEI

CLUMBER SPANIELS

DACHSHUNDS  
DOGUES DE BORDEAUX  
ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOGS  
FRENCH BULLDOGS  
GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉENS  
GREAT DANES  
GREAT PYRENEES  
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOGS  
IRISH WOLFHOUSES  
KISHU KENS  
KOOIKERHOUNDJES  
KUVASZOK  
LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLOI  
LEONBERGERS  
MASTIFFS  
NEAPOLITAN MASTIFFS  
NEWFOUNDLANDS  
OTTERHOUNDS  
PETITE BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉENS  
PORTUGUESE PODENGOS  
SAINT BERNARDS  
SKYE TERRIERS  
SUSSEX SPANIELS  
THAI RIDGEBACKS

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OBEDIENCE JUDGES GUIDELINES

CHAPTER 1

THE OBEDIENCE JUDGE

ACCEPTING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment Limitations. A judge will not be approved to judge the same regular class at all-breed events within 30 days and 200 straight-line miles of each other. There are no such restrictions on non-regular classes or tracking tests. Assignments to judge the same class or classes at two different breed specialty or group obedience trials are not considered to be a conflict. Breed specialty obedience assignments or group shows are not in conflict with an assignment to judge the same class(es) at an all-breed obedience trial.

SICKNESS AND FITNESS TO JUDGE

Change of Address. Judges are responsible for promptly notifying the AKC Companion Events Department of any change in mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number(s). The change will be automatically reflected in the AKC Judges Directory.

CHAPTER 3

PROCEDURES IN THE RING

Directed Retrieve. Although this exercise is basically judged as a Retrieve on Flat, it has an important difference that must be considered when judging. The difference is that the dog is directed to retrieve. The turn and sit are to be judged as in the Scent Discrimination exercise. A dog that finds a glove without being directed to it by the handler must be given a non-qualifying (NQ) score. A dog whose handler misdirects the dog (under turns or over

turns) must be nonqualified or penalized depending on the extent of the over/under turn. The judge should be certain the gloves are visible to the smallest and largest dogs. Prior to the start of judging, the judge shall make the decision as to which glove will be used for the class that day. The same glove number will be used for each handler. For each judging assignment the judge must alternate the number of the glove used. The gloves will be designated "One," "Two," or "Three" reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The judge will give the order "One," or "Two," or "Three" and at the same time may, with the handler's back to the gloves, point to the designated glove. The direction the handler turns is at the option of the handler, no matter which glove is designated, but the dog should maintain heel position throughout the turn and sit at heel when the turn is completed. The retrieve portion of the exercise is then completed without any further order from the judge.

Giving the direction must be done with a single motion. When the motion stops, the direction is completed. If the handler does not give the command simultaneously with or immediately following the direction but delays between the motion and the command, the dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Moving Stand and Examination. This exercise may be judged from the side while the dog and handler are heeling and until the dog is to be examined. For the examination part of the exercise, the dog should be approached from the front and then given a thorough examination as in conformation judging, except that the dog's mouth, testicles, and tail are not examined.

Grid for Scoring Directed Jumping. When scoring the Directed Jumping exercise, large variations in performance may occur, and there is not a great deal of time to consider how far from perfect each variation is. As an aid to maintaining some consistency in the manner in which all dogs in the class are scored, there should be no

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question that some type of system needs to be adopted in advance of the class. Although the following suggestion may not fit your particular method of scoring, it may serve as an aid in developing your own individual style. A grid is based on the premise that the closer to perfection, the smaller the deduction.

Should the dog go out about 20 feet beyond the jumps, stop on command by the handler and sit in the approximate center of the ring, there is no deduction. (This is represented by an imaginary circle of about 3 feet in the center of the ring at about a distance of 20 feet beyond the jumps.) Keep in mind that the handler should stop and sit the dog about 20 feet beyond the jump, not precisely 20 feet beyond the jump. If the dog stops and sits on the handler's command at 21 feet or 19 feet beyond the jumps, this is about 20 feet beyond the jumps; no points should be deducted. The key is that the dog stops and sits on

command. The dog should not stop and sit without a command from the handler or stop and/or sit when it arrives at the ring barrier simply because it can go no further. If the dog does either of these, points are deducted because the handler's command did not cause the dog to stop and sit. If the dog stops and sits on the handler's command but the handler has stopped the dog at about the 12-foot distance, a deduction is in order as the handler did not stop and sit the dog at about 20 feet beyond the jumps. Again, the requirement is to stop and sit the dog at about 20 feet beyond the jumps, not precisely 20 feet beyond the jumps.

If the dog goes out about 20 feet beyond the jumps, stops and sits on the handler's command but its final position is in one of the corners of the ring, a three-point deduction should be made. If the dog goes out only 10 feet beyond the jumps, stops and sits on command but the final position is in the center of the ring, a three-point deduction should be made. If the dog goes out about 10 feet, stops and sits on command but the final position is next to the side of the ring, a five or six-point deduction is in order.

Once the handler has commanded the dog to sit at a point about 20 feet beyond the jumps and the dog stops, the go-out part of the exercise is complete. A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for not staying without an additional command. The penalties for the Recall will apply.

**Group Exercises.** If two classes in the same classification such as Novice A and B have different judges, each judge must judge the Group exercises separately. A judge with only a single dog competing in a class would be required to have the dog perform the Group exercises alone. However, if the same judge is judging both A and B classes (in the same classification) and the combined two classes do not exceed the limit of dogs based on the size of the ring, the judge may combine the two classes for the Group exercises.

Judges should make every effort to equally divide a class for the Group exercises and not have fewer than six dogs in the exercise.

In the Long Down exercise, the dog should lie down on command and/or signal without being touched. In the down position, the dog should be lying straight beside the handler, facing the opposite side of the ring. Should the dog lie down facing the dog on either side or in a manner that could interfere with an adjacent competing dog, the handler should be instructed to straighten or reposition the dog, and a substantial penalty should be applied. When positioning dogs in the ring for the Group exercises in the Open classes, judges should ensure that such positioning will permit the competing dogs to keep the handlers in their direct line of vision as the handlers leave and return to the ring.

In Open classes, when signaling the steward to bring the handlers back to the ring, do not use a signal (like waving of an arm) that might cause the dogs in the ring to react.

If a dog gets up and starts to roam or follows its handler and disturbs the other dogs, or if a dog moves so as to interfere with another dog, the judge should promptly instruct the handler or a steward to take the dog out of the ring or to keep it away from the other dogs. The judge must excuse the dog from the remaining Group exercise and so mark the judge's book.

Handlers who physically correct their dogs before or after any Group Exercise or while leaving the ring must be penalized under Miscellaneous Penalty.

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CHAPTER 5

OBEDIENCE JUDGES GUIDELINES

THE JUDGES BOOK

Marking the Judge's Book. Chapter 2, Section 10, of the Obedience Regulations instructs judges how to correctly mark the book. Judges must be thorough, neat, and precise in marking their books. The awarding of obedience titles based on a dog's performance at obedience trials is valueless if the scores are not accurate. Judges must double-check the accuracy of score totals.

When all dogs have been judged and the four official places determined, then ribbon prizes can be awarded: blue, red, yellow, and white or white, yellow, red and blue. Where ribbons or prizes for additional places are offered, the awards for these should be made after the awarding of the four official ribbon prizes. The judge must sign the book, mark the time finished, remove and retain the sheets marked "Judge's Copy," and then return the book (or sheets) for the completed class promptly to the trial secretary, obedience chairperson, or superintendent. When the judge returns the book, the trial secretary, obedience chairperson, or superintendent should briefly scan the book for obvious omissions or oversights that can be corrected immediately.

Judges should retain their judging records for at least six months. If such records are required to provide information relative to the judging of a particular class, the information will be readily available to the AKC.

On the following pages are samples of Novice, Open B, and Utility A sheets that show the proper procedure for marking the judge's book. This procedure is applicable for all classes.

PROCEDURES FOR JUDGES TO FOLLOW IN MARKING THE JUDGE'S BOOK

(Use Ballpoint Pen)

- Indicate class.
- Mark the catalog number, the score of the four official placements, the time started, and the time finished. This should be on the first sheet for the class only.
- Where run-offs of ties have taken place for any of the four official placements, indicate the winner of the tie by placing a plus sign after the winner's catalog number. In case of a three-way tie, use a double plus for the winner and a single plus for the dog placed second out of the three.
- To correct an error after marking a score under a wrong catalog number, cross out the error, write the correction, and initial the change.
- Non-qualifying scores should be indicated by an "NQ" in the "Total Score" block.
- Carry only qualifying scores down to the "Final Qualifying Score" block.
- If judges are aware of the reason for an absence in a group exercise, they should mark the dog "Absent" and state the reason. When judges are unaware of the reason for an absence in a group exercise, the dog must be marked "Absent – reason not given."
- In the case of a dog that is "Disqualified," state the reason in the judge's book and bring it to the attention of the superintendent or trial secretary. In addition, if a dog is disqualified for attacking a person in the ring, complete a form available from the superintendent or trial secretary. This completed form must accompany the judge's book.
- If any dog is excused, state the reason.

## SIGN THE BOOK.

NOTE: Judges should use the inside cover of the book for any comments or explanations required. If additional information is deemed necessary by the judge, comments or explanations should be forwarded to the Event Operations Department.

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## THE STEWARD IN OBEDIENCE

### THE GATE STEWARD

The primary responsibility of the gate steward is to ensure that the next dog to be judged is immediately available. As soon as the judge begins the judging routine of a dog, this steward calls the next dog to be judged and ensures the handler is at ringside when the dog in the ring has completed all exercises. Dogs may not enter the ring until the judge is ready. The gate steward is responsible for ensuring the judging time of the class is not delayed by having the judge wait for dogs.

Dogs must be judged in catalog order to the extent that it is practical to do so without holding up the judging in any ring. If the dog listed next in the catalog is not at ringside when needed, the steward should not hesitate to call the next dog in order. Stewards are not required to seek out handlers: Handlers are responsible for being ready when their dogs' numbers are called. The steward should report any absence to the judge, and the judge will decide when the dog is to be marked absent. This procedure should be followed even if the armband for the absent dog has already been issued.

It is normally the duty of the gate steward to distribute armbands. When exhibitors identify themselves, the steward should check the catalog and ask the exhibitors' names and the names of the dogs. The gate steward should verify the height and distance that the dogs jump.

The steward then should check that the number of the armband being given to the exhibitor corresponds to the number in the catalog. It is essential that every precaution be taken when distributing armbands.

Very often, exhibitors make requests for special consideration, such as asking to be judged out of catalog order. Any request of this nature must be directed to the judge. It is the judge's prerogative to grant or deny the request. The steward should never consider the matter.

When stewarding in the Novice class, upon completion of the Recall exercise, the gate steward should return leashes to handlers before they leave the ring.

### OPEN CLASS

When issuing an armband to a handler, the gate steward should verify the height and distance that the dog jumps. The gate steward should also take the leash and dumbbell from the handler when the dog is brought into the ring. A discussion of heights and distances will be described later. It is essential that the steward setting the broad jump have a tape measure or steel ruler to ensure the accuracy of the jump. The first duty of the judge will be to check that the jumps are properly set. Stewards must arrange jumps quickly and accurately, or much time will be wasted.

In the Open class, the Figure Eight is performed off lead as part of the Heel Free exercise. The requirements of stewards are the same as in the Novice class. Again, stewards should be immediately available when the order is given.

The Open class has two retrieving exercises: the Retrieve on Flat and Retrieve over High Jump. The gate steward takes the dumbbell from the handler as the dog enters the ring and places it on the judge's table. When directed by the judge, a ring steward shall deliver the dumbbell to the handler or to the judge as specified by the judge. This should be done immediately so handlers are not made to wait. The gate steward will line up the dogs and handlers outside the ring immediately prior to the time the judge has indicated they will judge the Long Sit and the Long Down exercises. The judge should not be made to wait while the handlers are lined up. The Long Sit and Long Down exercise are always done in exact catalog order. As the dogs enter the ring, the ring stewards must line up dogs and handlers along the ringside as indicated by the judge. Ring stewards must make sure that dogs are in catalog order and that they are placed an equal distance from each other. The judge will instruct handlers to place armbands and leashes behind their dogs with the leash on top of the armband in such a manner that the number is easily read. One of the two ring stewards in the Open class will be assigned to lead the handlers out of the dogs' sight. Prior to the beginning of the exercise, access to this location should be checked by the stewards. Once behind

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the "blind" area, the steward must watch for the judge's signal to return to the dogs and lead handlers back to the ring. The steward is responsible for having handlers return in the same order in which their dogs are arranged. The other steward assists the judge in the ring in the same manner described for the Novice class.

#### UTILITY CLASS

When issuing an armband to a handler, the gate steward should verify the height the dog jumps as stated by the handler of the dog in the catalog beside the armband number. The Utility class contains the Directed Jumping exercise, during which the dog must complete a high jump and a bar jump. As in the Open class, one steward immediately sets the high jump while the other steward sets the bar jump. Again, this must be done quickly and accurately. As in the Open class, the judge will make sure that the jumps are properly set. For the Scent Discrimination exercise, the gate steward will have placed the handler's articles on the judge's table. The judge will select two articles – one leather and one metal - and separate them from the rest. The judge may position the remaining articles or may ask the ring steward to perform this function. The articles must be placed so that the closest article is about 20 feet from the handler. The judge or ring steward must touch (not necessary to scent) each of the eight remaining articles, spreading them in a random manner, about 6 inches apart, on the floor or ground. On the judge's order, the handler will place the scented article on the judge's book or work sheet. Without touching that article, the judge or steward will place it among the others.

After completion of the Scent Discrimination exercises, the ring steward places the articles in the handler's container and returns them to the judge's table.

The Directed Retrieve exercise utilizes two ring stewards. While one steward is picking up the scent articles, the other steward takes the three gloves from the judge's table and goes to the far end of the ring. After the dog and handler are in position (midway between and in line with the two jumps) but facing the opposite direction, the steward will drop the three gloves across the end of the ring. The steward will drop one glove in each corner, about 3 feet from the sides and the end of the ring, and one in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring. The three gloves must be clearly visible to both dog and handler. It is not necessary to "iron" the gloves flat, but they should be open, not closed. After the exercise is completed, the steward retrieves the remaining two gloves and places them on the judge's table.

For the Moving Stand exercise, one ring steward will be needed to hold the judge's clipboard and pencil during the examination and will stand aside as directed by the judge.

#### THE JUMPS

Although the gate steward will ask the handler what height the dog jumps, it is conceivable that the handler will know only the height of the dog. Because of this, it is essential that ring stewards be familiar with the Obedience Regulations concerning the setting of the jumps.

The minimum jump shall be set at the nearest multiple of 2 inches to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers for the breeds listed in Appendix A.

The minimum jump shall be set to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to the height of the dog at the withers for all other dogs, with no dog jumping less than 4 inches or more than 36 inches.

The broad jump is set at twice the distance of the high jump. The low side of each hurdle and the lowest hurdle shall be nearest the dog. The highest hurdles shall be removed first.

The boards shall be spaced as equally as possible as follows:

1. For dogs that jump 8 inches or less – use one board
2. For dogs that jump 16 to 24 inches — use two boards
3. For dogs that jump 28 to 44 inches — use three boards
4. For dogs that jump 48 to 72 inches — use four boards

Obedience Regulations  
This insert is issued as a supplement to the Obedience Regulations amended June 2008.

Effective January 1, 2009

#### CHAPTER 1

##### GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 1. Obedience Clubs. An obedience club that meets all the requirements of the American Kennel Club® and wishes to hold an obedience trial must apply on the form the AKC provides for permission to hold such a trial. The trial may be held either in conjunction with a dog show, agility trial, or as a separate event. A club that is not a member of the AKC must pay a license fee in order to hold a trial. The AKC Board of Directors determines this fee. If the trial is not held at the approved time and place, the license fee will be returned.

A club may hold two all-breed obedience trials at the same site on the same day, or two all-breed obedience clubs may hold their obedience trials one following another, if the events are held on the same site on the same day.

No judge will be assigned to judge for more than eight hours in one day, including any breed judging assignment when the obedience trial is held in conjunction with a dog show.

No part of the trials may be held concurrently.

Section 3. Entries. To be acceptable, an entry must:

- 
- Be submitted with the required entry fee
- 
- Be on an official AKC entry form
- 
- Be signed by the owner or his duly authorized agent
- 

Include all of the following information:

- Name of show/trial-giving club
- Date of show/trial
- Breed
- Variety, if any
- Sex
- Name of class(es) entered
- Full registered name of dog
- Name of owner(s)/co-owner(s)
- Address of owner

•

Include one of the following:

- AKC registration number
- AKC litter number
- PAL/ILP number
- Foreign registration number and country of registration for an unregistered imported dog
- Identification number issued by AKC

•

Include the following, if known:

- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Name of breeder(s)
- Name of sire

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- Name of dam
- Jump height

NOTE: A club may arrange entries according to jump height order in all classes in which jumps are used. If a club should choose this option, it will be stated in the premium list what jump height will begin the class and if the order will be ascending or descending. Handlers with multiple entries in the same class and with the same jump height should be accommodated.

Section 4. Obedience Classes. A licensed or member obedience trial need not include all the regular obedience classes, but a club will not be approved to hold Open classes unless

it also holds Novice classes. Nor will it be approved to hold Utility classes unless it also holds Novice and Open classes. Any club that has been approved to hold a licensed or member obedience trial may offer additional optional titling and/or non-regular classes upon AKC approval. If a non-regular class is one that is not defined in these Regulations, a clear and complete description of both the eligibility and performance requirements will appear in the premium list.

**Section 14. Dogs That May Not Compete.** No dog under six months of age may compete. No dog belonging wholly or in part to a judge, show, or obedience trial secretary, superintendent, or any member of such a person's household may be entered in any dog show or obedience trial at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate. Nor may they handle or act as agent for any dog entered at that dog show or obedience trial. The official veterinarians will not exhibit or act as agent or handler at the show, and dogs owned wholly or in part by them will not be eligible to be entered at that show. No dog owned wholly or in part by a superintendent, any other employee of that superintendent, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing will be eligible to be entered at any show held 30 days before or after a show that the superintendent has been approved to service by the AKC. Nor may that person exhibit or act as an agent or handler.

For the purpose of this section, the employees of a superintendent would include only those individuals who represent the superintendent or superintending organization at dog shows.

No judge or any person residing in the same household as the judge will exhibit or act as agent or handler at a dog show or obedience trial at which they are judging. Dogs owned wholly or in part by such judge or any member of their household will not be eligible to be entered at such event. This applies to both obedience and dog show judges when an obedience trial is held in conjunction with a dog show.

Subject to the foregoing, members of a judge's immediate family who no longer live in the same household may enter or handle a dog at a show, trial, or test if the judge is not officiating over any competition that might involve that dog. If a club does not advertise in its premium list who is to judge run-offs between classes, an exhibitor will automatically be considered to have lost the run-off of any tie scores between classes if the judge of the run-off is a member of the exhibitor's immediate family.

No dog may be entered or shown under a judge at an obedience trial if the dog has been owned, sold, held under lease, handled in the ring, or has been regularly trained or instructed within six months prior to the date of the obedience trial by the judge or by any person residing in the same household as the judge. "Trained or instructed" applies equally to judges who train professionally or as amateurs and to judges who train individual dogs or train or instruct dogs in classes with or through their handlers. (See "Glossary of Terms")

No dog may be entered or shown under a judge at an obedience trial if the dog is owned or handled by any person who has regularly served as a trainer or instructor of that judge within six months prior to the date of the obedience trial, either individually or through classes.

**Section 15. Qualifying Score.** A qualifying score means that the dog has earned more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise with a total score of at least 170 points.

This score must be earned in a regular class or optional titling class at a licensed or member obedience trial. There is no minimum number of dogs necessary in any class to earn a qualifying score toward a title.

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Section 16. When Titles are Won

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After a dog earns a title from an “A” class, it may continue showing in that “A” class for 60 days.

•

After 60 days, it may continue to compete in that level “B” class.

•

A dog may continue to compete in Novice B until it receives either a qualifying score in the Open class or earns the Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Classes award.

•

An unlimited number of the Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Class awards may be obtained from the Novice A class within the 60-day time period after earning the initial Companion Dog title.

•

Once a Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Class award is received after the 60-day period, the dog may no longer be entered in Novice B at future trials, for which entries have not closed.

•

A dog may compete indefinitely in Open B and/or Utility B after the Open or Utility title is earned.

•

A dog may compete in a more advanced class if it receives the prerequisite title prior to the trial in which the advanced entry is to be made.

•

Once a dog has competed in Open, it may not again be shown in Novice A.

•

Once a dog has competed in Utility, it may not again be shown in Open A.

Section 16a. Move-ups.

•

The club will clearly state in its premium list whether move-ups will be or will not be allowed.

•

After a dog earns a title, it may be moved up to the next class in a future trial even though the closing date for the trial has passed, providing the club offers move-ups.

•

Move-ups may be approved, provided the next level class (e. g. Novice to Open) and judge is available and the class has not reached its limit.

•

This move-up may be requested if, according to the owner's records, the dog has completed the requirements for the title after the closing date of the trial in which the advanced entry is to be made.

•

The request for a move-up must be in writing and presented to the superintendent or trial secretary at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial.

•

Movement between an "A" and "B" class at the same level is not considered a move-up and is not allowed after close of entries.

Section 17. Disqualification, Ineligibility, Excusal, and Change in Appearance of Dogs. If an ineligible dog has been entered in any licensed or member obedience trial or dog show, the name of the owner on the entry form is not the person(s) who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, the dog is shown in a class for which it has not been entered, no dog shall be entered in the same class more than once, or the dog's entry is unacceptable to the AKC, all resulting awards will be cancelled. In computing Obedience Trial Championship points, such ineligible dogs will not be counted as having competed regardless of whether they have received awards.

Any time a judge marks a dog "Disqualified" or "Excused," the judge must state the reason in the judge's book and will give the superintendent or show or trial secretary a brief report of the dog's actions. The judge's book will be submitted to the AKC with the report of the show or trial.

A dog that is blind or deaf or has been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons (other than changes customarily approved for its breed) may not compete in any obedience trial or tracking test and will be disqualified. Blind means without useful vision. Deaf means without useful hearing. The judge will not obtain the opinion of a veterinarian.

The judge will disqualify any dog that attempts to attack any person in the ring and fill out the required "Disqualification for Attacking" form (AEDSQ1).

When a dog has been disqualified under this section as being blind or deaf, for having been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons, or for having attacked or attempted to attack a person in the ring, all awards made to the dog at the trial will be cancelled by the AKC. The dog may not again compete unless the owner applies for and receives reinstatement.

The judge must excuse a dog that attacks another dog in the ring and fill out the required "Dog on Dog Attack" form (AEDSQ3). The owner of any dog that has been excused on two occasions for attacking or attempting to

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attack another dog in the ring will be notified that the dog is no longer eligible to be shown in obedience classes. The judge must excuse a dog that appears dangerous to other dogs in the ring.

Any dog whose appearance has been surgically altered to correct a congenital or hereditary defect may participate in obedience trials and all tracking tests provided that dog has been neutered or spayed.

Spayed bitches, monorchid, cryptorchid, or castrated dogs, and dogs that have disqualifying conformation faults may compete in obedience trials and tracking tests, if eligible under these Regulations.

A dog that is lame in the ring at any obedience trial or at a tracking test may not compete in that class. Lameness is defined as any irregularity of locomotion. The judge must determine, without a veterinarian's opinion, whether a dog is lame. If the judge deems a dog lame, that judge will not score the dog and will mark the judge's book, "Excused-lame."

No dog will be eligible to compete in an obedience trial or tracking test if it is taped, stitched, or bandaged in any way or if it has anything attached to it for medical or corrective purposes. Such a dog must be immediately excused and may not be judged under any circumstances.

Any dog whose hair surrounding the eyes, ears, or beard interferes with the performance of the dog, may have its hair tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes or in the manner as they are normally shown in the breed ring.

No dog will be eligible to compete if it appears to have been dyed or colored in any way, if its coat shows evidence of chalk or powder, or if the dog has anything attached to it for protection or adornment. Such a dog may be judged later if the condition has been corrected and if the judge desires to do so.

An obedience judge is not required to be familiar with the breed standards or to scrutinize each dog as in dog show judging but will be alert for conditions that may require disqualification or excusal under this section.

Section 17a. Dog Attacks/Event Committee Hearing. Any dog that, in the opinion of the Event Committee, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of the American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

Refer to Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 11 Section 8-A, "Event Committee Procedural Checklist" (RDEOB1) and "Dog Disqualified by Event Committee" (AEDSQ4).

Section 19. Obedience Ribbons. At licensed or member obedience trials, the following colors must be used for prize ribbons or rosettes in all regular and optional titling classes, for the ribbon or rosette for Highest Scoring dog in the Regular classes, and for the ribbon or rosette for the dog with the Highest Combined Score in Open B and Utility:

First Prize

Blue

Second Prize

Red

Third Prize

Yellow

Fourth Prize

White

Qualifying Prize  
Dark Green  
Highest Scoring Dog  
in the Regular Classes  
Blue and Gold  
Highest Combined  
Score in Open B and Utility  
Blue and Green

The following colors shall be used for non-regular classes:

First Prize

Rose

Second Prize

Brown

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Third Prize

Light Green

Fourth Prize

Gray

Each prize ribbon or rosette in all regular and optional titling classes, for the ribbon or rosette for Highest Scoring dog in the regular classes, and for the ribbon or rosette for the dog with the Highest Combined Score in Open B and Utility will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long and will bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the AKC, the words "Obedience Trial," the name of the placement, and the name of the trial-giving club. The date of the trial and the name of the city or town where the trial is held must appear on the face, back tab, or on a label attached to the specific ribbon.

Qualifying ribbons or rosettes, and ribbons or rosettes for non-regular classes, will be at least 2 inches wide and a minimum of 8 inches long, and will bear on the face a facsimile of the seal of the AKC, the words "Obedience Trial," the name of the placement and the name of the trial-giving club. The date of the trial and the name of the city or town where the trial is held may be on the face of the ribbons.

Section 21. Ribbons and Prizes. Ribbons for the four official placements and all prizes offered for competition within a single regular or optional titling class at licensed or member trials will be awarded only to dogs that earn qualifying scores. Qualifying scores will not be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes in the non-regular classes.

Awards for the four placements in these classes will be based solely on the number of points earned. The ribbon and any prizes offered for the dog with the highest combined score in Open B and Utility at a licensed or member trial will be awarded only to a dog that earns qualifying scores in both Open B and Utility.

Prizes for which dogs in one class compete against dogs in one or more other classes at licensed or member trials or at sanctioned matches will be awarded only to dogs that earn qualifying scores.

Prizes at a licensed or member obedience trial must be offered to be won outright.

However, a prize requiring three wins by the same owner for permanent possession, but

not necessarily with the same dog, may be offered for the dog with the highest qualifying score in one of the regular classes, the highest scoring dog in the regular classes, or the dog with the highest combined qualifying scores in the Open B and Utility classes.

Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this section, prizes may be offered for the highest scoring dog of the groups as defined in Chapter 3 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows or for the highest scoring dogs of any breeds, but not for a breed variety, with the following exceptions: In accordance with Chapter 3 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, all Miniature and Standard Poodles are in the Non-Sporting Group and all Toy Poodles are in the Toy Group. In addition, Standard Manchester Terriers are in the Terrier Group, and Toy Manchester Terriers are in the Toy Group.

Prizes offered only to members of certain clubs or organizations will not be approved for publication in premium lists.

If an award in any of the regular or optional titling classes is cancelled, the next highest scoring dog will receive that award. If there is no dog to move up, the award will be void. If the AKC cancels a dog's win, the dog's owner must return all ribbons and prizes to the show-giving club within ten days of receiving the AKC's cancellation notice.

Optional titling classes are not considered regular classes.

Section 22. Highest Scoring Dog in the Regular Classes and the Dog with the Highest Combined Score in Open B and Utility. The dog receiving the highest qualifying score in the regular classes will be awarded the ribbons and any prizes offered for these placements after the announcement of final scores of the last regular class to be judged.

The dog receiving the highest combined score in Open B and Utility may be awarded the ribbon and any prizes offered for this placement after Open B and Utility Classes have been judged and after the announcement of those final scores. The superintendent or show or trial secretary will mark the catalog to identify the dogs receiving these awards.

In the case of a tie between dogs eligible for either of the above awards, each dog will be tested again, individually, by performing the entire Novice Heel Free exercise. The judge for a run-off will be designated by the Event Committee from among the judges of the obedience trial. When a run-off has been completed, the judge will record the results on a special sheet that identifies the dogs taking part in the run-off by catalog number, class and

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breed. When the judge has marked and signed the sheet, it will be turned over to the superintendent or show or trial secretary who will mark the catalog accordingly and forward the sheet to the AKC as part of the records of the trial.

Scores from the optional titling and the non-regular obedience classes are not eligible for High In Trial from the regular obedience classes.

Section 27. Limitation of Entries. If a club anticipates an entry to exceed the capacity of its facilities for a licensed or member trial, it may limit entries, not to exceed up to eight hours of judging time per day, per judge. Non-regular classes, however, may be included, if so desired.

Prominent announcement of such limits will appear on the title or cover page of the premium list for an obedience trial or immediately under the obedience heading in the

premium list for a dog show. This announcement must state that entries in one or more specified classes will automatically close when certain limits have been reached, even if this occurs before the official closing date.

When entries are limited in the Open B and/or Utility B classes, a club must designate a UDX class in the premium list. Dogs entered in this UDX class would be entered in both Open B and Utility B, and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. Once the limit has been reached in either the Open B or the Utility B class, the UDX class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

Section 30. Split Classes, Official Ribbons, Prizes. A club that holds a split class will award AKC qualifying ribbons in each division, even if the split is made after entries close. The four dogs with the highest qualifying scores in each division will be awarded the four AKC official placements.

Section 35. Judges' Education. Obedience judges must attend at least one obedience judges' seminar presented by AKC staff in every three-year period and will be ineligible to accept assignments if this requirement is not met.

To assist in their education, prospective judges may apprentice under a judge who has been approved to judge the Utility Class. The apprentice judge will score dogs and handlers from outside the obedience ring. Proper notification to and consent from the judge must be given prior to the start of the class.

A person who is not currently suspended from the privileges of the AKC and who has trained and exhibited a dog to the Utility Dog title may be approved to judge non-regular classes, unless these Regulations state otherwise.

## CHAPTER 2

### REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING

Section 11. Announcement of Scores. The judge will not disclose any scoring to anyone until the entire class has been judged. Nor should anyone else be allowed to do so.

Immediately after the group exercises for Novice, Graduate Novice, and Open, the judge will inform the handlers of a qualifying performance. In Graduate Open, Versatility, and Utility, the judge will inform the handler immediately following the last exercise.

After all the scores are recorded for the class, or division of the class, the judge will call the qualifying dogs back into the ring. Before awarding the placements, the judge will inform the spectators of the maximum number of points required for a perfect score.

After scores of each placement have been announced, the judge will tell each handler their dog's score.

Section 12. Explanations and Errors. Judges are not required to explain their scoring and need not enter into a discussion with a dissatisfied exhibitor. After the class is finished and the judge's book has been turned in, however, the judge is encouraged to discuss the scoring with the exhibitors. Any interested person who thinks that there may have been a numerical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards, the judge, the superintendent, or to the show or trial secretary so that the matter may be checked.

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Section 19. Hands. In all exercises where the dog is required to heel free, one of these options should be followed: (1) when the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the sides and must hang naturally at the sides when stopped or (2) the right hand and arm must move naturally at the side, while the left hand must be held against the front of the body, centered in the area of the waist, with the left forearm carried against the body.

In either of the above situations, the hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of an exercise in order to maintain balance.

There will be a substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of the positions stated above.

In any exercise that requires a dog to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front. The handler must receive a substantial deduction for not doing so.

Any movement of the handler's hands or arms from the time the dog sits in front and prior to the dog returning to the heel position will be considered to be an additional signal or command and will be penalized unless such movement is otherwise permitted by these Regulations.

## CHAPTER 3

### NOVICE

Section 1. Novice A Class. The Novice A class shall be for dogs that have not won the CD title. A handler must own the dog entered, or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family, and may not have previously handled any dog that has earned an AKC Novice, Open, or Utility title. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person who handles the dog in the first four exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises; however, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first four exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercise. The additional handler for the group exercise need not be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. No dog may be entered in both Novice A and Novice B at any trial.

Section 2. Novice B Class. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class to earn a CD title. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person who handles the dog in the first four exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises; however, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first four exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercise. No dog may be entered in both Novice A and Novice B at any one trial.

Section 12. Group Exercises. The principal feature of these exercises is that the dog remains in the sitting or down position, whichever is required by the particular exercise. Orders are "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs" and "Back to your dogs."

All competing dogs in the class perform these exercises together. If, however, there are more dogs competing than can be spaced 4 feet per dog on one side of a ring, some must be judged in another group. The judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections, and the Group Exercise will be judged after each section.

If the same judge judges both Novice A and Novice B and the combined class would not have to be divided into equal sections, the two classes may be judged in one group.

The dogs that are in the ring will be lined up in catalog order along one of the four sides of the ring. Each handler's armband, weighted as necessary, will be placed behind the dog.

Before starting the Long Sit, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. When the judge gives the order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit, if they are not already sitting. On further order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately will go to the opposite side of the ring, turn, and face their dogs.

The judge will promptly instruct the handler or a steward to remove any dog that interferes with another dog. Any dog that leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise must be excused from the remaining group exercise.

After one minute from the time the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order to return. The handlers must go back promptly, walking around and in back of their own dog to the heel position.

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The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position.

Before starting the Long Down, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. On the judge's order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to down, without touching either the dogs or their collars, so that the dogs are facing the opposite side of the ring. The rest of this exercise is done in the same manner as the Long Sit, except that the judge will order the handlers to return after three minutes, and the dogs must not move from the down position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished."

The dogs will not be required to sit at the end of this exercise.

Section 13. Group Exercises, Scoring. A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, going over to any other dog, not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from a sit to a down or from a down to a sit after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order, "Exercise finished." Depending on the circumstance, a minor or substantial deduction will be made for touching the dog or its collar while getting the dog into the down position.

A dog that is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog must be repositioned by its handler and will be substantially penalized. In extreme cases, the dog may be excused. A dog that interferes with another dog on the first group exercise must be excused from participating in the remaining group exercise.

During these exercises, the judge will stand so all the dogs are clearly visible and where the judge can see all the handlers in the ring without having to turn around.

Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, except for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or

resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit or lie down. These will be penalized substantially; in extreme cases, the dog may be excused. The judge will not give the "Exercise finished" order until the handlers have returned to heel position.

## CHAPTER 4

### OPEN

Section 1. Open A Class. The Open A class will be for dogs that have won the CD title but have not won the CDX title. Anyone who has trained or exhibited a dog that has earned an OTCH may not enter or handle dogs in this class. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner's household or immediate family. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person who handles the dog in the first five exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first five exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercises. The additional handler for the group exercise need not be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. No dog may be entered in both the Open A and Open B classes at any one trial.

Section 2. Open B Class. The Open B class will be for dogs that have won the CD or CDX titles. A dog may continue to compete in this class after it has won the UD title. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person who handles the dog in the first five exercises must handle that dog in the group exercises. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first five exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercises. No dog may be entered in both Open A and Open B classes at any one trial.

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the order of exercises to be performed in that class.

This order will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes before the start of the class. In future assignments, judges are required to alternate the six orders of exercises so that each will be used approximately the same number of times.

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Section 11. Retrieve over High Jump. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes out over the jump, picks up the dumbbell, and promptly returns with it over the jump. Orders are "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish." This exercise will be executed in the same manner as the Retrieve on Flat, except that the dog will clear the high jump both going and coming. The handler will stand at least 8 feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump, will remain in the same spot throughout the exercise and will throw the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. (These 8 foot distances should be clearly marked.)

Jump heights shall be set in multiples of 2 inches with no dog jumping less than 4 inches or more than 36 inches. A jump height is determined by the height of the dog at the withers, see table below for standard jump heights. The actual height of the dog shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to determine the minimum jump height, with

the exception of dogs eligible for the 4 inch jump height. Dogs eligible for the 4 inch jump height must be less than 7 ½ inches at the withers. Handlers who choose to have their dogs jump more than the minimum required height will neither be penalized nor receive extra consideration.

#### Standard Jump Height Table

Measured height of dog at withers

Height to be jumped

Less than 7 ½"

4"

7 ½" to less than 9"

8"

9" to less than 11"

10"

11" to less than 13"

12"

13" to less than 15"

14"

15" to less than 17"

16"

17" to less than 19"

18"

19" to less than 21"

20"

21" to less than 23"

22"

23" to less than 25"

24"

25" to less than 27"

26"

27" to less than 29"

28"

29" to less than 31"

30"

31" to less than 33"

32"

33" to less than 35"

34"

35" to less than 37"

36"

The minimum jump height for breeds listed in Appendix A shall be set to three-quarters the dog's height at the withers. This jump height shall also be rounded to a multiple of 2 inches. The minimum jumps for approved breeds will be set in accordance with the table listed in Appendix A. Handlers of these breeds may choose to have the dog jump higher than listed in the table.

The stewards, based on the jump height listed, will preset the jumps. The judge will make certain the jump is at least the minimum required height for each dog and must also be

aware that the jump may be set at a higher height if requested by the handler. Judges may, at their discretion, verify the height of any dog at the withers.

The high jump will be 5 feet wide and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and adjustable at 2 inch increments from 8 inches to 36 inches. The uprights of the high jump will be 4 feet high. In addition, four 8-inch boards, one 4-inch board, and one 2-inch board should be available for use. The jump will be a flat white. The height of each board will be indicated in black 2-inch numbers.

Section 13. Broad Jump. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays where left until directed to jump, that the dog clears the jump on a single command or signal, and that the dog returns to its handler after it has jumped. Orders are "Leave your dog," "Send your dog," and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump facing the lowest side of the lowest hurdle. (This 8-foot distance must be clearly marked.) On order from the judge to "Leave your dog"

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the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay and go to a position facing the right side of the jump. The handler may stand anywhere between the lowest edge of the first hurdle and the highest edge of the last hurdle with their toes about 2 feet from the jump.

On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler will execute a 90-degree pivot but will remain in the same spot. The dog will clear the entire distance of the hurdles without touching them and, without further command or signal, immediately return to a sitting position in front of the handler, finishing as in the Novice Recall.

The broad jump will consist of four white telescoping hurdles, all about 8 inches wide. The largest hurdle will measure about 5 feet long and about 6 inches at the highest point. In the ring, they will be arranged in order of size, evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump setting for each dog. Four hurdles will be used for a jump of 48 to 72 inches, three for 28 to 44 inches, two for a jump of 16 to 24 inches and one for 8 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the distance jumped by each dog is in accordance with these Regulations.

## CHAPTER 5

### UTILITY

Section 10. Directed Retrieve. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays until directed to retrieve and that it goes directly to the designated glove and retrieves it promptly. In this exercise the handler will provide three gloves that are predominantly white. They must be open and must be approved by the judge. Handlers will stand with their backs to the unobstructed end of the ring midway between and inline with the jumps. The dog will be sitting in heel position. The judge or steward will drop the gloves across the end of the ring while the handler and dog are facing the opposite direction. One glove is dropped about 3 feet in from each corner, and the remaining glove is dropped in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring.

The gloves will be designated "One," "Two," or "Three," reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The orders for the exercise are "One," "Two," or "Three," "Take it," and "Finish."

When the judge designates the glove by number, the handler will turn in place to face the glove, halting with the dog sitting in heel position. The handler may not touch the dog or reposition it. The handler will give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of the left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. Either simultaneously with or immediately following giving the direction, the handler must give a verbal retrieve command. The dog must then go directly to the glove, completing the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat.

Handlers may bend their bodies and knees as far as necessary to give the direction to the dogs but must then stand up in a natural position with their arms at their sides.

The judge will designate the same glove number for each handler. For each judging assignment the judge must alternate the number of the glove used.

Section 12. Moving Stand and Examination. The principal features of the exercise are that the dog heel, stand, and stay as the handler moves away, accept the examination without shyness or resentment, and return to the handler on command. Orders for the exercise are "Forward," "Stand your dog," and "Call your dog to heel."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position at a point indicated by the judge.

The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" and then will order, "Forward." The handler will command or signal the dog to heel. After the handler has proceeded about 10 feet, the judge will order, "Stand your dog." Without pausing, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand and continue forward about 10 to 12 feet. The handler will then turn either to the right or left to face the dog, which must stand and stay in position.

The judge will approach the dog from the front to examine it as in dog show judging, except the exam will not include the teeth, testicles, or tail.

When the judge orders, "Call your dog to heel," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the heel position. The dog should return to heel position in a brisk manner.

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Section 14. Directed Jumping. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring, stops, jumps as directed, and returns as in the Novice Recall. The orders are: "Send your dog," "Bar," "High," and "Finish."

The jumps will be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the longest sides of the ring and about 18 to 20 feet apart. The judge must see that the jumps are set at the required height for each dog, as described in the Retrieve Over High Jump.

The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring with the dog sitting in heel position, about 20 feet from the jumps and midway between them. Upon order from the judge, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to go forward at a brisk trot or gallop to a point about 20 feet past the jumps in the approximate center of the unobstructed end of the ring. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will give a

command to sit. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but it need not sit squarely.

The judge will order either “Bar” or “High” for the first jump, and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of the handler and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. After the dog has returned to heel position, the judge will say, “Exercise finished.”

When the dog is set up for the second half of this exercise, the judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the order for the second part of the exercise. The same procedure will be followed for the second jump.

It is optional which jump the judge first indicates, but both jumps must be included. The judge must not designate the jump until the dog has reached the far end of the ring.

The height of the jumps and construction of the high jump will be the same as required in the Open classes. The bar jump will consist of a bar between 2 and 2 ½ inches square with the edges rounded to remove any sharpness. The bar will be flat black and white in alternate sections each about 3 inches wide. The bar will have the weight of wood. It will be supported by two unconnected 4-foot upright posts about 5 feet apart and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and must be adjustable for each 2 inches of height from 8 inches to 36 inches. The jump must be built so that the bar may be knocked off without affecting the uprights.

Section 15. Directed Jumping, Scoring. A dog will receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it: anticipates the handler’s command and/or signal to go out, fails to leave the handler, does not go out between the jumps, does not stop and remain at least 10 feet past the jumps without an additional command, anticipates the handler’s command and/or signal to jump, returns over the wrong jump, knocks the bar off the uprights, or uses the top of any jump for aid in going over.

Minor to substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not stop on command, that does not stop in the approximate center of the ring about 20 feet past the jumps, that does not sit, that receives an additional command to sit after the dog has stopped, or that anticipates the handler’s command to sit.

Depending on the extent of the violation, minor or substantial deductions will be made for slowness in going out, for touching the jumps, or for any hesitation in jumping.

All applicable penalties of the Novice Recall exercises will apply.

## CHAPTER 6

### GRADUATE NOVICE

#### OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Graduate Novice Class. The Graduate Novice class shall be for dogs that have not won a

Graduate Novice title (GN). The Graduate Novice class is an optional class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. Judges for this class must be approved to judge novice or higher classes. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first five exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same Long Down Group Exercise. If eligible as defined in these Regulations, dogs entered in Graduate Novice may also be entered in any other obedience classes. Judging will be as in the regular classes.

The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging:

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1. Heel on Leash & Figure Eight

40 points

2. Drop on Recall

40 points

3. Dumbbell Recall

30 points

4. Recall Over High Jump

30 points

5. Recall Over Broad Jump

30 points

6. Long Down

30 points

Maximum Total Score

200 points

Section 2. Graduate Novice Title. The letters GN may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by three different judges to have received qualifying scores in Graduate Novice classes at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Graduate Novice certificate from the AKC.

Suggested judging rate of eight dogs per hour.

CHAPTER 7

GRADUATE OPEN

OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Graduate Open Class. The Graduate Open Class will be for dogs that have not won the GO title. The Graduate Open class is an optional class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. Judges for this class must be approved to judge Open or higher classes. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. If eligible as defined in these Regulations, dogs entered in Graduate Open may also be entered in any other obedience class.

The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging:

1. Signal Exercise

40 points

2. Scent Discrimination

30 points

3. Directed Retrieve

30 points

4. Moving Stand & Examination

30 points

5. Go Out

30 points

6. Directed Jumping

40 points

Maximum Total Score

200 points

Section 2. Graduate Open Title. The letters GO may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by three different judges to have received qualifying scores in the Graduate Open class at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Graduate Open certificate from the AKC.

Suggested judging rate of seven dogs per hour.

## CHAPTER 8

### VERSATILITY

#### OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Versatility Class. The Versatility class will be for all dogs and is an optional titling class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. Judges for this class must be approved to judge the Utility class. Owners may enter more than one dog. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person and may be entered in another class or classes.

Six exercises will be performed: two each from the Novice, Open, and Utility classes. There will be no group exercises. The exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular classes. For the purpose of this class, scent discrimination articles # 1 and # 2 will be considered as a single Utility exercise. Prior to the start of judging, the

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judge will decide the combination and order of exercises to be performed in this class.

This combination and order will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes prior to the start of the class. In future assignments, judges are required to alternate the combinations so that each will be used approximately the same number of times. Each handler will provide a dumbbell, scent discrimination articles, and directed retrieve gloves.

#### Versatility Exercises and Scores

Novice exercise No. 1

25 points

Novice exercise No. 2

25 points

Open exercise No. 1

35 points

Open exercise No. 2

35 points

Utility exercise No. 1

40 points

Utility exercise No. 2

40 points

Maximum Total Score

200 points

Versatility Combinations

V1- Stand for Exam, Recall, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Signal Exercise, Directed Retrieve  
V2- Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Broad Jump, Moving Stand & Exam, Directed Retrieve  
V3- Stand for Exam, Recall, Drop on Recall, Retrieve over High Jump, Signal Exercise, Directed Jumping  
V4- Novice Heel Free, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve over High Jump, Moving Stand & Exam, Directed Jumping  
V5- Stand for Exam, Recall, Heel Free & Figure Eight, Retrieve on Flat, Scent Discrimination, Directed Jumping  
V6- Stand for Exam, Recall, Figure Eight & Heel Free, Retrieve over High Jump, Directed Retrieve, Directed Jumping  
V7- Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Retrieve over High Jump, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve  
V8- Stand for Exam, Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Broad Jump, Signal Exercise, Moving Stand & Exam,  
V9- Novice Heel Free, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Scent Discrimination, Moving Stand & Exam  
V10- Stand for Exam, Recall, Figure Eight & Heel Free, Retrieve on Flat, Scent Discrimination, Directed Jumping  
V11- Heel on Leash & Figure 8, Recall, Retrieve over High Jump, Broad Jump, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve  
V12- Novice Heel Free, Stand for Exam, Drop on Recall, Broad Jump, Moving Stand & Exam, Directed Retrieve

Section 3. Versatility Title. The letters VER may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by three different judges to have received qualifying scores in the Versatility class at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Versatility certificate from the AKC. Dogs that have obtained the Versatility title (VER) may continue to compete in the Versatility class.

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Suggested judging rate of six dogs per hour.

## CHAPTER 11

### OBEDIENCE MASTER TITLE AND GRAND MASTER TITLE

Section 1. Dogs that May Compete. Obedience Master title and Obedience Grand Master title points will be recorded for dogs that have earned the Utility Dog title. When a dog earns an Obedience Master title, it may continue to compete and earn points until it is awarded an Obedience Grand Master title.

Section 2. Master Title and Grand Master Title Points. Obedience Master Points will be recorded for those dogs earning a score of 190 or better in Open B or Utility B Class, according to the schedule of points established by the AKC Board of Directors.

To Acquire an Obedience Master Title. Dogs will be required to earn a total of 200 points, based on the points awarded for scores of 190 or better from the Open B or Utility B class as listed in the below point schedule. For a title to be earned 30% of the points

earned (60 points) must come from the Open B Class and 30% of the points (60 points) must come from the Utility B Class, the remaining 40% of the points earned (80 points) can come from the Open B or Utility B class, for the total of 200 points.

When a dog earns a total of 200 points based on the below point schedule (Section 3), it will be awarded an Obedience Master title. Obedience Master titles will be awarded for 9 levels and upon completion of the 10th level, a dog will be awarded an Obedience Grand Master title. Points accumulated in excess of the 200 points required for each level will be applied towards the next level of award if available. Only one title for Obedience Grand Master will be awarded.

Upon being awarded an Obedience Master Title or the Grand Master title, dogs will be permitted to display the title of Obedience Master (OM#) or OGM after their names.

### Section 3. Point Schedule.

Dog's Score

Points Awarded

190

6

190.5

6

191

6

191.5

6

192

9

192.5

9

193

9

193.5

9

194

9

194.5

9

195

12

195.5

12

196

12

196.5

12

197

15

197.5

15

198

15

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198.5

15

199

15

199.5

15

200

15

Succession of Obedience Master Titles

OM1 Obedience Master 1

OM2 Obedience Master 2

OM3 Obedience Master 3

OM4 Obedience Master 4

OM5 Obedience Master 5

OM6 Obedience Master 6

OM7 Obedience Master 7

OM8 Obedience Master 8

OM9 Obedience Master 9

OGM Obedience Grand Master

CHAPTER 14

NON-REGULAR CLASSES

Section 7. Wild Card Novice. The Wild Card Novice class is for any dog that is capable of performing the Novice exercises and that is eligible under the Obedience Regulations to compete in AKC events. No title is required to enter and handlers may enter more than one dog. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person, and may be entered in another class or classes. The Novice exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular Novice class, except that verbal praise during the exercises is to be encouraged and not penalized. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.) Handlers may give additional commands, but they will be penalized accordingly. Each handler may choose to select one exercise as a wild card. The exhibitor will have the option of performing the selected wild card exercise, but will receive the full point value regardless of how the dog performs. When checking in, the handler must inform the steward or judge which exercise will be used as the wild card. The exercises will be performed in the same order as the regular Novice class. The point values for the exercises, scoring, and maximum total points are the same as the regular Novice class.

Section 8. Wild Card Open. The Wild Card Open class is for any dog capable of performing the Open exercises and that is eligible under the Obedience Regulations to compete in AKC events. No title is required to enter and handlers may enter more than one dog. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person, and may be

entered in another class or classes. The Open exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular Open A class, except that verbal praise during the exercises is to be encouraged and not penalized. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.) Handlers may give additional commands, but they will be penalized accordingly. Each handler may choose to select one exercise as a wild card. The exhibitor will have the option of performing the selected wild card exercise, but will receive the full point value regardless of how the dog performs. When checking in, the handler must inform the steward or judge which exercise will be used as a wild card. The exercises will be performed in the same order as in the regular Open A class. The point values for the exercises, scoring, and maximum total points are the same as in the regular Open class.

Section 9. Wild Card Utility. The Wild Card Utility class is for any dog that is capable of performing the Utility exercises and that is eligible under the Obedience Regulations to compete in AKC events. No title is required to enter and handlers may enter more than one dog. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person, and may be entered in another class or classes. The Utility exercises will be performed and judged as in the regular Utility A class, except that verbal praise during the exercises is to be encouraged and not penalized. (Good,

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yes, nice, super, great, atta boy, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.) Handlers are allowed to praise their dogs during the performance of all Utility exercises except the signal exercise. Handlers may give additional commands, but they will be penalized accordingly. Each handler may choose to select one exercise as a wild card. The exhibitor will have the option of performing the selected wild card exercise, but will receive the full point value regardless of how the dog performs. When checking in, the handler must inform the steward or judge which exercise will be used as a wild card. The exercises will be performed in the same order as in the regular Utility A class. The point values for the exercises, scoring, and maximum total points are the same as in the regular Utility class.

Section 10. International Class. The International class shall be for all dogs. Judges for this class must be approved to judge the Utility class. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. All exercises will be performed and scored as in the Open and Utility classes.

The exercises, minimum scores, and order of judging:

1. Drop on Recall

30 points

2. Retrieve over High

Jump

30 points

3. Heel Free (No Fig. 8)

30 points

4. Scent Discrimination

Article #1 15 points

Article #2 15 points

30 points total

5. Signal Exercise

40 points

6. Directed Jumping

40 points

Maximum Total Score

200 points

Note: The International class was developed as a non-regular class for possible future use by the AKC in the development and selection of dogs and handlers for competition in an AKC international competition. The selection process and international class exercise criteria have not been developed.

OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

(The following term(s) have been added to the current glossary.)

Regularly Trained or Instructed – where a dog and/or handler meet on a regular basis for instruction. A regular basis is considered a set pattern of dates, such as monthly, or more often. Occasional training or seminar attendance is not considered a violation.

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APPENDIX A

Three-Quarters Jump Height Table

Measured height of dog at withers

Height to be jumped

Less than 10”

4”

10” to less than 12 ½ ”

8”

12 ½” to less than 15”

10”

15” to less than 17 ½”

12”

17 ½” to less than 20”

14”

20” to less than 23”

16”

23” to less than 25 ½”

18”

25 ½” to less than 28”

20”

28” to less than 31”

22”

31” to less than 33 ½”

24”

33 ½” to less than 36”

26”

36” to less than 39”

28”

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Breeds Approved for the Three-quarters Jump Height

AKITAS

ARGENTINE DOGOS

BASSET HOUNDS

BERGAMASCOS

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS

BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIERS

BLOODHOUNDS

BOLOGNESE

BORZOI

BULLDOGS

BULLMASTIFFS

CARDIGAN WELSH CORGIS

CAUCASIAN MOUNTAIN DOGS

CHINESE SHAR-PEI

CLUMBER SPANIELS

DACHSHUNDS

DOGUES DE BORDEAUX

ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOGS

FRENCH BULLDOGS

GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉENS

GREAT DANES

GREAT PYRENEES

GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOGS

IRISH WOLFHOUSES

KISHU KENS

KOOIKERHOUNDJES

KUVASZOK

LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLOI

LEONBERGERS

MASTIFFS

NEAPOLITAN MASTIFFS

NEWFOUNDLANDS

OTTERHOUNDS

PETITE BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉENS

PORTUGUESE PODENGOS

SAINT BERNARDS

SKYE TERRIERS

SUSSEX SPANIELS  
THAI RIDGEBACKS

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OBEDIENCE JUDGES GUIDELINES

CHAPTER 1

THE OBEDIENCE JUDGE

ACCEPTING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment Limitations. A judge will not be approved to judge the same regular class at all-breed events within 30 days and 200 straight line miles of each other. There are no such restrictions on non-regular classes or tracking tests. Assignments to judge the same class or classes at two different breed specialty or group obedience trials are not considered to be a conflict. Breed specialty obedience assignments or group shows are not in conflict with an assignment to judge the same class(es) at an all-breed obedience trial.

SICKNESS AND FITNESS TO JUDGE

Change of Address. Judges are responsible for promptly notifying the AKC Companion Events Department of any change in mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number(s). The change will be automatically reflected in the AKC Judges Directory.

CHAPTER 3

PROCEDURES IN THE RING

Directed Retrieve. Although this exercise is basically judged as a Retrieve on Flat, it has an important difference that must be considered when judging. The difference is that the dog is directed to retrieve. The turn and sit are to be judged as in the Scent Discrimination exercise. A dog that finds a glove without being directed to it by the handler must be given a non-qualifying (NQ) score. A dog whose handler misdirects the dog (under turns or over

turns) must be nonqualified or penalized depending on the extent of the over/under turn. The judge should be certain the gloves are visible to the smallest and largest dogs. Prior to the start of judging, the judge shall make the decision as to which glove will be used for the class that day. The same glove number will be used for each handler. For each judging assignment the judge must alternate the number of the glove used. The gloves will be designated "One," "Two," or "Three" reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The judge will give the order "One," "Two," or "Three" and at the same time may, with the handler's back to the gloves, point to the designated glove. The direction the handler turns is at the option of the handler, no matter which glove is designated, but the dog should maintain heel position throughout the turn and sit at heel when the turn is completed. The retrieve portion of the exercise is then completed without any further order from the judge.

Giving the direction must be done with a single motion. When the motion stops, the direction is completed. If the handler does not give the command simultaneously with or immediately following the direction but delays between the motion and the command, the dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Moving Stand and Examination. This exercise may be judged from the side while the dog and handler are heeling and until the dog is to be examined. For the examination part of the exercise, the dog should be approached from the front and then given a thorough examination as in conformation judging, except that the dog's mouth, testicles, and tail are not examined.

Grid for Scoring Directed Jumping. When scoring the Directed Jumping exercise, large variations in performance may occur, and there is not a great deal of time to consider how far from perfect each variation is. As an aid to maintaining some consistency in the manner in which all dogs in the class are scored, there should be no

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question that some type of system needs to be adopted in advance of the class. Although the following suggestion may not fit your particular method of scoring, it may serve as an aid in developing your own individual style. A grid is based on the premise that the closer to perfection, the smaller the deduction.

Should the dog go out about 20 feet beyond the jumps, stop on command by the handler and sit in the approximate center of the ring, there is no deduction. (This is represented by an imaginary circle of about 3 feet in the center of the ring at about a distance of 20 feet beyond the jumps.) Keep in mind that the handler should stop and sit the dog about 20 feet beyond the jump, not precisely 20 feet beyond the jump. If the dog stops and sits on the handler's command at 21 feet or 19 feet beyond the jumps, this is about 20 feet beyond the jumps; no points should be deducted. The key is that the dog stops and sits on command. The dog should not stop and sit without a command from the handler or stop and/or sit when it arrives at the ring barrier simply because it can go no further. If the dog does either of these, points are deducted because the handler's command did not cause the dog to stop and sit. If the dog stops and sits on the handler's command but the handler has stopped the dog at about the 12-foot distance, a deduction is in order as the handler did not stop and sit the dog at about 20 feet beyond the jumps. Again, the requirement is to stop and sit the dog at about 20 feet beyond the jumps, not precisely 20 feet beyond the jumps.

If the dog goes out about 20 feet beyond the jumps, stops and sits on the handler's command but its final position is in one of the corners of the ring, a three point deduction should be made. If the dog goes out only 10 feet beyond the jumps, stops and sits on command but the final position is in the center of the ring, a three point deduction should be made. If the dog goes out about 10 feet, stops and sits on command but the final position is next to the side of the ring, a five or six point deduction is in order.

Once the handler has commanded the dog to sit at a point about 20 feet beyond the jumps and the dog stops, the go-out part of the exercise is complete. A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for not staying without an additional command. The penalties for the Recall will apply.

Group Exercises. If two classes in the same classification such as Novice A and B have different judges, each judge must judge the Group exercises separately. A judge with only a single dog competing in a class would be required to have the dog perform the Group exercises alone. However, if the same judge is judging both A and B classes (in

the same classification) and the combined two classes do not exceed the limit of dogs based on the size of the ring, the judge may combine the two classes for the Group exercises.

Judges should make every effort to equally divide a class for the Group exercises and not have fewer than six dogs in the exercise.

In the Long Down exercise, the dog should lie down on command and/or signal without being touched. In the down position, the dog should be lying straight beside the handler, facing the opposite side of the ring. Should the dog lie down facing the dog on either side or in a manner that could interfere with an adjacent competing dog, the handler should be instructed to straighten or reposition the dog, and a substantial penalty should be applied. When positioning dogs in the ring for the Group exercises in the Open classes, judges should ensure that such positioning will permit the competing dogs to keep the handlers in their direct line of vision as the handlers leave and return to the ring.

In Open classes, when signaling the steward to bring the handlers back to the ring, do not use a signal (like waving of an arm) that might cause the dogs in the ring to react.

If a dog gets up and starts to roam or follows its handler and disturbs the other dogs, or if a dog moves so as to interfere with another dog, the judge should promptly instruct the handler or a steward to take the dog out of the ring or to keep it away from the other dogs. The judge must excuse the dog from the remaining Group exercise and so mark the judge's book.

Handlers who physically correct their dogs before or after any Group Exercise or while leaving the ring must be penalized under Miscellaneous Penalty.

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CHAPTER 5

OBEDIENCE JUDGES GUIDELINES

THE JUDGES BOOK

Marking the Judge's Book. Chapter 2, Section 10, of the Obedience Regulations instructs judges how to correctly mark the book. Judges must be thorough, neat, and precise in marking their books. The awarding of obedience titles based on a dog's performance at obedience trials is valueless if the scores are not accurate. Judges must double-check the accuracy of score totals.

When all dogs have been judged and the four official places determined, then ribbon prizes can be awarded: blue, red, yellow, and white or white, yellow, red and blue. Where ribbons or prizes for additional places are offered, the awards for these should be made after the awarding of the four official ribbon prizes. The judge must sign the book, mark the time finished, remove and retain the sheets marked "Judge's Copy," and then return the book (or sheets) for the completed class promptly to the trial secretary, obedience chairperson, or superintendent. When the judge returns the book, the trial secretary, obedience chairperson, or superintendent should briefly scan the book for obvious omissions or oversights that can be corrected immediately.

Judges should retain their judging records for at least six months. If such records are required to provide information relative to the judging of a particular class, the information will be readily available to the AKC.

On the following pages are samples of Novice, Open B, and Utility A sheets that show the proper procedure for marking the judge's book. This procedure is applicable for all classes.

#### PROCEDURES FOR JUDGES TO FOLLOW IN MARKING THE JUDGE'S BOOK (Use Ballpoint Pen)

- Indicate class.
- Mark the catalog number, the score of the four official placements, the time started, and the time finished. This should be on the first sheet for the class only.
- Where run-offs of ties have taken place for any of the four official placements, indicate the winner of the tie by placing a plus sign after the winner's catalog number. In case of a three-way tie, use a double plus for the winner and a single plus for the dog placed second out of the three.
- To correct an error after marking a score under a wrong catalog number, cross out the error, write the correction, and initial the change.
- Non-qualifying scores should be indicated by an "NQ" in the "Total Score" block.
- Carry only qualifying scores down to the "Final Qualifying Score" block.
- If judges are aware of the reason for an absence in a group exercise, they should mark the dog "Absent" and state the reason. When judges are unaware of the reason for an absence in a group exercise, the dog must be marked "Absent – reason not given."
- In the case of a dog that is "Disqualified," state the reason in the judge's book and bring it to the attention of the superintendent or trial secretary. In addition, if a dog is disqualified for attacking a person in the ring, complete a form available from the superintendent or trial secretary. This completed form must accompany the judge's book.
- If any dog is excused, state the reason.

#### SIGN THE BOOK.

NOTE: Judges should use the inside cover of the book for any comments or explanations required. If additional information is deemed necessary by the judge, comments or explanations should be forwarded to the Event Operations Department.

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#### THE STEWARD IN OBEDIENCE

##### THE GATE STEWARD

The primary responsibility of the gate steward is to ensure that the next dog to be judged is immediately available. As soon as the judge begins the judging routine of a dog, this steward calls the next dog to be judged and ensures the handler is at ringside when the dog in the ring has completed all exercises. Dogs may not enter the ring until the judge is ready. The gate steward is responsible for ensuring the judging time of the class is not delayed by having the judge wait for dogs.

Dogs must be judged in catalog order to the extent that it is practical to do so without holding up the judging in any ring. If the dog listed next in the catalog is not at ringside when needed, the steward should not hesitate to call the next dog in order. Stewards are not required to seek out handlers: Handlers are responsible for being ready when their dogs' numbers are called. The steward should report any absence to the judge, and the

judge will decide when the dog is to be marked absent. This procedure should be followed even if the armband for the absent dog has already been issued.

It is normally the duty of the gate steward to distribute armbands. When exhibitors identify themselves, the steward should check the catalog and ask the exhibitors' names and the names of the dogs. The gate steward should verify the height and distance that the dogs jump.

The steward then should check that the number of the armband being given to the exhibitor corresponds to the number in the catalog. It is essential that every precaution be taken when distributing armbands.

Very often, exhibitors make requests for special consideration, such as asking to be judged out of catalog order. Any request of this nature must be directed to the judge. It is the judge's prerogative to grant or deny the request. The steward should never consider the matter.

When stewarding in the Novice class, upon completion of the Recall exercise, the gate steward should return leashes to handlers before they leave the ring.

#### OPEN CLASS

When issuing an armband to a handler, the gate steward should verify the height and distance that the dog jumps. The gate steward should also take the leash and dumbbell from the handler when the dog is brought into the ring. A discussion of heights and distances will be described later. It is essential that the steward setting the broad jump have a tape measure or steel ruler to ensure the accuracy of the jump. The first duty of the judge will be to check that the jumps are properly set. Stewards must arrange jumps quickly and accurately, or much time will be wasted.

In the Open class, the Figure Eight is performed off lead as part of the Heel Free exercise. The requirements of stewards are the same as in the Novice class. Again, stewards should be immediately available when the order is given.

The Open class has two retrieving exercises: the Retrieve on Flat and Retrieve over High Jump. The gate steward takes the dumbbell from the handler as the dog enters the ring and places it on the judge's table. When directed by the judge, a ring steward shall deliver the dumbbell to the handler or to the judge as specified by the judge. This should be done immediately so handlers are not made to wait. The gate steward will line up the dogs and handlers outside the ring immediately prior to the time the judge has indicated they will judge the Long Sit and the Long Down exercises. The judge should not be made to wait while the handlers are lined up. The Long Sit and Long Down exercise are always done in exact catalog order. As the dogs enter the ring, the ring stewards must line up dogs and handlers along the ringside as indicated by the judge. Ring stewards must make sure that dogs are in catalog order and that they are placed an equal distance from each other. The judge will instruct handlers to place armbands and leashes behind their dogs with the leash on top of the armband in such a manner that the number is easily read. One of the two ring stewards in the Open class will be assigned to lead the handlers out of the dogs' sight. Prior to the beginning of the exercise, access to this location should be checked by the stewards. Once behind

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the “blind” area, the steward must watch for the judge’s signal to return to the dogs and lead handlers back to the ring. The steward is responsible for having handlers return in the same order in which their dogs are arranged. The other steward assists the judge in the ring in the same manner described for the Novice class.

#### UTILITY CLASS

When issuing an armband to a handler, the gate steward should verify the height the dog jumps as stated by the handler of the dog in the catalog beside the armband number. The Utility class contains the Directed Jumping exercise, during which the dog must complete a high jump and a bar jump. As in the Open class, one steward immediately sets the high jump while the other steward sets the bar jump. Again, this must be done quickly and accurately. As in the Open class, the judge will make sure that the jumps are properly set. For the Scent Discrimination exercise, the gate steward will have placed the handler’s articles on the judge’s table. The judge will select two articles – one leather and one metal - and separate them from the rest. The judge may position the remaining articles or may ask the ring steward to perform this function. The articles must be placed so that the closest article is about 20 feet from the handler. The judge or ring steward must touch (not necessary to scent) each of the eight remaining articles, spreading them in a random manner, about 6 inches apart, on the floor or ground. On the judge’s order, the handler will place the scented article on the judge’s book or work sheet. Without touching that article, the judge or steward will place it among the others.

After completion of the Scent Discrimination exercises, the ring steward places the articles in the handler’s container and returns them to the judge’s table.

The Directed Retrieve exercise utilizes two ring stewards. While one steward is picking up the scent articles, the other steward takes the three gloves from the judge’s table and goes to the far end of the ring. After the dog and handler are in position (midway between and in line with the two jumps) but facing the opposite direction, the steward will drop the three gloves across the end of the ring. The steward will drop one glove in each corner, about 3 feet from the sides and the end of the ring, and one in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring. The three gloves must be clearly visible to both dog and handler. It is not necessary to “iron” the gloves flat, but they should be open, not closed. After the exercise is completed, the steward retrieves the remaining two gloves and places them on the judge’s table.

For the Moving Stand exercise, one ring steward will be needed to hold the judge’s clipboard and pencil during the examination and will stand aside as directed by the judge.

#### THE JUMPS

Although the gate steward will ask the handler what height the dog jumps, it is conceivable that the handler will know only the height of the dog. Because of this, it is essential that ring stewards be familiar with the Obedience Regulations concerning the setting of the jumps.

The minimum jump shall be set at the nearest multiple of 2 inches to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers for the breeds listed in Appendix A.

The minimum jump shall be set to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to the height of the dog at the withers for all other dogs, with no dog jumping less than 4 inches or more than 36 inches.

The broad jump is set at twice the distance of the high jump. The low side of each hurdle and the lowest hurdle shall be nearest the dog. The highest hurdles shall be removed first.

The boards shall be spaced as equally as possible as follows:

1. For dogs that jump 8 inches or less – use one board
2. For dogs that jump 16 to 24 inches — use two boards
3. For dogs that jump 28 to 44 inches — use three boards
4. For dogs that jump 48 to 72 inches — use four boards