

Changes to June 2020 ASCA Obedience Program Rules

As of 2-20-2020

Obedience Program Rules

OB.19.03 Change to Novice Exercises

Approved by Board: 10/27/2019

Effective Date: 6/1/2020

New Wording:

3.3 Novice Exercises and Scores

The exercises and maximum scores in the Novice classes are:

EXERCISES	MAXIMUM SCORES
Heel on Leash and Figure Eight	40 points
Stand for Examination	30 points
Heel Free	40 points
Recall	30 points
Long Sit Sit Stay - Get Your Leash	30 points
Long Sit & Long Down	30 points
Maximum Total Score	200 points

3.12 Sit Stay - Get Your Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position. The Orders are: "Sit your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash," and "Back to your dog."

The judge will instruct the steward to place the leash at the designated location after the Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise. The handler and dog will be positioned at least 30 feet from and facing the direction of the gate entrance. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order to "sit your dog," the handler may command and/or signal the dog to sit without touching either the dog or the dog's collar. On further order to "Leave your dog and get your leash," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to the place designated by the judge for the leash, pick up the leash, turn, and face the dog. The handler will wait for the judge to give the order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog should not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will tell the handler "Attach your leash and maintain control of your dog." The handler is then required to exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, tugging or pulling on the leash.

3.13 Sit Stay - Get Your Leash Scoring

A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following: The dog barking or whining repeatedly during the exercise, moving a substantial distance away from where it was left during the exercise, or not remaining in the sit position until the judge says "Exercise Finished." Substantial deductions should be made for a dog that moves a short distance from where it was left in sit position, or a dog that barks or whines only once or twice. A substantial deduction should be made for a dog that does not remain under control while leaving the ring.

3.12 3.14 Group Exercises

The principal feature of the group exercises is that the dogs remain in the position required. Orders are: "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

Groups in the ring for Group Exercises must include no more than seven (7) dogs in Novice spaced a minimum of 6' apart and ~~no more than ten (10) dogs in Open spaced a minimum of 4' apart and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates in both levels.~~ If there are more than 7 dogs competing in Novice ~~or 10 dogs in Open competing,~~ the judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections. At the discretion of the judge, groups for Novice A and B ~~and for Open A and B~~ can be combined or separated. For Novice Finals only, with 7 or fewer dogs competing, dogs will be lined up on one long side of the ring; with 8-10 dogs competing, dogs will be lined up in 2 facing rows, with up to 5 dogs lined up on each of the long sides of the ring positioned 4' off the ring gates. ~~However, when Open B orders III and V are used, Open B groups cannot be combined with other classes.~~ The dogs will be lined up in catalog order ~~along one side of the ring.~~ In Novice, dogs will remain ~~be~~ on a six (6) foot leash during the group stays. ~~Each handler will leave the leash attached to the collar and lay the rest of the leash and their armband - weighted, if necessary - in between the dog and the handler. In Open, each handler will remove the leash and place the leash and their armband, weighted as necessary, behind their dog.~~ The judge should stand so that he can see all the dogs and all the handlers without having to turn around.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises.

Group exercises may be performed prior to or after individual exercises; the order must be specified in the premium.

The person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must also handle that dog in the Long Sit and Long Down unless the person handled more than one dog in the class and the class will only have one group of stays. If this occurs, the owner must have additional handlers standing by to handle the additional dog(s) during the Group Exercises.

When the last Group Exercise has been completed and the judge has said, "Exercise Finished," ~~Novice handlers must pick up the leash; Open handlers must leash their dogs.~~ Dogs must be kept under control while exiting the ring.

Dogs moving from the place where they were left in the first group exercise shall be excused from the remaining group exercise.

LONG SIT: Novice dogs are required to sit for one minute. The dogs must be in heel position either standing or sitting beside their handler. The judge will ask if everyone is ready. Upon command from

the judge to "Sit Your Dogs," the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit. On the command, "Leave your dogs," handlers will ~~place their leashes on the ground between themselves and their dog,~~ command and/or signal their dogs to stay, walk directly across ~~the ring from their dog~~ to the end of their leash, without jerking or tightening the leash, and then turn and face their dogs. The leash must remain loose with slack throughout the entire exercise. On the command, "Back to your dogs," handlers ~~will~~ must return directly, walk back to and around their own dogs counterclockwise to heel position. The judge shall not give the order "Exercise Finished" until the handlers have returned to the heel position. Dogs will remain in position until the judge commands, "Exercise Finished." Time begins when the judge commands, "Leave your dogs." After one minute, timing ends, at which time the judge will command, "Back to your dogs."

LONG DOWN: Novice dogs are required to down for ~~two~~ one minutes. This exercise is performed exactly like the long sit with ~~these~~ this exceptions. The judge will order, "Down your dogs," instead of "Sit your dogs." The dogs must lie down instead of sit. Dogs must be facing directly across the ring. Dogs will remain in position until the judge commands, "Exercise Finished", ~~and the handler will then pick up their leash.~~

~~3.13~~ 3.15 Group Exercises, Scoring

During these exercises the judge shall stand in such position that all the dogs are in his line of vision, and where he 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 shall be penalized substantially; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. A handler whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent competing dog shall be required to reposition his dog and shall also be substantially penalized; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.

A score of non-qualifying (NQ) is required for the following: ~~leash consistently tight,~~ the dog's moving at any time during either exercise a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, or going over to any other dog, or staying on the spot where it was left but not remaining in whichever position is required by the particular exercise until the handler has returned to the "Heel" position, or repeatedly barking or whining.

A substantial deduction shall be made for a dog that moves even a minor distance away from the place where it was left or that barks, or whines only once or twice or that changes its position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order "Exercise finished." Depending on the circumstance, a substantial or minor deduction shall be made for touching the dog or its collar in getting the dog into the "down" position, ~~and any jerking or tightening of the leash during the exercise.~~

When dogs have been released from their sit and down position after the judge says, "Exercise Finished," Substantial or minor deductions may be made for misbehavior on overly exuberant releases. Any dog that interferes with another dog shall be excused from the class.

13.5.5 Division Details

Novice:

- One Novice class per ring
- Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring
- Group stays will have up to 5 dogs on each of the long sides of the ring, spaced 8 feet apart and with their backs approximately 4' from the gate. If 7 or fewer dogs are competing, dogs will be lined up on one long side of the ring; for 8-10 dogs, they will be lined up in 2 facing rows, up to 5 per side.

Reference Sheet

Group Exercises

- A dog may earn a qualifying score in Novice and Open even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. Dogs may begin Novice and Open Group Exercises by standing or sitting in heel position beside their handlers.
- Novice Dogs must be placed a minimum of four ~~four~~ six feet (4' 6') apart from each other and a minimum of four feet (4') from the side and back ring gates. A maximum of ~~ten~~ seven Novice dogs are allowed in the ring at one time for group exercises, except during Novice Finals.

2.8 Re-Judging

If a dog has failed in a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged nor given a second chance; but if in the judge's opinion the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions, the judge may at his own discretion re-judge the dog on the entire exercise. Should the judge find it necessary to re-judge a dog or dogs from the Group exercises, the dog or dogs shall be re-judged with the next scheduled group within that class. The limits on the number of dogs allowed in the ring for the group exercise contained in Chapter 3, Section 42 ~~12~~ 14 (Group Exercises) shall apply. Should there be no further group within that class, the dog or dogs to be re-judged shall immediately do the exercises alone. The dog or dogs involved will be re-judged only on the exercise in question.

Old Wording:

3.3 Novice Exercises and Scores

The exercises and maximum scores in the Novice classes are:

EXERCISES	MAXIMUM SCORES
Heel on Leash and Figure Eight	40 points
Stand for Examination	30 points

Heel Free	40 points
Recall	30 points
Long Sit	30 points
Long Down	30 points
Maximum Total Score	200 points

3.12 Group Exercises

The principal feature of the group exercises is that the dogs remain in the position required. Orders are: "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

Groups in the ring for Group Exercises must include no more than seven (7) dogs in Novice spaced a minimum of 6' apart and no more than ten (10) dogs in Open spaced a minimum of 4' apart and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates in both levels. If there are more than 7 dogs in Novice or 10 dogs in Open competing, the judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections. At the discretion of the judge, groups for Novice A and B and for Open A and B can be combined or separated. However, when Open B orders III and V are used, Open B groups cannot be combined with other classes. The dogs will be lined up in catalog order along one side of the ring. In Novice, dogs will be on a six (6) foot leash during the group stays. Each handler will leave the leash attached to the collar and lay the rest of the leash and their armband - weighted, if necessary - in between the dog and the handler. In Open, each handler will remove the leash and place the leash and their armband, weighted as necessary, behind their dog. The judge should stand so that he can see all the dogs and all the handlers without having to turn around.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. The person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must also handle that dog in the Long Sit and Long Down unless the person handled more than one dog in the class and the class will only have one group of stays. If this occurs, the owner must have additional handlers standing by to handle the additional dog(s) during the Group Exercises.

When the last Group Exercise has been completed and the judge has said, "Exercise Finished," Novice handlers must pick up the leash; Open handlers must leash their dogs. Dogs must be kept under control while exiting the ring.

Dogs moving from the place where they were left in the first group exercise shall be excused from the remaining group exercise.

LONG SIT: Novice dogs are required to sit for one minute. The dogs must be in heel position either standing or sitting beside their handler. The judge will ask if everyone is ready. Upon command from the judge to "Sit Your Dogs," the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit. On the command, "Leave your dogs," handlers will place their leashes on the ground between themselves and their dog, command and/or signal their dogs to stay, walk directly across the ring, and then turn and face their dogs. On the command, "Back to your dogs," handlers will walk back to and around their own dogs counterclockwise to heel position. The judge shall not give the order "Exercise Finished" until the handlers have returned to the heel position. Dogs will remain in position until the

judge commands, "Exercise Finished." Time begins when the judge commands, "Leave your dogs." After one minute, timing ends, at which time the judge will command, "Back to your dogs."

LONG DOWN: This exercise is performed exactly like the long sit with these exceptions. Novice dogs are required to down for two minutes. The judge will order, "Down your dogs," instead of "Sit your dogs." The dogs must lie down instead of sit. Dogs must be facing directly across the ring. Dogs will remain in position until the judge commands, "Exercise Finished", and the handler will then pick up their leash.

3.13 Group Exercises, Scoring

During these exercises the judge shall stand in such position that all the dogs are in his line of vision, and where he 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 shall be penalized substantially; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. A handler whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent competing dog shall be required to reposition his dog and shall also be substantially penalized; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.

A score of non-qualifying (NQ) is required for the following: the dog's moving at any time during either exercise a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, or going over to any other dog, or staying on the spot where it was left but not remaining in whichever position is required by the particular exercise until the handler has returned to the "Heel" position, or repeatedly barking or whining.

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

When dogs have been released from their sit and down position after the judge says, "Exercise Finished," Substantial or minor deductions may be made for misbehavior on overly exuberant releases. Any dog that interferes with another dog shall be excused from the class.

13.5.5 Division Details

Novice:

- One Novice class per ring
- Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring

Reference Sheet

Group Exercises

- A dog may earn a qualifying score in Novice and Open even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. Dogs may begin Novice and Open Group Exercises by standing or sitting in heel position beside their handlers.
- Dogs must be placed a minimum of four feet (4') apart from each other and a minimum of four feet (4') from the side and back ring gates. A maximum of ten dogs are allowed in the ring at one time for group exercises.

2.8 Re-Judging

If a dog has failed in a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged nor given a second chance; but if in the judge's opinion the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions, the judge may at his own discretion re-judge the dog on the entire exercise. Should the judge find it necessary to re-judge a dog or dogs from the Group exercises, the dog or dogs shall be re-judged with the next scheduled group within that class. The limits on the number of dogs allowed in the ring for the group exercise contained in Chapter 3, Section 12 (Group Exercises) shall apply. Should there be no further group within that class, the dog or dogs to be re-judged shall immediately do the exercises alone. The dog or dogs involved will be re-judged only on the exercise in question.

OB.19.04 Motion to Change CDX Obedience Exercises

Approved by Board: 12/20/2019

Effective Date: 6/1/2020

New Wording:

Reference Sheet

1.2 **Novice** Group Exercises

- A dog may earn a qualifying score in Novice ~~and Open~~ even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. Dogs may begin Novice ~~and Open~~ Group Exercises by standing or sitting in heel position beside their handlers.

General Regulations

1.26 Ring Conditions

If the judging takes place indoors the ring should be rectangular and should be about forty (40)' wide and fifty (50)' long for all Obedience Classes. In no case shall the ring for a Utility class be less than thirty-five (35)' by fifty (50)', and in no case shall the ring for a Novice or Open class be less than thirty (30)' by forty (40)'. At an outdoor show or trial, the rings shall be about forty (40)' wide and fifty (50)' long.

Outside rings should have a clean level surface of grass no more than one (1) inch long, or dirt without any mud puddles in the ring area. The rings shall be as near as can be determined by visual

inspection, free of rodent or insect colonies, and clean of any animal waste. Insecticides or poisons may not be used to remedy pre-existing conditions on day of show. On surfaces such as wood or concrete flooring, which require a non-skid surface, mats under high jump in Open should be a minimum of sixteen (16) feet long, with the jump centrally positioned. Matting under the broad jump should be at least the width of the jump - five (5) feet. In Utility, mats must run the entire length of the ring in the pattern of the dog's send away and directed jumping. An area surrounding the obedience ring no smaller than ten (10) feet in any direction shall be cleaned and posted for "no crating or grooming" during the obedience portion of the event.

~~The Club and Show/Trial Secretary are responsible for providing, for the Open CDX classes, an appropriate place approved by the judge, for the handlers to go completely out of sight of their dogs.~~ If inclement weather at an outdoor trial necessitates the judging of Obedience under shelter, the requirements as to ring size may be waived. If such actions are taken a full report must be sent to the ASCA Business Office at the close of the show or trial.

3.12 Group Exercises

The principle feature of the group exercises is that the dogs remain in the position required. Orders are: "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

Groups in the ring for Group Exercises must include no more than seven (7) dogs in Novice spaced a minimum of 6' apart ~~and no more than ten (10) dogs in Open spaced a minimum of 4' apart and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates in both levels.~~ If there are more than 7 dogs in Novice ~~or 10 dogs in Open~~ competing, the judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections. At the discretion of the judge, groups for Novice A and B ~~and for Open A and B~~ can be combined or separated. ~~However, when Open B orders III and V are used, Open B groups cannot be combined with other classes.~~ The dogs will be lined up in catalog order along one side of the ring. In Novice, dogs will be on a six (6) foot leash during the group stays. Each handler will leave the leash attached to the collar and lay the rest of the leash and their armband - weighted, if necessary - in between the dog and the handler. ~~In Open, each handler will remove the leash and place the leash and their armband, weighted as necessary, behind their dog.~~ The judge should stand so that he can see all the dogs and all the handlers without having to turn around.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises.

The person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must also handle that dog in the Long Sit and Long Down unless the person handled more than one dog in the class and the class will only have one group of stays. If this occurs, the owner must have additional handlers standing by to handle the additional dog(s) during the Group Exercises.

When the last Group Exercise has been completed and the judge has said, "Exercise Finished," Novice handlers must pick up the leash; ~~Open handlers must leash their dogs.~~ Dogs must be kept under control while exiting the ring.

Dogs moving from the place where they were left in the first group exercise shall be excused from the remaining group exercise.

4.2 Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)

This class has the Open A and Open B Divisions as set forth below.

1. Open A Division Class Eligibility and Exercises: The Open A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the CD title from ASCA but have not earned the ASCA ODX or CDX title. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner's household or immediate family. ~~The same person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the individual exercises that will participate in the group exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog when judged in the same group. The additional handler for the group exercises 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. A dog may continue to be shown in Open A for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that it has completed the requirements for the Open title. After the 180-day grace period is over, the team must move to any division B Open, or another class for which they are eligible. Failure to move on will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. which were earned after the grace period. Once an Open A dog enters Utility, it can no longer enter Open A. No dog may be entered in Open A and Utility at the same trial. ~~Five mandatory Individual Exercises are as set forth in Section 6 and Section 7 and shall be done in the order set forth in Section 4. Group Exercises shall be done as set forth in Section 7.~~
2. Open B Division Class Eligibility and Exercises: The Open B class shall be for dogs that have earned the CD, CDX, or ODX title from ASCA and may show in this class after earning their Open or Utility title from ASCA. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. Owners may enter more than one (1) dog in this class. ~~Five mandatory Individual Exercises are as set forth in Section 6 and Section 7 and shall be done in the order set forth in Section 5. Group Exercises shall be done as set forth in Section 7.~~
3. CDX Title: The title of CDX shall be awarded after the dog has acquired three qualifying scores, two of which must be under two different judges.
4. Special Awards, Finals and Merits: This class is eligible for Finals Points, High in Trial, and High Combined. This class is eligible for any applicable optional awards. Please refer to Chapter 1, Section 16 for Merit accreditation for dogs competing for a CDX title in either the A or B division.

4.4 Order of Individual Exercises for Open A Divisions

~~The Long Sit and the Long Down may be done either before or following the individual exercises as per Chapter 1, Section 2.2.~~ Directed Open Exercises are always done last.

1.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
2.	Drop on Recall	30 points
3.	Retrieve on Flat	20 points
4.	Retrieve Over High Jump	30 points
5.	Broad Jump	20 points

6.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Stand-Down-Sit) or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points

4.5 Order of Individual Exercises for Open B Divisions

The judge shall select one of the orders of exercises from the sheets provided by the host club and post it at ringside at least thirty (30) minutes before the class is scheduled to begin. If there is only a start time for the trial, it shall be posted thirty (30) minutes before the trial is scheduled to begin. Each judge will use Orders I through V equally in their assignments.

~~Long Sit and Long Down may be done either before or following the individual exercises as per Chapter 1, Section 2.2.~~ Directed Open Exercises are always done last.

OPEN B I			OPEN B II		
1.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points	1.	Drop on Recall	30 points
2.	Drop on Recall	30 points	2.	Broad Jump	20 points
3.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points	3.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
4.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points	4.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
5.	Broad Jump	20 points	5.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
6.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Stand-Down-Sit) or DOE 1	30 points	6.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Down-Sit-Stand) or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 2	30 points	7.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points		Maximum Total Score	200 points

OPEN B III			OPEN B IV		
1.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points	1.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
2.	Figure Eight and Heel Free	40 points	2.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
3.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points	3.	Broad Jump	20 points
4.	Broad Jump	20 points	4.	Drop on Recall	30 points
5.	Drop on Recall	30 points	5.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
6.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 1	30 points	6.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Down-Sit-Stand) or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Down-Sit-Stand) or DOE 2	30 points	7.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points		Maximum Total Score	200 points

OPEN B V		
1.	Broad Jump	20 points
2.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
3.	Drop on Recall	30 points
4.	Figure Eight and Heel Free	40 points
5.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
6.	Long Down Stand/Stay/Get Your Leash or DOE 1	30 points

7.	Long Sit Command Discrimination (Down-Sit-Stand) or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points

4.6 Five Mandatory Shared Individual Exercises for CDX and ODX

4.7 Group Exercises (Long Sit and Long Down) Command Discrimination and Stand Stay - Get Your Leash – FOR ONLY CDX

The Group Exercises, Long Sit (30 Points), and Long Down (30 Points) shall be done only by those entered in the Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) class.

4.7.1 Group Exercises Command Discrimination - FOR ONLY CDX

For the long sit and down, Open dogs will be brought into the ring in catalogue order with a maximum of 10 dogs in a group. Open A and Open B stay groups may be combined unless Order III or Order V are being used for Open B. Those two orders require that the down be performed before the sit. The dogs shall be lined up approximately 4 feet out from the long side of the ring, with a minimum distance of four feet (4') between each dog and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates. Handlers are instructed to remove their armbands and leashes and place them on the ground behind their dog. Open dogs are required to sit for three minutes and to down for five minutes. When the judge commands, "Leave your dogs," the handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring, then leave in a single file, and go completely out of the dogs' sight. After the judge has commanded or signaled to the steward for the handlers to return, the handlers will follow the steward back into the ring in reverse order, and line up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, before the judge commands, "Back to your dogs." The judge shall stand in such a position that he can see all the handlers leaving and returning to the ring, as well as all of the dogs, without having to turn around.

The principal features of this exercise are the dog's correct response to the handler's commands and/or signals and that the dog stays until the handler returns to heel position and the judge says "exercise finished."

Orders for this exercise are "Leave your dog" and "Return to your dog." The judge must use signals for instructing the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change position except for the first position, which will be either "Stand your dog" or "Down your dog."

The judge will ask the handler "Are you ready?" before giving the first order to either "Stand your dog" or "Down your dog." The handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change position. The judge will next order "Leave your dog," the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay and will immediately walk forward approximately 15 feet, turn and face the dog. The judge will signal the next command and the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the next position. The judge will again order "Leave your dog," where the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay and walk forward an additional 15 feet, turn, and face the dog. The judge will give another signal and the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog

to change position again. The judge will next order "Return to your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay and then must return directly, walking around the back of the dog into heel position. From the time the handler first faces the dog until the judge says, "Exercise finished," the handler's hands and arms must hang naturally at the handler's sides during this exercise, with the exception of giving hand signals.

The 15-foot distances for each of the commands must be clearly marked in an area of the ring that is at least 40 feet in length. The judge should be positioned so both the dog and handler can always be seen.

4.7.2 Group Exercises ~~Command Discrimination~~, Scoring

~~During these exercises the judge shall stand in such position that all the dogs are in his line of vision, and where he 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 shall be penalized substantially; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.~~

~~A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. A handler whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent competing dog shall be required to reposition his dog and shall also be substantially penalized; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.~~

~~A score of non-qualifying (NQ) is required for the following: the dog's moving at any time during either exercise a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, or going over to any other dog, or staying on the spot where it was left but not remaining in whichever position is required by the particular exercise until the handler has returned to the "Heel" position, or repeatedly barking or whining. Any dog that moves substantially during the first part of the exercise must be excused. A substantial deduction shall be made for a dog that moves even a minor distance away from the place where it was left or that barks or whines only once or twice or that changes its position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order "Exercise finished." Depending on the circumstance, a substantial or minor deduction shall be made for touching the dog or its collar in getting the dog into the "down" position.~~

~~When dogs have been released from their sit and down position after the judge says, "Exercise Finished," Substantial or minor deductions may be made for misbehavior on overly exuberant releases. Any dog that interferes with another dog shall be excused from the class.~~

A dog that does not obey the handler's first command and/or signal for each position change, or does not stay until the handler returns to heel position must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that changes position after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said "Exercise Finished."

Minor or substantial deductions or a non-qualifying score (NQ) should be made for a handler's hands and arms not hanging naturally at their sides or a dog that moves forward during any of the position changes.

4.7.3 Stand Stay - Get Your Leash – FOR ONLY CDX

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand and stay in the position it is left until the handler has returned to heel position and the judge has said "Exercise Finished."

The orders for this exercise are "Stand your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash," and "Return to your dog."

The judge will ask the handler to stand their dog approximately 15 feet from the ring gate. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the order to "Stand your dog." The handler may command and/or signal the dog to stand without touching the dog or its collar. The dog must stand but need not stand in heel position.

Next the judge will order "Leave your dog to get your leash," where the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay and will walk directly outside the ring gate to retrieve their leash. The handler will re-enter the ring, stop and wait at the entrance for the judge to order "Return to your dog." The handler then will return directly, walking around the back of the dog to heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will then instruct the handler to attach their leash to the collar and maintain control of their dog while exiting. The handler is required to exit the ring gate with the dog under control, not pulling or tugging on the leash or jumping.

The judge will decide where the leash will be located outside of the ring prior to starting the class. The leash will be placed in such location by the steward after the dog and handler have entered the ring for judging. The dog and handler will be positioned so the dog can have a direct line of vision with the handler as they leave and return to the ring, and so that the handler, when reentering the ring, is at least 15 feet away from the dog until ordered to return. Once the exercise has been completed, the judge must watch the handler and dog until they exit the ring gate.

4.7.4 Stand Stay - Get Your Leash, Scoring

A non-qualifying score is required for a dog that fails to stand on the first command and/or signal, moves a substantial distance away from where it was left, changes position (sit or down) before the handler has returned to heel position, or repeatedly whines or barks. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves it feet repeatedly while remaining in place or moves a short distance. A substantial deduction must be made under Miscellaneous Penalties for a dog that does not remain under control while exiting the ring.

13.5.5 Division Details

Novice:

- One Novice class per ring
- Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring

Open CDX:

- One Open class per ring
- Open B mixed orders used
- ~~Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring~~

Open ODX:

- One Open class per ring
- Open B mixed orders used

Utility:

- One Utility class per ring
- Utility B mixed orders used

Super Dog:

- One Open class using Open B mixed orders
- NO ~~group stay exercises~~ Command Discrimination or Stand Stay - Get Your Leash and NO DOE exercises in Super Dog Open
- One Utility class using Utility B mixed orders
- One Super Dog mixed order class per ring using Super Dog Orders

13.7.5 Super Dog

For scores to count for Super Dog finals, dogs must qualify in Open B CDX and Utility or Open B ODX and Utility at the same trial. If qualifying via the CDX class, a dog must have already earned a CDX and a UD. If qualifying via the ODX class, a dog must have already earned an ODX and a UD. The dog's top three combined qualifying scores from CDX B and Utility and/or from ODX B and Utility during the present qualifying year will be added and averaged. There will be one Super Dog Finals regardless of whether dogs qualify via the CDX or the ODX class. There will be no ~~Group Stay~~ Command Discrimination or Stand Stay - Get Your Leash Exercises or Directed Open Exercises in Super Dog Finals. Dogs are eligible for Top Ten Super Dog finals standings indefinitely.

Obedience Judges Guidelines

ARRIVAL

Plan to arrive at least one hour prior to your judging assignment. Immediately upon arrival, check in with your show/trial secretary. Be sure you know where the restroom is and that the show/trial secretary has the paperwork in order for the trial. Normally the show/trial secretary will still be taking entries upon your arrival, so try not to steal too much of the show/trial secretary's time during registration.

If the club set out a hand sanitizer, double-check to be certain it is not scented.

The order of sits/downs and individual exercises must be done as listed in the flyer. Some clubs do sit/downs before individual exercises and some do sits/downs following individual exercises. Be sure you have double-checked the flyer to know what class order you will be following and how sits/downs are to be handled.

Choose the order of exercises for your Open and Utility classes and post this order no later than 30 minutes before the trial is scheduled to begin. Post it where it can be readily seen by the exhibitors.

Then perform the following checklist:

- Double-check the obedience equipment to be certain all meet regulations.
- Walk your obedience ring to be certain it is clean, hopefully level, and observe where the sun is rising or setting. You'll not want to jump dogs into the sun, or have handlers giving signals to dogs blinded by the sun.
- If there is wind, be sure that the club has taken measures to stake any baby gates.
- Walk your Novice, Open and Utility pattern to be sure the patterns are smooth, practical and functional. You should avoid running or jumping dogs towards the ring entrance or walking them into the baby gates or jumps.
- Decide where you'll have dogs line up for the sits/downs ~~and be sure you know where the out-of-sights will be held.~~
- Mark your start for the heel work.
- Choose your start line for heel work. When marking lines or distances for the jumps or tossing of the dumbbell, you may utilize chalk, golf tees, or stanchions.
- Be sure the show club has marked off the applicable area around your ring where no set ups, grooming, walking or standing spectators may appear.

Obedience Steward Guidelines

CDX Open Class Ring Steward Duties

- ~~• Group exercises: See the General Ring Steward Duties Group Exercise paragraphs. CDX group exercises are done with the handlers out of sight for a 3-minute sit and a 5-minute down. For the CDX class, one steward will lead the handlers to a designated out-of-sight location. Make sure that all handlers are hidden from all dogs. Watch the judge to see if the judge wants a specific handler to return and for the signal for all handlers to return. Once the judge indicates that it is time to return, be prepared to immediately lead the handlers back to the ring or to stand aside as the exhibitors return, depending on the judge's directions. Handlers will line up in reverse order to return. Be ready to lead handlers out again for the second part of the group exercises.~~

Old Wording:

Reference Sheet

1.2 Group Exercises

- A dog may earn a qualifying score in Novice and Open even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises. Dogs may begin Novice and Open Group Exercises by standing or sitting in heel position beside their handlers.

General Regulations

1.26 Ring Conditions

If the judging takes place indoors the ring should be rectangular and should be about forty (40)' wide and fifty (50)' long for all Obedience Classes. In no case shall the ring for a Utility class be less than thirty-five (35)' by fifty (50)', and in no case shall the ring for a Novice or Open class be less than thirty (30)' by forty (40)'. At an outdoor show or trial, the rings shall be about forty (40)' wide and fifty (50)' long.

Outside rings should have a clean level surface of grass no more than one (1) inch long, or dirt without any mud puddles in the ring area. The rings shall be as near as can be determined by visual inspection, free of rodent or insect colonies, and clean of any animal waste. Insecticides or poisons may not be used to remedy pre-existing conditions on day of show. On surfaces such as wood or concrete flooring, which require a non-skid surface, mats under high jump in Open should be a minimum of sixteen (16) feet long, with the jump centrally positioned. Matting under the broad jump should be at least the width of the jump - five (5) feet. In Utility, mats must run the entire length of the ring in the pattern of the dog's send away and directed jumping. An area surrounding the obedience ring no smaller than ten (10) feet in any direction shall be cleaned and posted for "no crating or grooming" during the obedience portion of the event.

The Club and Show/Trial Secretary are responsible for providing, for the Open CDX classes, an appropriate place approved by the judge, for the handlers to go completely out of sight of their dogs. If inclement weather at an outdoor trial necessitates the judging of Obedience under shelter, the requirements as to ring size may be waived. If such actions are taken a full report must be sent to the ASCA Business Office at the close of the show or trial.

3.12 Group Exercises

The principle feature of the group exercises is that the dogs remain in the position required. Orders are: "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

Groups in the ring for Group Exercises must include no more than seven (7) dogs in Novice spaced a minimum of 6' apart and no more than ten (10) dogs in Open spaced a minimum of 4' apart and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates in both levels. If there are more than 7 dogs in Novice or 10 dogs in Open competing, the judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections. At the discretion of the judge, groups for Novice A and B and for Open A and B can be combined or separated. However, when Open B orders III and V are used, Open B groups cannot be combined with other classes. The dogs will be lined up in catalog order along one side of the ring. In Novice, dogs will be on a six (6) foot leash during the group stays. Each handler will leave the leash attached to the collar and lay the rest of the leash and their armband - weighted, if necessary - in between the dog and the handler. In Open, each handler will remove the leash and place the leash and their armband, weighted as necessary, behind their dog. The judge should stand so that he can see all the dogs and all the handlers without having to turn around.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises.

The person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must also handle that dog in the Long Sit and Long Down unless the person handled more than one dog in the class and the class will only

have one group of stays. If this occurs, the owner must have additional handlers standing by to handle the additional dog(s) during the Group Exercises.

When the last Group Exercise has been completed and the judge has said, "Exercise Finished," Novice handlers must pick up the leash; Open handlers must leash their dogs. Dogs must be kept under control while exiting the ring.

Dogs moving from the place where they were left in the first group exercise shall be excused from the remaining group exercise.

4.2 Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)

This class has the Open A and Open B Divisions as set forth below.

1. Open A Division Class Eligibility and Exercises: The Open A class shall be for any dogs that have earned the CD title from ASCA but have not earned the ASCA ODX or CDX title. Each dog must be handled by its owner or by a member of the owner's household or immediate family. The same person who handles the dog in the individual exercises must handle the dog in the group exercises. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the individual exercises that will participate in the group exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog when judged in the same group. The additional handler for the group exercises 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. A dog may continue to be shown in Open A for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that it has completed the requirements for the Open title. After the 180-day grace period is over, the team must move to any division B Open, or another class for which they are eligible. Failure to move on will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. which were earned after the grace period. Once an Open A dog enters Utility, it can no longer enter Open A. No dog may be entered in Open A and Utility at the same trial. Five mandatory Individual Exercises are as set forth in Section 6 and shall be done in the order set forth in Section 4. Group Exercises shall be done as set forth in Section 7.
2. Open B Division Class Eligibility and Exercises: The Open B class shall be for dogs that have earned the CD, CDX, or ODX title from ASCA and may show in this class after earning their Open or Utility title from ASCA. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. Owners may enter more than one (1) dog in this class. Five mandatory Individual Exercises are as set forth in Section 6 and shall be done in the order set forth in Section 5. Group Exercises shall be done as set forth in Section 7.
3. CDX Title: The title of CDX shall be awarded after the dog has acquired three qualifying scores, two of which must be under two different judges.
4. Special Awards, Finals and Merits: This class is eligible for Finals Points, High in Trial, and High Combined. This class is eligible for any applicable optional awards. Please refer to Chapter 1, Section 16 for Merit accreditation for dogs competing for a CDX title in either the A or B division.

4.4 Order of Individual Exercises for Open A Divisions

The Long Sit and the Long Down may be done either before or following the individual exercises as per Chapter 1, Section 2.2. Directed Open Exercises are always done last.

1.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
2.	Drop on Recall	30 points
3.	Retrieve on Flat	20 points
4.	Retrieve Over High Jump	30 points
5.	Broad Jump	20 points
6.	Long Sit or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Down or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points

4.5 Order of Individual Exercises for Open B Divisions

The judge shall select one of the orders of exercises from the sheets provided by the host club and post it at ringside at least thirty (30) minutes before the class is scheduled to begin. If there is only a start time for the trial, it shall be posted thirty (30) minutes before the trial is scheduled to begin. Each judge will use Orders I through V equally in their assignments.

Long Sit and Long Down may be done either before or following the individual exercises as per Chapter 1, Section 2.2. Directed Open Exercises are always done last.

OPEN B I			OPEN B II		
1.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points	1.	Drop on Recall	30 points
2.	Drop on Recall	30 points	2.	Broad Jump	20 points
3.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points	3.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
4.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points	4.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
5.	Broad Jump	20 points	5.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
6.	Long Sit or DOE 1	30 points	6.	Long Sit or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Down or DOE 2	30 points	7.	Long Down or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points		Maximum Total Score	200 points
OPEN B III			OPEN B IV		
1.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points	1.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
2.	Figure Eight and Heel Free	40 points	2.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points
3.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points	3.	Broad Jump	20 points
4.	Broad Jump	20 points	4.	Drop on Recall	30 points
5.	Drop on Recall	30 points	5.	Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
6.	Long Down or DOE 1	30 points	6.	Long Sit or DOE 1	30 points
7.	Long Sit or DOE 2	30 points	7.	Long Down or DOE 2	30 points
	Maximum Total Score	200 points		Maximum Total Score	200 points
OPEN B V					
1.	Broad Jump	20 points			
2.	Retrieve over High Jump	30 points			
3.	Drop on Recall	30 points			
4.	Figure Eight and Heel Free	40 points			
5.	Retrieve on the Flat	20 points			
6.	Long Down or DOE 1	30 points			
7.	Long Sit or DOE 2	30 points			
	Maximum Total Score	200 points			

4.6 Five Mandatory Individual Exercises for CDX and ODX

4.7 Group Exercises (Long Sit and Long Down) – FOR ONLY CDX

The Group Exercises, Long Sit (30 Points), and Long Down (30 Points) shall be done only by those entered in the Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) class.

4.7.1 Group Exercises

For the long sit and down, Open dogs will be brought into the ring in catalogue order with a maximum of 10 dogs in a group. Open A and Open B stay groups may be combined unless Order III or Order V are being used for Open B. Those two orders require that the down be performed before the sit. The dogs shall be lined up approximately 4 feet out from the long side of the ring, with a minimum distance of four feet (4') between each dog and positioned 4' off any adjacent ring gates. Handlers are instructed to remove their armbands and leashes and place them on the ground behind their dog. Open dogs are required to sit for three minutes and to down for five minutes. When the judge commands, "Leave your dogs," the handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring, then leave in a single file, and go completely out of the dogs' sight. After the judge has commanded or signaled to the steward for the handlers to return, the handlers will follow the steward back into the ring in reverse order, and line up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, before the judge commands, "Back to your dogs." The judge shall stand in such a position that he can see all the handlers leaving and returning to the ring, as well as all of the dogs, without having to turn around.

4.7.2 Group Exercises, Scoring

During these exercises the judge shall stand in such position that all the dogs are in his line of vision, and where he 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 shall be penalized substantially; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.

A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Group Exercises.

A handler whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent competing dog shall be required to reposition his dog and shall also be substantially penalized; in extreme cases the dog may be excused.

A score of non-qualifying (NQ) is required for the following: the dog's moving at any time during either exercise a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, or going over to any other dog, or staying on the spot where it was left but not remaining in whichever position is required by the particular exercise until the handler has returned to the "Heel" position, or repeatedly barking or whining. Any dog that moves substantially during the first part of the exercise must be excused.

A substantial deduction shall be made for a dog that moves even a minor distance away from the place where it was left or that barks or whines only once or twice or that changes its position after the

handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order "Exercise finished." Depending on the circumstance, a substantial or minor deduction shall be made for touching the dog or its collar in getting the dog into the "down" position.

When dogs have been released from their sit and down position after the judge says, "Exercise Finished," Substantial or minor deductions may be made for misbehavior on overly exuberant releases. Any dog that interferes with another dog shall be excused from the class.

13.5.5 Division Details

Novice:

- One Novice class per ring
- Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring

Open CDX:

- One Open class per ring
- Open B mixed orders used
- Group stays take place first thing in the morning with staggered times for each ring

Open ODX:

- One Open class per ring
- Open B mixed orders used

Utility:

- One Utility class per ring
- Utility B mixed orders used

Super Dog:

- One Open class using Open B mixed orders
- NO group stay exercises and NO DOE exercises in Super Dog Open
- One Utility class using Utility B mixed orders
- One Super Dog mixed order class per ring using Super Dog Orders

13.7.5 Super Dog

For scores to count for Super Dog finals, dogs must qualify in Open B CDX and Utility or Open B ODX and Utility at the same trial. If qualifying via the CDX class, a dog must have already earned a CDX and a UD. If qualifying via the ODX class, a dog must have already earned an ODX and a UD. The dog's top three combined qualifying scores from CDX B and Utility and/or from ODX B and Utility during the present qualifying year will be added and averaged. There will be one Super Dog Finals regardless of whether dogs qualify via the CDX or the ODX class. There will be no Group Stay Exercises or Directed Open Exercises in Super Dog Finals. Dogs are eligible for Top Ten Super Dog finals standings indefinitely.

Obedience Judges Guidelines

ARRIVAL

Plan to arrive at least one hour prior to your judging assignment. Immediately upon arrival, check in with your show/trial secretary. Be sure you know where the restroom is and that the show/trial secretary has the paperwork in order for the trial. Normally the show/trial secretary will still be taking entries upon your arrival, so try not to steal too much of the show/trial secretary's time during registration.

If the club set out a hand sanitizer, double-check to be certain it is not scented.

The order of sits/downs and individual exercises must be done as listed in the flyer. Some clubs do sit/downs before individual exercises and some do sits/downs following individual exercises. Be sure you have double-checked the flyer to know what class order you will be following and how sits/downs are to be handled.

Choose the order of exercises for your Open and Utility classes and post this order no later than 30 minutes before the trial is scheduled to begin. Post it where it can be readily seen by the exhibitors.

Then perform the following checklist:

- Double-check the obedience equipment to be certain all meet regulations.
- Walk your obedience ring to be certain it is clean, hopefully level, and observe where the sun is rising or setting. You'll not want to jump dogs into the sun, or have handlers giving signals to dogs blinded by the sun.
- If there is wind, be sure that the club has taken measures to stake any baby gates.
- Walk your Novice, Open and Utility pattern to be sure the patterns are smooth, practical and functional. You should avoid running or jumping dogs towards the ring entrance or walking them into the baby gates or jumps.
- Decide where you'll have dogs line up for the sits/downs and be sure you know where the out-of-sights will be held.
- Mark your start for the heel work.
- Choose your start line for heel work. When marking lines or distances for the jumps or tossing of the dumbbell, you may utilize chalk, golf tees, or stanchions.
- Be sure the show club has marked off the applicable area around your ring where no set ups, grooming, walking or standing spectators may appear.

Obedience Steward Guidelines

CDX Open Class Ring Steward Duties

- **Group exercises:** See the General Ring Steward Duties Group Exercise paragraphs. CDX group exercises are done with the handlers out of sight for a 3-minute sit and a 5-minute down. For the CDX class, one steward will lead the handlers to a designated out-of-sight location. Make sure that all handlers are hidden from all dogs. Watch the judge to see if the judge wants a specific handler to return and for the signal for all handlers to return. Once the judge indicates that it is time to return, be prepared to immediately lead the handlers back to the ring or to stand aside as the exhibitors return, depending on the judge's directions. Handlers will

line up in reverse order to return. Be ready to lead handlers out again for the second part of the group exercises.

OB.20.01 Change to Obedience Rules - Graduate Novice Exercises

Approved by Board: 1/27/2020

Effective Date: 6/1/2020

New Wording:

9 Graduate Novice Optional Titling Class

9.1 Graduate Novice Class

The Graduate Novice Class is an optional titling class that clubs may choose to offer at obedience trials. The Graduate Novice Class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) months of age. Dogs in this class may also be entered at the same trial in any other classes for which they are eligible as defined in these regulations. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. A person may handle more than one (1) dog in this class, ~~but each dog must have a separate handler for the Group exercise when judged in the same group.~~

A qualifying score in an Optional Titling class shall be the same as that in a Regular class as defined in these regulations by Chapter 1 Section 10: Qualifying Score. Ribbons and prizes for Optional Titling classes shall be the same as those in Regular classes as defined in these regulations by Chapter 1 Section 14: Obedience Ribbons and Chapter 1 Section 15: Ribbons and Prizes.

Scores and titles from Optional Titling classes shall not be applicable to High in Trial awards, Merit standings, Finals standings or Hall of Fame determinations.

9.2 Graduate Novice Title

ASCA will issue a Graduate Novice (GN) certificate to a dog with an ASCA registration, LEP number or an ASCA QTracker number, and will permit the use of GN after its name, when it has received three (3) qualifying scores awarded by at least two (2) judges.

9.3 Graduate Novice Exercises and Scores

The exercises and maximum scores in the Graduate Novice class:

EXERCISES MAXIMUM SCORES

Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
Drop on Recall	40 points
Retrieve on Flat	30 points
Dumbbell Recall over High Jump	30 points
Recall over Broad Jump	30 points
Group Exercise Stand-Stay/Get Your Leash	30 points
Maximum Total Score	200 points

9.4 Heel Free and Figure Eight, Performance and Scoring

This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog is off leash. Orders and scoring are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

9.5 Drop on Recall, Performance and Scoring

This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Open Drop on Recall, except that the handler may give a command and/or signal to drop.

9.6 Retrieve on the Flat, Performance and Scoring

This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Open Retrieve on the Flat, except for the following two differences. The minimum distance the handler must throw the dumbbell will be ten (10) feet. To send the dog the handler may give a command and/or signal.

9.7 Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog promptly takes the dumbbell from the handler, stays until directed to jump, and promptly comes to the handler over the jump holding the dumbbell. Orders are "Give your dog the dumbbell," "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," "Take it," and "Finish." The handler shall stand with his dog sitting in heel position at least eight (8) feet, or any reasonable distance beyond eight (8) feet, from the jump. On order, "Give your dog the dumbbell," the handler shall give the dog the dumbbell to hold. On order, "Leave your dog," the handler will command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position while the handler walks at least (8) feet beyond the other side of the jump and then turns and directly faces dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge's order, the handler will command or signal the dog to jump. The dog must clear the high jump and come sit in front of the handler to deliver the dumbbell.

The high jump structure shall be the same as defined in the Open rules. Jump heights shall be the same as defined in the Open rules.

9.8 Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump, Scoring

A dog that fails to take the dumbbell on the first command must be scored non-qualifying (NQ). Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the extent, shall be made for a dog that drops, plays with or mouths the dumbbell as the handler walks away. In addition, all applicable penalties for the Novice Recall, Open Retrieve on the Flat and Open Retrieve Over the High Jump shall apply.

9.9 Recall Over Broad Jump

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays until directed to jump and promptly comes to the handler over the jump. Orders are "Leave dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

The handler shall stand with his dog sitting in heel position at least eight (8) feet, or any reasonable distance beyond eight (8) feet, from the jump. On order, "Leave your dog," the handler will command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position while the handler walks at least (8) feet beyond the other side of the jump and then turns and directly faces dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge's

order, the handler will command or signal the dog to jump. The dog must clear the broad jump and come sit in front of the handler.

The broad jump structure and length shall be the same as defined in the Open rules.

9.10 Recall Over Broad Jump, Scoring

All applicable penalties for the Novice Recall and Open Broad Jump shall apply.

~~9.11 Group Exercises (Two Minute Long Sit or Three Minute Long Down), Performance & Scoring~~
~~Prior to the start of judging, the judge shall make the decision as to which position, sit or down, will be assigned and post it ringside, at least thirty (30) minutes before the class is scheduled to begin. Judges should use the sit and down position with the same frequency over time. The Graduate Novice Group Exercise will be either a Sit or a Down and will be performed with handlers out of sight. It will be performed and scored as in the Open CDX Group Exercises, except that for the Sit, the judge will command or signal for the handlers to return after two minutes, and for the Down, the judge will command or signal for the handlers to return after three minutes.~~

9.11 Stand, Stay - Get Your Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand and stay in the position it is left until the handler has returned to heel position and the judge has said "Exercise Finished."

The orders for this exercise are "Stand your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash," and "Return to your dog."

The judge will ask the handler to stand their dog approximately 15 feet from the ring gate. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the order to "Stand your dog." The handler may command and/or signal the dog to stand without touching the dog or its collar. The dog must stand but need not stand in heel position.

Next the judge will order "Leave your dog to get your leash," where the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay and will walk directly outside the ring gate to retrieve their leash. The handler will re-enter the ring, stop and wait at the entrance for the judge to order "Return to your dog." The handler then will return directly, walking around the back of the dog to heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will then instruct the handler to attach their leash to the collar and maintain control of their dog while exiting. The handler is required to exit the ring gate with the dog under control, not pulling or tugging on the leash or jumping.

The judge will decide where the leash will be located outside of the ring prior to starting the class. The leash will be placed in such location by the steward after the dog and handler have entered the ring for judging. The dog and handler will be positioned so the dog can have a direct line of vision with the handler as they leave and return to the ring, and so that the handler, when reentering the ring, is at least 15 feet away from the dog until ordered to return. Once the exercise has been completed, the judge must watch the handler and dog until they exit the ring gate.

9.12 Stand Stay - Get Your Leash, Scoring

A non-qualifying score is required for a dog that fails to stand on the first command and/or signal, moves a substantial distance away from where it was left, changes position (sit or down) before the handler has returned to heel position, or repeatedly whines or barks. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place or moves a short distance. A substantial deduction must be made under Miscellaneous Penalties for a dog that does not remain under control while exiting the ring.

Old Wording:

9 Graduate Novice Optional Titling Class

9.1 Graduate Novice Class

The Graduate Novice Class is an optional titling class that clubs may choose to offer at obedience trials. The Graduate Novice Class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) months of age. Dogs in this class may also be entered at the same trial in any other classes for which they are eligible as defined in these regulations. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. A person may handle more than one (1) dog in this class, but each dog must have a separate handler for the Group exercise when judged in the same group.

A qualifying score in an Optional Titling class shall be the same as that in a Regular class as defined in these regulations by Chapter 1 Section 10: Qualifying Score. Ribbons and prizes for Optional Titling classes shall be the same as those in Regular classes as defined in these regulations by Chapter 1 Section 14: Obedience Ribbons and Chapter 1 Section 15: Ribbons and Prizes.

Scores and titles from Optional Titling classes shall not be applicable to High in Trial awards, Merit standings, Finals standings or Hall of Fame determinations.

9.2 Graduate Novice Title

ASCA will issue a Graduate Novice (GN) certificate to a dog with an ASCA registration, LEP number or an ASCA QTracker number, and will permit the use of GN after its name, when it has received three (3) qualifying scores awarded by at least two (2) judges.

9.3 Graduate Novice Exercises and Scores

The exercises and maximum scores in the Graduate Novice class:

EXERCISES MAXIMUM SCORES

Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
Drop on Recall	40 points
Retrieve on Flat	30 points
Dumbbell Recall over High Jump	30 points
Recall over Broad Jump	30 points
Group Exercise	30 points
Maximum Total Score	200 points

9.4 Heel Free and Figure Eight, Performance and Scoring

This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog is off leash. Orders and scoring are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

9.5 Drop on Recall, Performance and Scoring

This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Open Drop on Recall, except that the handler may give a command and/or signal to drop.

9.6 Retrieve on the Flat, Performance and Scoring

This exercise shall be executed in the same manner as the Open Retrieve on the Flat, except for the following two differences. The minimum distance the handler must throw the dumbbell will be ten (10) feet. To send the dog the handler may give a command and/or signal.

9.7 Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog promptly takes the dumbbell from the handler, stays until directed to jump, and promptly comes to the handler over the jump holding the dumbbell. Orders are "Give your dog the dumbbell," "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," "Take it," and "Finish." The handler shall stand with his dog sitting in heel position at least eight (8) feet, or any reasonable distance beyond eight (8) feet, from the jump. On order, "Give your dog the dumbbell," the handler shall give the dog the dumbbell to hold. On order, "Leave your dog," the handler will command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position while the handler walks at least (8) feet beyond the other side of the jump and then turns and directly faces dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge's order, the handler will command or signal the dog to jump. The dog must clear the high jump and come sit in front of the handler to deliver the dumbbell.

The high jump structure shall be the same as defined in the Open rules. Jump heights shall be the same as defined in the Open rules.

9.8 Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump, Scoring

A dog that fails to take the dumbbell on the first command must be scored non-qualifying (NQ). Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the extent, shall be made for a dog that drops, plays with or mouths the dumbbell as the handler walks away. In addition, all applicable penalties for the Novice Recall, Open Retrieve on the Flat and Open Retrieve Over the High Jump shall apply.

9.9 Recall Over Broad Jump

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays until directed to jump and promptly comes to the handler over the jump. Orders are "Leave dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish." The handler shall stand with his dog sitting in heel position at least eight (8) feet, or any reasonable distance beyond eight (8) feet, from the jump. On order, "Leave your dog," the handler will command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position while the handler walks at least (8) feet beyond the

other side of the jump and then turns and directly faces dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge's order, the handler will command or signal the dog to jump. The dog must clear the broad jump and come sit in front of the handler.

The broad jump structure and length shall be the same as defined in the Open rules.

9.10 Recall Over Broad Jump, Scoring

All applicable penalties for the Novice Recall and Open Broad Jump shall apply.

9.11 Group Exercises (Two-Minute Long Sit or Three-Minute Long Down), Performance & Scoring
Prior to the start of judging, the judge shall make the decision as to which position, sit or down, will be assigned and post it ringside, at least thirty (30) minutes before the class is scheduled to begin. Judges should use the sit and down position with the same frequency over time.

The Graduate Novice Group Exercise will be either a Sit or a Down and will be performed with handlers out of sight. It will be performed and scored as in the Open CDX Group Exercises, except that for the Sit, the judge will command or signal for the handlers to return after two minutes, and for the Down, the judge will command or signal for the handlers to return after three minutes.

OB.20.02 Change to Obedience Rules - Utility Scent Discrimination Language

Approved by Board: 1/27/2020

Effective Date: 6/1/2020

New Wording:

5.8 Scent Discrimination

The principal features of these exercises are the selection of the handler's article from among the other articles by scent alone, and the prompt delivery of the right article to the handler.

~~The judge will ask "Are you ready?" immediately prior to taking the article from the handler.~~ Following the questions "What method will you use?" and "Are you ready?" ~~the~~ taking of the article from the handler will be considered to be the first order and scoring of the exercise will begin at that time. The remaining orders are "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish."

In each of these two exercises the dog must select by scent alone and retrieve an article that has been handled by its handler. The articles shall be provided by the handler and shall consist of two (2) sets, each comprised of five (5) identical objects not more than six (6) inches in length, which may be items of everyday use. The articles may be made of metal, leather, or wood. The handler will choose two (2) of these three (3) materials. The metal set shall be made entirely of rigid metal, the leather set shall be of such design that nothing, but leather is visible except for the minimum amount of thread or metal necessary to hold the object together, and the wood set shall be made entirely of one or more solid wood pieces. The articles in each set must be legibly numbered, each with a different number and must be approved by the judge.

The handler shall present ten (10) regulation articles to the judge. The judge, or, on order from the judge, the steward or handler will select one (1) article from each set. Only the handler will be allowed

to touch the selected articles with his/her hands. The judge, steward, or handler will use a device of the judge's choosing (such as tongs) to remove the articles to be scented from the bag. The selected articles will be placed on the table, chair or other location designated by the judge that is readily accessible to the handler. In order to preserve the continuity of the run, the articles should be placed on the chair or table before the beginning of the run. The judge or steward will handle each of the remaining eight (8) articles, while randomly arranging them on the floor or ground about six (6) inches apart. The closest article should be about twenty (20) feet from the handler and dog. Before giving the command to send your dog, the judge must make sure that the articles are visible to the handler and dog and that they are far enough apart so that there will be no confusion of scent among the articles. Handler and dog shall turn around after watching the judge or steward spread the articles and shall remain facing away from those articles until the judge has taken the handler's scented article and given the order, "Send your dog."

The handler may use either article first but must relinquish each one immediately when ordered by the judge. The judge shall make certain that the handler imparts his scent to each article only with his hands and that, between the time the handler picks up each article and time he gives it to the judge, the article is held continuously in the handler's hands which must remain in plain sight.

The judge will ask the handler what method he/she will use to send their dog for each article. After the handler answers either "send directly" or "after a sit," the judge will next ask "Are you ready?" immediately prior to taking the article from the handler. On order from the judge, the handler will immediately place his article on the judge's book or work sheet. The judge, without touching the article with his hands, will place it among those on the ground or floor. ~~The judge will ask the handler what method he/she will use to send their dog for each article. The handler will respond with either, "send directly" or "after a sit."~~ On order from the judge to "Send your dog," the handler may give their scent by extending the palm of one open hand in front of the dog's nose or gently touching the dog's nose, but the arm and hand must be returned to a natural position before turning to face the articles. The handler will then turn in place to send the dog by the method he/she has chosen. If it is to send directly, the handler will do a right about turn in place and may simultaneously give the command or signal to retrieve. The dog should not assume a sitting position but will go directly out to the articles with no further command from the handler. If it is after a sit, the handler may give the command or signal to heel and will turn in place either to the right or to the left to face the articles. The handler will halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. The handler will then give the command or signal for the dog to retrieve.

The dog shall go at a brisk trot or gallop directly to the articles. It may take any reasonable time to select the right article, but only provided it works continuously. After picking up the right article the dog shall return at a brisk trot or gallop and complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on the Flat. These procedures shall be followed for both articles. Should a dog retrieve a wrong article in the first exercise, that article shall be placed on the table or chair. The correct article must be removed, and the second exercise shall be conducted with one (1) fewer article on the ground or floor.

If the scented articles are to be kept separate from the others at the end of the Scent Discrimination exercise, it is the responsibility of the handler to notify the steward.

Old Wording:

5.8 Scent Discrimination

The principal features of these exercises are the selection of the handler's article from among the other articles by scent alone, and the prompt delivery of the right article to the handler.

The judge will ask "Are you ready?" immediately prior to taking the article from the handler. The taking of the article from the handler will be considered to be the first order and scoring of the exercise will begin at that time. The remaining orders are "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish." In each of these two exercises the dog must select by scent alone and retrieve an article that has been handled by its handler. The articles shall be provided by the handler and shall consist of two (2) sets, each comprised of five (5) identical objects not more than six (6) inches in length, which may be items of everyday use. The articles may be made of metal, leather, or wood. The handler will choose two (2) of these three (3) materials. The metal set shall be made entirely of rigid metal, the leather set shall be of such design that nothing, but leather is visible except for the minimum amount of thread or metal necessary to hold the object together, and the wood set shall be made entirely of one or more solid wood pieces. The articles in each set must be legibly numbered, each with a different number and must be approved by the judge.

The handler shall present ten (10) regulation articles to the judge. The judge, or, on order from the judge, the steward or handler will select one (1) article from each set. Only the handler will be allowed to touch the selected articles with his/her hands. The judge, steward, or handler will use a device of the judge's choosing (such as tongs) to remove the articles to be scented from the bag. The selected articles will be placed on the table, chair or other location designated by the judge that is readily accessible to the handler. In order to preserve the continuity of the run, the articles should be placed on the chair or table before the beginning of the run. the judge or steward will handle each of the remaining eight (8) articles, while randomly arranging them on the floor or ground about six (6) inches apart. The closest article should be about twenty (20) feet from the handler and dog. Before giving the command to send your dog, the judge must make sure that the articles are visible to the handler and dog and that they are far enough apart so that there will be no confusion of scent among the articles. Handler and dog shall turn around after watching the judge or steward spread the articles and shall remain facing away from those articles until the judge has taken the handler's scented article and given the order, "Send your dog."

The handler may use either article first but must relinquish each one immediately when ordered by the judge. The judge shall make certain that the handler imparts his scent to each article only with his hands and that, between the time the handler picks up each article and time he gives it to the judge, the article is held continuously in the handler's hands which must remain in plain sight.

On order from the judge, the handler will immediately place his article on the judge's book or work sheet. The judge, without touching the article with his hands, will place it among those on the ground or floor. The judge will ask the handler what method he/she will use to send their dog for each article. The handler will respond with either, "send directly" or "after a sit." On order from the judge to "Send your dog," the handler may give their scent by extending the palm of one open hand in front of the

dog's nose or gently touching the dog's nose, but the arm and hand must be returned to a natural position before turning to face the articles. The handler will then turn in place to send the dog by the method he/she has chosen. If it is to send directly, the handler will do a right about turn in place and may simultaneously give the command or signal to retrieve. The dog should not assume a sitting position but will go directly out to the articles with no further command from the handler. If it is after a sit, the handler may give the command or signal to heel and will turn in place either to the right or to the left to face the articles. The handler will halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. The handler will then give the command or signal for the dog to retrieve.

The dog shall go at a brisk trot or gallop directly to the articles. It may take any reasonable time to select the right article, but only provided it works continuously. After picking up the right article the dog shall return at a brisk trot or gallop and complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on the Flat. These procedures shall be followed for both articles. Should a dog retrieve a wrong article in the first exercise, that article shall be placed on the table or chair. The correct article must be removed, and the second exercise shall be conducted with one (1) fewer article on the ground or floor.

If the scented articles are to be kept separate from the others at the end of the Scent Discrimination exercise, it is the responsibility of the handler to notify the steward.

OB.20.03 Change to Obedience Rules - Team Class Stay Exercise

Approved by Board: 1/27/2020

Effective Date: 6/1/2020

New Wording:

11.6 Team Class

The team class shall be for teams of any four (4) dogs that are eligible under these Regulations. Five (5) dogs may be entered, one (1) to be considered an alternate for which no entry fee shall be required. However, the same four (4) dogs must perform all exercises. Dogs need not be owner-handled, need not be entered in another class at the same trial, and need not have obedience titles. A separate Official Entry Form must be completed in full for each dog entered.

There shall be two (2) judges, one (1) of whom will call commands while the other scores the teams' performances. The teams will be judged one at a time, except for the Long Sit and Long Down exercise, which shall be done with no more than four (4) teams (sixteen (16) dogs) in the ring.

The dogs on a team will perform the exercise simultaneously and will be judged as specified for the Novice class, except that a Drop on Recall will be used in place of the Recall exercise. In all exercises except the Drop on Recall, the teams have the option of executing the judge's commands on the team captain's repeat of the command.

In the Figure Eight portion of the Heel on Leash exercise, five (5) stewards will be used. The stewards shall stand eight feet apart in a straight line. One handler, with dog sitting in Heel position, shall stand about equidistant from each of two (2) stewards, all members of the team facing in the same direction. On orders from the judge, the team shall perform the Figure Eight, each handler starting

around the steward on his left and circling only the two (2) stewards between whom he had been standing.

In the Drop on Recall exercise, the handlers will leave their dogs simultaneously on command of the judge. The dogs shall be called or signaled in, one at a time, on a separate command from the judge to each handler. The handler shall, without any additional command from the judge, command or signal his dog to Drop at a spot midway between the line of dogs and the handlers. Each dog shall remain in the Down position until all four (4) have been called and dropped, whereupon the judge shall give the command to call the dogs, which shall be called or signaled simultaneously. The Finish shall be done in unison on command from the judge.

Obedience Group Exercises shall be performed either first, before the individual exercises, or ~~in groups of more than four (4) teams,~~ as the individual exercises are completed, at the discretion of the host club, and so stated in the show/trial flyer or premium list. **The Long Sit and Long Down Group Exercises performance and judging shall be similar to the novice finals stay groups. Dogs will be lined up in 2 facing rows, with up to 4 dogs lined up on each of the long sides of the ring positioned 4' off the ring gates.**

Old Wording:

11.6 Team Class

The team class shall be for teams of any four (4) dogs that are eligible under these Regulations. Five (5) dogs may be entered, one (1) to be considered an alternate for which no entry fee shall be required. However, the same four (4) dogs must perform all exercises. Dogs need not be owner-handled, need not be entered in another class at the same trial, and need not have obedience titles. A separate Official Entry Form must be completed in full for each dog entered.

There shall be two (2) judges, one (1) of whom will call commands while the other scores the teams' performances. The teams will be judged one at a time, except for the Long Sit and Long Down exercise, which shall be done with no more than four (4) teams (sixteen (16) dogs) in the ring.

The dogs on a team will perform the exercise simultaneously and will be judged as specified for the Novice class, except that a Drop on Recall will be used in place of the Recall exercise. In all exercises except the Drop on Recall, the teams have the option of executing the judge's commands on the team captain's repeat of the command.

In the Figure Eight portion of the Heel on Leash exercise, five (5) stewards will be used. The stewards shall stand eight feet apart in a straight line. One handler, with dog sitting in Heel position, shall stand about equidistant from each of two (2) stewards, all members of the team facing in the same direction. On orders from the judge, the team shall perform the Figure Eight, each handler starting around the steward on his left and circling only the two (2) stewards between whom he had been standing.

In the Drop on Recall exercise, the handlers will leave their dogs simultaneously on command of the judge. The dogs shall be called or signaled in, one at a time, on a separate command from the judge to each handler. The handler shall, without any additional command from the judge, command or signal his dog to Drop at a spot midway between the line of dogs and the handlers. Each dog shall

remain in the Down position until all four (4) have been called and dropped, whereupon the judge shall give the command to call the dogs, which shall be called or signaled simultaneously. The Finish shall be done in unison on command from the judge.

Obedience Group Exercises shall be performed either first, before the individual exercises, or in groups of more than four (4) teams, as the individual exercises are completed, at the discretion of the host club, and so stated in the show/trial flyer or premium list.

OB.20.04 Change to Obedience Rules - Clarification of Ties

Approved by Board: 1/27/2020

Effective Date: 6/1/2020

New Wording:

2.9 Ties

In case of a tie for any prize in ~~the Novice, Open or Utility~~ all classes except the Beginner Novice and Sub-Novice classes, each dog shall be tested again, individually, by having it perform the entire Novice Heel Free exercise. The original score and any placement and/or leg the team won shall not be changed regardless of the outcome of the run off. This includes, but is not limited to, events such as a dog fouling the ring.

Old Wording:

2.9 Ties

In case of a tie for any prize in the Novice, Open or Utility class, each dog shall be tested again, individually, by having it perform the entire Novice Heel Free exercise. The original score and any placement and/or leg the team won shall not be changed regardless of the outcome of the run off. This includes, but is not limited to, events such as a dog fouling the ring.

OB.20.05 Change to Obedience Rules - Clarification of Handler's Arm & Hand Position

Approved by Board: 1/27/2020

Effective Date: 6/1/2020

New Wording:

4.7.2 Command Discrimination, Scoring.

A dog that does not obey the handler's first command and/or signal for each position change, or does not stay until the handler returns to heel position must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that changes position after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said "Exercise Finished."

Minor or substantial deductions or a non-qualifying score (NQ) should be made for a handler's hands and arms not hanging naturally at their sides in between commands for position changes, or a dog that moves forward during any of the position changes.

Old Wording:

4.7.2 Command Discrimination, Scoring.

A dog that does not obey the handler's first command and/or signal for each position change, or does not stay until the handler returns to heel position must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that changes position after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said "Exercise Finished."

Minor or substantial deductions or a non-qualifying score (NQ) should be made for a handler's hands and arms not hanging naturally at their sides or a dog that moves forward during any of the position changes.

OB.20.06 Change to Obedience Rules - Deductions for Dropped Utility Articles

Approved by Board: 1/27/2020

Effective Date: 6/1/2020

New Wording:

5.9 Scent Discrimination, Scoring

Deductions shall be the same as in the Novice Recall and the Retrieve on the Flat. In addition, a dog that fails to go out to the group of articles, or retrieves a wrong article, or fails to bring the right article to the handler, must be scored non-qualifying (NQ) for the particular exercise. If the "after a sit" option is used, a dog who anticipates the command to retrieve must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. If the "send directly" option is used, any additional command to retrieve or a dog who sits after the turn must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Substantial deductions shall be made ~~for a dog that picks up a wrong article, even though he puts it down again immediately,~~ for any roughness by the handler in imparting his scent to the dog, and for the handler not turning in place. When using the "after the sit" method, there must be a substantial deduction for the handler giving the command to retrieve before the dog is sitting at heel, facing the articles.

Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances in each case, shall be made for a dog that is slow or inattentive, that does not go directly to the articles, ~~that picks up a wrong article, even though he puts it down again immediately,~~ or that does not work continuously and for any excessive motions by the handler in turning to face the articles. There shall be no penalty for a dog that takes a reasonably long time examining the articles provided the dog works smartly and continuously.

Old Wording:

5.9 Scent Discrimination, Scoring

Deductions shall be the same as in the Novice Recall and the Retrieve on the Flat. In addition, a dog that fails to go out to the group of articles, or retrieves a wrong article, or fails to bring the right article to the handler, must be scored non-qualifying (NQ) for the particular exercise. If the "after a sit" option is used, a dog who anticipates the command to retrieve must receive a non-qualifying (NQ)

score. If the "send directly" option is used, any additional command to retrieve or a dog who sits after the turn must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Substantial deductions shall be made for a dog that picks up a wrong article, even though he puts it down again immediately, for any roughness by the handler in imparting his scent to the dog, and for the handler not turning in place. When using the "after the sit" method, there must be a substantial deduction for the handler giving the command to retrieve before the dog is sitting at heel, facing the articles.

Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances in each case, shall be made for a dog that is slow or inattentive, that does not go directly to the articles, or that does not work continuously and for any excessive motions by the handler in turning to face the articles. There shall be no penalty for a dog that takes a reasonably long time examining the articles provided the dog works smartly and continuously.

OB.20.07 Change to Obedience Rules - Clarify How Leash is Held & Hand Position

Approved by Board: 1/27/2020

Effective Date: 6/1/2020

New Wording:

2.19 Hands

In exercises in which the dog is required to heel ~~off leash (free)~~, one of the options listed shall be followed: (1) The handler's arms and hands shall move naturally at his/her sides while in motion and hang naturally at his/her sides when stopped, or (2) the handler's right hand and arm shall move naturally at his/her side while his/her left hand shall be held against and centered in front of the body in the area of the waist. The left forearm shall be carried, as much as possible, against the body. In any of the above situations, the hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of the exercise, in order to maintain balance.

Hand position, other than during the fast, must remain constant during the heeling exercise, except if a hand signal is used to begin heeling. In that case, an acceptable hand gesture is allowed instead of a verbal command. After the hand gesture is made, the hand must return to one of the acceptable positions. There shall be a minor to substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of the positions state above.

In all exercises in which the dog is required to 'Come to' or 'Return to' the handler and 'Sit in Front', the handler's arms and hands shall hang naturally at his sides while the dog is coming in and until the dog has sat in front. A substantial deduction shall be made if a handler's arms and hands are not hanging naturally at his sides while the dog is coming in and until the dog has sat in front.

3.5 Heel on Leash & Figure Eight

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. Orders for the exercise are "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," and "Fast." "Fast" signifies that the handler must run; the handler and dog must move forward at

noticeably accelerated speed. In executing the About turn, the handler will always do a right About turn. Orders for Halts and Turns will be given only when the handler is moving at the Normal speed. The orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated as necessary, but the judge shall attempt to standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in any class.

The leash may be held in either hand or both hands, providing the hands are held in a natural position, or in one of the positions defined in Chapter 2, Section 19 Hands. However, any tightening or jerking of the leash or any act, signal or command which in the judge's opinion gives the dog assistance shall be penalized.

The handler shall enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the "Heel" position. The judge shall ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to Heel and shall walk briskly and in a natural manner with the dog on a loose leash. The dog shall walk close to the left side of the handler without swinging wide, lagging, forging or crowding. Whether heeling or sitting, the dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At each order to "Halt," the handler will stop, and the dog shall sit straight and promptly in the "Heel" position without command or signal and shall not move until the handler again moves forward on order from the judge. It is permissible after each Halt, before moving again, for the handler to give a command or signal to Heel. The judge shall say, "Exercise finished," after this portion of the exercise.

Before starting the Figure Eight the judge shall ask if the handler is ready. Figure Eight signifies that on specific orders from the judge to "Forward" and "Halt," the handler and dog, from a starting position about equidistant from the two stewards and facing the judge, shall walk briskly twice completely around and between the two (2) stewards, who shall stand eight (8) feet apart. The Figure Eight in the Novice classes shall be done on leash. The handler may choose to go in either direction. There shall be no "About turn" or "Fast" or "Slow" in the Figure Eight, but the judge must order at least one (1) "Halt" during and another "Halt" at the end of this portion of the exercise.

8.6 Heel on Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. Orders for the exercise are "Forward" and "Exercise Finished." Rally signs will be used for this exercise and will be placed to the right of the handler's path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the team to aid in that change.

Signs to be used are "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," "Fast" and "Halt/Sit." The "Start" sign is optional. "Fast" signifies that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. Turn signs will be used only when the handler is to be moving at the normal pace. In executing the About turn, the handler will always do a right about turn. Turn signs may be placed in any sequence and may be repeated. Two of each turn sign, as well as two "Normal" signs, must be available for the judge's use. The "Halt/Sit" sign will be used only once at the end of the exercise. The judge shall standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class. The dog must be on a six (6) foot leash. The leash may be held in either hand or both hands, providing the hands are held in a natural position, or in one of the positions defined in Chapter 2,

Section 19 Hands. However, any tightening or jerking of the leash or any act, signal or command which in the judge's opinion gives the dog assistance shall be penalized with the exception that there will be no penalty for one-time verbal praise or encouragement.

The handler shall enter the ring with his dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the Heel position. The judge shall ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to Heel and shall walk briskly and in a natural manner with his dog on a loose leash. The dog shall walk close to the left side of the handler without swinging wide, lagging, forging or crowding. Whether heeling or sitting, the dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At the "Halt/Sit" sign, the handler will stop, and the dog shall sit straight and promptly in the Heel position without command or signal. The judge shall say, "Exercise finished," after this portion of the exercise.

Old Wording:

2.19 Hands

In exercises in which the dog is required to heel off leash (free), one of the options listed shall be followed: (1) The handler's arms and hands shall move naturally at his/her sides while in motion and hang naturally at his/her sides when stopped, or (2) the handler's right hand and arm shall move naturally at his/her side while his/her left hand shall be held against and centered in front of the body in the area of the waist. The left forearm shall be carried, as much as possible, against the body. In any of the above situations, the hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of the exercise, in order to maintain balance.

Hand position, other than during the fast, must remain constant during the heeling exercise, except if a hand signal is used to begin heeling. In that case, an acceptable hand gesture is allowed instead of a verbal command. After the hand gesture is made, the hand must return to one of the acceptable positions. There shall be a minor to substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of the positions state above.

In all exercises in which the dog is required to 'Come to' or 'Return to' the handler and 'Sit in Front', the handler's arms and hands shall hang naturally at his sides while the dog is coming in and until the dog has sat in front. A substantial deduction shall be made if a handler's arms and hands are not hanging naturally at his sides while the dog is coming in and until the dog has sat in front.

3.5 Heel on Leash & Figure Eight

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. Orders for the exercise are "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," and "Fast." "Fast" signifies that the handler must run; the handler and dog must move forward at noticeably accelerated speed. In executing the About turn, the handler will always do a right About turn. Orders for Halts and Turns will be given only when the handler is moving at the Normal speed. The orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated as necessary, but the judge shall attempt to standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in any class.

The leash may be held in either hand or both hands, providing the hands are held in a natural position. However, any tightening or jerking of the leash or any act, signal or command which in the judge's opinion gives the dog assistance shall be penalized.

The handler shall enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the "Heel" position. The judge shall ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to Heel and shall walk briskly and in a natural manner with the dog on a loose leash. The dog shall walk close to the left side of the handler without swinging wide, lagging, forging or crowding. Whether heeling or sitting, the dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At each order to "Halt," the handler will stop, and the dog shall sit straight and promptly in the "Heel" position without command or signal and shall not move until the handler again moves forward on order from the judge. It is permissible after each Halt, before moving again, for the handler to give a command or signal to Heel. The judge shall say, "Exercise finished," after this portion of the exercise.

Before starting the Figure Eight the judge shall ask if the handler is ready. Figure Eight signifies that on specific orders from the judge to "Forward" and "Halt," the handler and dog, from a starting position about equidistant from the two stewards and facing the judge, shall walk briskly twice completely around and between the two (2) stewards, who shall stand eight (8) feet apart. The Figure Eight in the Novice classes shall be done on leash. The handler may choose to go in either direction. There shall be no "About turn" or "Fast" or "Slow" in the Figure Eight, but the judge must order at least one (1) "Halt" during and another "Halt" at the end of this portion of the exercise.

8.6 Heel on Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. Orders for the exercise are "Forward" and "Exercise Finished." Rally signs will be used for this exercise and will be placed to the right of the handler's path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the team to aid in that change.

Signs to be used are "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," "Fast" and "Halt/Sit." The "Start" sign is optional. "Fast" signifies that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. Turn signs will be used only when the handler is to be moving at the normal pace. In executing the About turn, the handler will always do a right about turn. Turn signs may be placed in any sequence and may be repeated. Two of each turn sign, as well as two "Normal" signs, must be available for the judge's use. The "Halt/Sit" sign will be used only once at the end of the exercise. The judge shall standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class.

The dog must be on a six (6) foot leash. The leash may be held in either hand or both hands, providing the hands are held in a natural position. However, any tightening or jerking of the leash or any act, signal or command which in the judge's opinion gives the dog assistance shall be penalized with the exception that there will be no penalty for one-time verbal praise or encouragement.

The handler shall enter the ring with his dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the Heel position. The judge shall ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to Heel and shall walk briskly and in a natural manner with his

dog on a loose leash. The dog shall walk close to the left side of the handler without swinging wide, lagging, forging or crowding. Whether heeling or sitting, the dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At the "Halt/Sit" sign, the handler will stop, and the dog shall sit straight and promptly in the Heel position without command or signal. The judge shall say, "Exercise finished," after this portion of the exercise.