

***After reviewing all items submitted, the Committee is in favor of the following concepts:***

**JUDGES GUIDELINES, GENERAL, PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING**

1. JUDGES GUIDELINES:
  - a. Move relevant judges guidelines to the sections of the Regulations in which they apply.
  - b. Revise Exhibiting to: Judges (including provisional) may not handle dogs that are not owned or co-owned by themselves or a family member at obedience and or rally trials.
2. CLASS BRIEFINGS & START TIMES:
  - a. For classes with briefings, the briefing times will be listed and the class time will be stated "class to follow".
  - b. Shorten briefing time to 10 minutes.
  - c. List classes starting after noon as "After Noon" rather than "to follow."
  - d. If the judge and ring are available to start earlier than the stated time and all exhibitors have checked-in and agree, allow the judging to start earlier.
3. CLUBS:
  - a. Allow Clubs the option of providing 4' or 5' jumps for all classes with jump exercise.
  - b. Revise transfer verbiage to allow clubs the flexibility of accepting transfers prior to the day of a trial and up to the close of the current trial for the following day(s) events.
  - c. Require clubs to publish, in the premium list, if two trials in one day will be held concurrently or consecutively.
  - d. Allow clubs the flexibility to hold one trial over the course of 2 consecutive days. (Example: Novice classes on Saturday with Open and Utility classes on Sunday) [Event conflicts will still be in effect for trials held within 100 miles.]
  - e. Modify the emergency judge policy to allow clubs greater flexibility in finding a replacement judge when a previously approved judge cancels within 72 hours or less; allowing a judge with an event conflict to accept the emergency judge assignment without impacting future assignments.
4. EXHIBITING:
  - a. Allow exhibitors to steward, other than table stewarding, in the same ring under the same judge they will be showing under.
  - b. Revise the section regarding identification. Club clothing or AKC event clothing may be worn by anyone exhibiting a dog or by ring stewards. Clothing may display the person's name, the dog's call name and/or the dog's picture. Titles may not be displayed. Writing or graphics on the clothing must not be in poor taste or contain profanity. Clothing must not display any information that would be in conflict with a sponsor of the trial.
  - c. Revise the section regarding deaf dogs so that they are eligible to compete.
  - d. Clearly state that a dog may be brought into and taken out of the ring on a leash that slips through the dogs collar in classes in which all the exercise are off leash.
  - e. Clearly state that leashes must be snapped to the collar when dogs are brought in for classes requiring on leash exercises, group exercises and awards.
  - f. Dogs may be picked up and carried in and out of the ring for judging.
  - g. The judge will call the qualifying handlers back into the ring without requiring the dogs to be brought back.
  - h. State exhibitors may leave the ring at any time by politely informing the judge they are doing so. Judges book to be marked "Handler left ring" and carry down an "NQ."
  - i. Revise hand position for the heel free exercise: *Hands must be held in a natural position; any position or movement of hands and or arms that the judge considers an aid to the dog will be penalized.*

**Novice:**

- a. Only one group stay exercise for 1 minute; sit or down, judge's option, same for all dogs in the class that day.
- b. Replace removed group exercise with a Recall over High Jump, dog would jump no less than ½ its height at the withers.
- c. Require exhibitors to check in for group exercises immediately after completion of the individual exercises.
- d. Dogs which have qualified during the individual exercise will have the option of returning for the group exercise. Dogs which have not qualified during the individual exercise will not return for the group exercise.
- e. Require leashes to be left on the dogs during the group exercise.
- f. Allow judges the option of deciding if the group exercise will be conducted after "X" number of dogs in the class **or** if there are more dogs than can be judged in one group, all the group exercises will be conducted after the last individual team is judged. Judges will post which manner the groups will be performed prior to the start of the class.

**Open:**

- a. Broad Jump - allow the jump to be performed from either side of the jump, judges' option, same for all dogs in the class that day. Requirement for hurdles to be positioned so the dog will be turning away from the ring barrier after landing would remain.
- b. Only one group stay exercise for 3 minutes; sit or down, judge's option, same for all dogs in the class that day.
- c. Replace removed group exercise with an Open Stand for Exam
- d. Require exhibitors to check in for group exercises immediately after completion of the individual exercises.
- e. Dogs which have qualified during the individual exercise will have the option of returning for the group exercise. Dog which have not qualified during the individual exercise will not return for the group exercise.
- f. Require leashes to be left on the dogs during the group exercise.
- g. Allow judges the option of deciding if the group exercise will be conducted after "X" number of dogs in the class **or** if there are more dogs than can be judged in one group, all the group exercises will be conducted after the last individual team is judged. Judges will post which manner the groups will be performed prior to the start of the class.
- h. Allow excused dogs to count towards OTCH points.

**Utility:**

- a. Scent Discrimination - Allow handlers the option of supplying two different types of sets of articles from three different allowable types of articles: leather, metal or wood.
- b. Scent Discrimination - State that it is the handlers decision if they have the dog watch the articles being put out; it is not required.
- c. Scent Discrimination - State when the handler may take an article to scent it.
- d. Scent Discrimination – State handlers are not allowed to pet their dogs while they are scenting the article.
- e. Scent Discrimination – State that the dog will be sitting to begin this exercise.
- f. Scent Discrimination – Clarify when the scoring of the exercise begins.
- g. Directed Retrieve - Substantial penalty for the direction not given simultaneously or immediately following.
- h. Directed Retrieve – Substantial penalty for lack of directness.
- i. Directed Retrieve – Non-qualifying if the dog brings back an incorrect glove.

- j. Moving Stand for Exam – Provide specific examination language to judges. (Exam verbiage adopted will be similar for Open and Utility)

### **Beginner Novice**

- a. Revise - Dogs with a CD, PCD or less will be eligible for this class.
- b. Reduce walk through time from 15 to 10 minutes.
- c. Sit Stay – State one command to stay, additional command to stay substantial penalty.
- d. Revise recall scoring to clearly state how many commands/signals are they allowed and when.
- e. Revise the wording about hands on the recall - not to be used as an aid.
- f. State what exhibitors should do with the leash for the recall.
- g. Run-Off Procedure – In case of a tie in the Beginner Novice class, the dog and handler will perform the Heel on Leash the same as it is performed in the Beginner Novice Heel on Leash exercise.

### **Grad Novice**

- a. Add scoring section for each exercise.
- b. Add the dumbbell to the Retrieve over High Jump exercise.

### **Grad Open**

- a. Add scoring section for each exercise.
- b. Signal Exercise – Revise to state minimum distance of 10' which will allow handlers to go further away from the dog.
- c. Scent Discrimination – State the handler may choose which **type** of article is retrieved.
- d. Go Out - State the handler must stand no closer than the center of the ring.
- e. Change the order of the exercises to:
  - 1. Signal Exercise
  - 2. Scent Discrimination
  - 3. Go Out
  - 4. Directed Jumping
  - 5. Moving Stand and Exam
  - 6. Directed Retrieve

**“Pre” Classes** – Change the name for all “Pre” classes to “Preferred” classes. These classes are for exhibitors who *prefer* to use an alternative titling path, which allows them to exhibit in classes without group exercises and with jumps set no less than ½ the height of the dog. The “Preferred” classes will afford an opportunity for a greater variety of dogs, and their handlers to participate in the sport of obedience.

### **Pre – Utility**

- a. Add scoring section for each exercise.
- b. Scent Discrimination – Revise to 10 articles (not 8).
- c. Directed Retrieve – State it is the same exercise as in Utility.

### **NEW PUDX**

- a. PUDX – the dog must receive qualifying scores in both P-Open and P-Utility at 10 separate licensed or member obedience trials.
- b. Change the P-Open and P-Utility classes to include the same 6 mixed order of exercises allowed in Regular Classes with the same exercises, except no group exercises; and jumps are set to ½ the height of the dog at the withers.
- c. If the PUDX title is approved revise the Signal Exercise to all signals without the permitted verbal command.

**NEW POTCH**

- a. Non-competitive champion title; points earned based on scores of 190 or better with a specific # of PUDX legs required.
- b. OTCH dogs not eligible for the title.

**NON REGULAR CLASSES**

- a. Remove the Sub-Novice, International and Advanced Teamwork classes. [Does not preclude a club from offering non-regular classes not described in the regulations. These may be approved by AKC by submitting a description of the class with the event application.]

**OTCH**

- 1. Combine the tables and give the same # of points for Open and Utility (Based on Utility Table)
- 2. Table modification as follows:

TABLE 1

Open B & Utility B				
Number Competing	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
3-4	2	1	0	0
5-7	4	2	1	1
8-10	6	3	1	1
11-13	10	4	2	1
14-16	14	5	2	1
17-19	17	6	3	1
20-23	20	8	3	2
24-26	24	10	4	2
27-29	27	12	5	2
30-32	30	14	5	3
33-36	33	15	6	3
37-40	37	16	7	4
41-56	40	18	8	4

- 3. Combine the tables - Change points for Hawaii/ Alaska/ Puerto Rico – one table:

TABLE 2

Alaska/Hawaii/Puerto Rico Only				
Open B & Utility B				
Number Competing	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
3-4	5	2	0	0
5-7	8	3	1	1
8-10	10	4	1	1
11-13	13	4	1	1

- 4. Allow excused dogs to count.