Happy New Year!

Dear Judge,

The 2008 National Obedience Invitational was a huge success! If you have never attended an NOI as an exhibitor, judge or spectator, you are missing an obedience event like no other. Make plans now to attend the 2009 NOI in Long Beach, California, December 12-13. For more details on the event, please visit the AKC website: http://www.akc.org/events/obedience/national_obedience_invitational/index.cfm.

SUMMARY OF RECENT AND FUTURE OBEDIENCE REGULATION CHANGES

In 2007, the AKC Board approved three optional titling classes, which became effective on January 1, 2009. Offering these classes is entirely optional and the club’s decision.

- **Graduate Novice.** Exercises are the same as when this class could be offered as a non-regular class; judges must be approved to judge Novice or higher classes; suggested judging rate is eight dogs per hour.

- **Graduate Open.** Exercises are the same as when this class could be offered as a non-regular class; judges must be approved to judge Open or higher; judging rate is seven dogs per hour.

- **Versatility.** Structure is slightly different from when this class could be offered as a non-regular class, with 12 possible combinations provided for judges to choose from; judges must be approved to judge Utility; suggested judging rate is six dogs per hour.

Three new non-regular classes have been added to the Obedience Regulations, as approved by the AKC Board at the July 2007 Board meeting. These classes are **Wild Card Novice**, **Wild Card Open**, and **Wild Card Utility**. Judges must have trained and exhibited a dog to the Utility title and must apply to the AKC for approval to judge non-regular classes.

A new Master (OM)/Grand Master (OGM) title program was added to recognize consistently high scoring dogs, in which title points will be recorded for dogs with a Utility title. The point schedule is listed in the regulations.

Effective on January 1, 2010, a club will have the option of holding two all-breed obedience trials concurrently, at the same time on the same day (as opposed to two trials in succession under the current rules). A new non-regular class, Obedience Advanced Team Work, may be offered.

Effective July 1, 2010, a club may offer a new optional titling class, Beginners Novice (BN), which is a class designed to bridge Rally and Novice level obedience.

Additionally, effective January 1, 2011, the CD CDX, UD, GN, GO, VER, and BN titles will be awarded to any dog who receives **three** qualifying scores under **two** different judges. This will change the current requirement of **three** qualifying scores under **three** different judges.

Additional information on changes and effective dates are on the AKC website: www.akc.org/events/obedience.
GROUP EXERCISE REPORTS

As of this date, you are no longer required to complete and submit the Group Exercise Reports. These are the data sheets that we began requiring in October of 2007 in our attempt to survey and capture event data to determine what was actually happening in obedience rings during the group exercises. We would like to thank you for diligently submitting the forms. The information provided is exactly what we were looking for and your assistance is much appreciated.

RALLY JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

We are pleased to inform you of a recent policy change regarding AKC Rally judging approval. This policy was approved at the January 2009 AKC Board of Directors meeting. Judges are now eligible to apply provisionally for all three rally levels at once.

In addition to allowing judges to apply for all three levels, the policy also changes the requirements to advance to regular status. Previously, a judge could request regular judging status after the completion of 5 assignments with a minimum of 10 dogs judged at each assignment, and at least one current satisfactory observation. Under the new system, a judge can request regular status after the completion of a minimum of 10 assignments with a total of 350 dogs judged overall. A current satisfactory observation remains part of the requirements.

To receive regular status in Rally Novice, judges must judge 10 Novice assignments, with a total of 350 dogs judged overall. The current observation must be in Rally Novice. Applying for regular status in Advanced and Excellent is one step; assignments and total number of dogs judged can be combined. The current observation can be in either Advanced or Excellent. Even though a judge may meet the requirements for Advanced and Excellent prior to those of Novice, they must first be approved for regular status in Novice before submitting their application for regular status in Advanced and Excellent. If a judge meets the requirements for both Novice and Advanced/Excellent, they may apply at the same time.

TEST YOUR RALLY JUDGING

1. A dog goes around the jump on the initial attempt in Advanced or Excellent. The handler and dog go back to attempt a retry. The dog completes the jump correctly on the retry without any problems. How would you score this?
   A. No points off
   B. Minus 3 points for the retry
   C. Minus 10 points
   D. NQ

2. How would you score multiple retries when only one is allowed?
   A. No points off
   B. Minus 3 points for each retry
   C. Minus 10 points for Incorrectly Performed (IP)
   D. Minus 13 points

TEST YOUR OBEEDIENCE JUDGING

1. Directed Jumping Exercise: On the judge’s order, the handler sends the dog out. The dog trots straight out about 20 feet past the jumps and the handler commands the dog to “sit.” The dog turns to face the handler, stops and stands watching intently. The handler gives the dog a second command to “sit.” The dog sits. How do you score this?
   A. NQ
   B. Substantial deduction
   C. Minor deduction
   D. Minor to substantial deduction

2. Open B Group Exercises: In the rotation, you have chosen the Long Down to be performed after the Long Sit. During the Long Sit exercise, the dog on the far end of the line up gets up,
moves forward about 5 feet and resumes the sit position. How do you score this and what is your procedure for the Long Down exercise?

A. NQ. Immediately have the steward get the dog’s handler to remove the dog.
B. NQ. Wait the appropriate time, call the handlers back and allow all to perform the Long Down.
C. NQ. Wait the appropriate time, call the handlers back and order all to return to their dogs, and order “Exercise Finished.” Excuse the handler with the dog that moved from the place it was left prior to starting the Long Down exercise.

RALLY TEST ANSWERS:

1. B is the correct answer. If on the first attempt the dog knocks over the jump, knocks the bar off the uprights, fails to clear the broad jump, walks through or on the boards, or uses the jump as an aid in going over, the dog receives an NQ and is not allowed to retry. If, in the process of attempting the jump, the dog goes around the jump, the dog is allowed one retry. If, in the process of returning to attempt a retry, the dog jumps the jump backwards, the dog is allowed the one retry to jump the jump correctly in the proper direction. Failure to jump the jump in the proper direction after the allowable retry is an NQ. (Rally Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 9.)

2. C is the correct answer. The maximum number of points that can be deducted for any station is 10, with the exception of a non-qualifying performance. (Rally Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 9.)

OBEEDIENCE TEST ANSWERS:

1. D is the correct answer. Minor to substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not stop on command, does not stop in the approximate center of the ring about 20 feet past the jumps, does not sit command or receives an additional command to sit after the dog has stopped, or anticipates the handler’s command to sit. (Obedience Regulations, Chapter 5, Section 15.)

2. C is the correct answer. The judge will promptly instruct the handler or steward to remove any dog that interferes with another dog. Any dog that leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise must be excused from the remaining group exercise. (Obedience Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 12)

Should you have any question or topic suggestions for the newsletter, please send them to the appropriate email addresses: obedience@akc.org or rally@akc.org.

If you know of an obedience or rally judge who is not getting the newsletters, please have them contact Lisa Strickland at 919-816-3816 or at lms2@akc.org.

Thank you for all that you do for the sport!