

Below are the recommended changes to the Obedience Regulations that will be presented to the AKC Board of Directors for review and approval at their October and November 2017 meetings. This information is being provided to the Fancy for clarification of the exercises, judging procedures and scoring.

Novice Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum scores in the Novice classes:

- 1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight 40 points
- 2. Stand for Examination 30 points
- 3. Heel Free 40 points
- 4. Recall 30 points
- 5. Sit Stay – Get Your Leash 30 points
- 6. Group Exercise – Sit & Down Stay 30 points
- Maximum Total Score 200 points

The maximum judging rate is nine (9) dogs per hour.

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 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 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 to 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 judge will 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 must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said “Exercise finished.” The judge will tell the handler “Clip your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog.” The handler is required to exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Judging Procedures: *The judge will instruct the steward to place the leash at the gate entrance 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 judge must be in position to watch the dog and handler throughout the exercise including exiting the ring.*

Sit Stay – Get Your Leash, Scoring. A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the sit position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

Scoring of the exercise 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 starts with the first order, “Sit your dog.” These will be penalized substantially and in extreme cases the dog may be released.

Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from the sit position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has said, “Exercise finished.” A substantial deduction, under Miscellaneous Penalties, must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while leaving the ring.

Group Exercise – Sit and Down Stay. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in a sitting or down position, whichever is required at the time.

The orders are: “Sit your dogs,” “Down your dogs,” “Leave your dogs,” and “Back to your dogs.”

If a dog has non-qualified (NQ) in an individual exercise the judge must release the dog from performing the group exercise. A dog that does not remain sitting during the first part of this exercise must be released from participating in the second part.

Handlers of dogs that have qualified during the individual exercises will have the option of returning for the group exercise. After completion of the last individual exercise, if the dog has qualified, the judge will ask if the handler will be returning for the group exercise. Once handlers have notified the judge of their decision not to return for the group exercise they may not change their minds. Dogs that have been released or excused and handlers who have left the ring during the individual exercises may not return for the group exercise. See Judges’ Guidelines, Judge’s Book.

Dogs must be spaced with a minimum of six (6) feet between each dog and a minimum of four (4) feet from the ring barriers. Judges will position the dogs in the approximate center of the ring in one row or back-to-back in two rows with a minimum of six (6) feet between the rows. If the back-to-back formation is used, it must be used for all groups in the class. On a 50’ side of the ring the maximum # of dogs allowed in a single row would be six (6) and in a back-to-back row twelve (12) dogs (see table):

<u>Ring Length</u>	<u>Maximum # of Dogs Single Row</u>	<u>Maximum # of Dogs Back-to-Back Row</u>
<u>50’</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>45’</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>40’</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>35’</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>30’</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

The group exercise will be conducted after the last individual team in the class, or combined classes, is judged. If there are more dogs competing than can be handled in one group exercise, the judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections.

If two classes in the same classification have different judges, each judge must judge the group exercise separately. A judge with only a single dog competing in a class would be required to have the dog perform the group exercise alone. If the same judge is judging both Novice A and B classes (in the same classification) and the combined total of the dogs returning for the group exercise can be judged in only one group without exceeding the limit of dogs based on the size of the ring, the judge may combine the two classes for the group exercise.

This exercise must be performed with the dog on a 6-foot leash. The leash will remain clipped to the dog's collar and the handler will hold on to the leash throughout the entire exercise. The armband will remain on the handler's left arm. The dogs will be lined up in judging program order. Prior to beginning the exercise, the judge will instruct the handlers to remove their dog if it starts to move out of position. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit without touching either the dog or the dog's collar. On further order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to the end of the leash, without jerking or tightening the leash, turn, and face their dogs. The leash must remain loose with slack throughout the entire exercise.

After one minute from the time the judge ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order "Back to your dogs." The handlers must return directly, walking around and in back of their own dog to heel position. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position. The dogs must remain under control between this two-part exercise.

Before starting the Down Stay portion of this exercise the judge will ask "Are you ready?" On the judge's order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dog to down without touching either the dog or the dog's collar. On further order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to the end of the leash, without jerking or tightening the leash, turn, and face their dogs. The leash must remain loose with slack throughout the entire exercise.

After one minute from the time the judge ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order, "Back to your dogs." The handlers must return directly, walking around and in back of their own dog to heel position. The dogs must not move from the down position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position. The judge will tell the exhibitors "Maintain control of your dogs." The handlers are required to exit the ring with their dogs under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Judging Procedure: *If a judge observes any signs of aggression or potential problems when the dogs are being assembled outside the ring for the group exercise or once the dogs are brought into the ring, the judge must excuse the dog and mark the judge's book "Excused" and state the reason.*

Any handlers who physically correct their dogs before or after the group exercise or while leaving the ring must be penalized under Miscellaneous Penalties.

Judges must stand with their full attention on the dogs and handlers during the group exercise and remain alert to any potential problems. To have both dog and handler under constant observation in this exercise, a judge should take a position slightly to the rear of the dogs at one end of the row(s) of dogs.

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

Substantial deductions will be made for the following: A dog that must be repositioned by its handler if it is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog (in extreme cases the dog may be released), that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes position after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said, "Exercise finished." A substantial deduction will be made for jerking or tightening of the leash before the judge has said "Exercise finished;" depending on the extent, the deduction may include a non-qualifying (NQ) score. A substantial deduction, under Miscellaneous Penalties, must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while leaving the ring.

Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances, will be made for touching the dog or its collar while getting the dog into the down position.

Scoring of the exercise 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 starts with the first order, sit or down your dogs. These will be penalized substantially and in extreme cases the dog may be released.

The timing of each stay exercise begins on the judge's order, "Leave your dogs."

Open A Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum score in the Open A class:

1. Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
2. <u>Command Discrimination</u>	<u>30 points</u>
<u>(Stand, Down, Sit)</u>	
3. Drop on Recall	30 points
4. Retrieve on Flat	20 points
5. Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
6. Broad Jump	20 points
7. <u>Stay – Get Your Leash (Sit, Down)</u>	30 points
Maximum Total Score	200 points

The maximum judging rate is eight (8) dogs per hour.

Open B Exercises and Scores. The various orders of exercises in the Open B class (points and total scores are the same as in Open A):

OPEN I

1. Heel Free & Figure Eight
2. Command Discrimination
(Stand, Down, Sit)
3. Drop on Recall
4. Retrieve on Flat
5. Retrieve over High Jump
6. Broad Jump
7. Stay - Get Your Leash
(Sit, Down)

OPEN II

1. Broad Jump
2. Retrieve over High Jump
3. Retrieve on Flat
4. Drop on Recall
5. Command Discrimination
(Down, Sit, Stand)
6. Figure Eight & Heel Free
7. Stay - Get Your Leash
(Down, Sit)

OPEN III

1. Retrieve on Flat
2. Drop on Recall
3. Retrieve over High Jump
4. Broad Jump
5. Figure Eight & Heel Free
6. Command Discrimination
(Stand, Sit, Down)
7. Stay - Get Your Leash
(Sit, Down)

OPEN IV

1. Drop on Recall
2. Heel Free & Figure Eight
3. Retrieve over High Jump
4. Command Discrimination
(Down, Stand, Sit)
5. Broad Jump
6. Retrieve on Flat
7. Stay - Get Your Leash
(Down, Sit)

OPEN V

1. Retrieve over High Jump
2. Drop on Recall
3. Command Discrimination
(Stand, Sit, Down)
4. Figure Eight & Heel Free
5. Retrieve on Flat
6. Broad Jump
7. Stay - Get Your Leash
(Sit, Down)

OPEN VI

1. Command Discrimination
(Down, Stand, Sit)
2. Broad Jump
3. Figure Eight & Heel Free
4. Drop on Recall
5. Retrieve over High Jump
6. Retrieve on Flat
7. Stay - Get Your Leash
(Down, Sit)

Command Discrimination. 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.

The orders are: "Leave your dog" and "Back to your dog." The judge must use signals for directing the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change position except for the first position and that order is: "Stand your dog" or "Down your dog."

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 to "Stand your dog" or "Down your dog." The handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change position. On further order to "Leave your dog," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will immediately walk forward 15 feet, turn, and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the second position. The judge will then order "Leave your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will immediately turn around and walk forward an additional 15 feet, turn, and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the third position. The judge will then order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must stay in position without additional commands or signals until the handler has returned to heel position.

Judging Procedure: *This exercise must be performed on a long dimension of the ring. The 15 foot distances must be clearly marked. The judge must be positioned so that both the dog and handler are under continuous observation during the entire exercise. An excellent position for judging this exercise is at an adequate distance to the side and slightly to the rear of the dog.*

Command Discrimination, Scoring. A dog that fails to obey the handler's first command and/or signal for each position or that 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, up to a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for a dog that walks forward.

Stay – Get Your Leash. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sitting or down position, whichever is required at the time.

The orders are: “Sit your dog.” “Down your dog.” “Leave your dog.” “Leave your dog to get your leash” and “Back to your dog.”

For the first part of this exercise, 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 the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit or down without touching the dog or the dog’s collar. On further order to “Leave your dog.” the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to a place designated by the judge, turn, and face the dog.

After one minute from the time the judge ordered the handler to leave the dog, the judge will 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 must not move from the required position until after the judge has said “Exercise finished.”

Before starting the second part of this exercise the judge will ask “Are you ready?” On the judge’s order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit or down without touching either the dog or the dog’s collar. On further order to “Leave your dog to get your leash,” the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward directly to the place outside the gate entrance designated by the judge for the leash. The handler will pick up the leash, re-enter the ring, stop at the gate entrance facing the dog, and wait for the judges’ order “Back to your dog.” The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must not move from the required position until after the judge has said “Exercise finished.” The judge will tell the handler “Attach your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog.” The handler is required to exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Judging Procedures: *Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide where the leash will be placed, either on the judges’ table or tableside chair. The leash will be placed outside the ring by the steward after the dog and handler have entered the ring for judging. For both parts of this exercise, the handler must remain at least 30 feet away from the dog until ordered to return to the dog. When positioning dogs for the second part of this exercise, judges should ensure that such positioning will permit the dog to keep the handler in its direct line of vision as the handler leaves and returns to the ring. During this exercise the judge must be in position to watch the dog and see the handler leave and return to the ring. Once the exercise is finished, the judge must watch the dog and handler exit the ring together.*

Stay – Get Your Leash, Scoring. A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during either part of the exercise, not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

Scoring of the exercise for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to sit or down starts with the first order, “Sit (or Down) your dog.” These will be penalized substantially and in extreme cases the dog may be released.

Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from the required position after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said, “Exercise finished.” A substantial deduction, under Miscellaneous Penalties, must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while leaving the ring.