



RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OBEDIENCE TRIALS AND UTILITY TRIALS

Effective 1st February 2012

Revised

1996

2001

2002

2004

2006

2008

OBEDIENCE TRIALS AND UTILITY TRIALS

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CHAPTERS 1 – 12: OBEDIENCE & UTILITY TRIALS

PURPOSE

Obedience trials are a sport, and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and out of the ring. The purpose of obedience trials is not only to demonstrate the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the obedience ring, but also to emphasize the usefulness of the dog as a companion to man.

All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way, so that the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The basic objective of obedience trials, however, is to produce dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs, in a manner that will reflect credit on the sport of obedience at all times and under all conditions. The performance of dog and handler in the ring must be accurate and correct according to these Rules and Regulations.

It is also essential, however, that the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment while it is working, and that a smooth and natural handler be given precedence over a handler moving with military precision and using harsh commands.

CHAPTER 1: APPLICATION

1. These Rules shall apply to all Obedience Trials and Utility Trials (collectively referred to as "Trials") organized by the Singapore Kennel Club (SKC).
2. The owner/handler entering a dog in an obedience trial does so at his/her own risk and agrees to abide by the Singapore Kennel Club's Rules for Obedience Trials and Utility Trials.
3. There are 4 classes of Obedience Trials, namely the Pre-Novice Class, Novice Class, the Intermediate Class and the Open Class. The Pre-Novice Class, Novice Class, Intermediate Class and the Open Class shall be jointly referred to as Obedience Classes.
4. For the Utility Trial, there is only one class.
5. The word "Event" in these Rules shall be read as a reference to any of the individual Obedience Classes or the Utility Trials.

CHAPTER 2: OFFICIALS

1. TRIAL MANAGER

- a. **Appointment:** The SKC shall appoint one or more Trial Managers for each Trial. The Trial Manager shall have overall responsibility for the control and smooth running of each Event that he officiates over.
- b. **Restrictions:** The Trial Manager must not enter or handle any dog in the Events that he officiates over.
- c. **Interpretation of Rules:** The Trial Manager's decision in relation to the interpretation of these Rules shall be binding on all persons involved in the Trials including Judges, handlers and owners.
- d. **Abuse of dog:** The Trial Manager may disqualify any handler and the dog for the abuse of a dog on the day of the Trials, whether or not the act was committed in the Trial Ring.
- e. **Powers to disqualify:** Except for Rules that specify that mandatory disqualification shall result from a breach or specify other types of consequences, the Trial Manager may at his sole discretion decide whether to disqualify a handler and dog on the day of the Trials for a breach of any of the Rules. (For specific powers see Chapter 4, Para 1f, 1j, 1k, and Para 2b)
- f. **Matters not covered by Rules:** The Trial Manager may decide on any matter that is not specifically covered under these Rules. His decision on such matters shall be final.
- g. **Reserve Judge:** If the appointed Judge for a Trial cannot be present for all or part of the day of the Trial due to unforeseen circumstances, the Trial Manager may select a Reserve Judge or Reserve Judges to conduct the Trials. Such Reserve Judge(s) shall be properly accredited Judges with the SKC. They will have the same powers as Judges appointed under Para 2(a) and be under the same restrictions.

2. JUDGES

- a. **Appointment:** The Obedience Trials Committee of the SKC, with the concurrence of the Governing Council, shall appoint the Judge(s) for all the Trials.
- b. **Restrictions:** The Judge must not enter or handle dogs in the Events which he is to judge.
- c. **Presence of Judge:** The Judge for an Event must always be present while all the dogs for that Event are under test, including the stay exercises.
- d. **Power to disqualify:** The Judge shall have the power to disqualify handlers or dogs in the circumstances as set out in these Rules (For specific powers see Chapter 3, Para 2h; Chapter 4, Para 1j, 1k and Para 2b)
- e. **Deduction of points:** The Judge is to adhere to the guidelines for deduction of points if any are specifically set out for each exercise. However, the Judge has the sole discretion as to deductions for all other faults not specifically dealt with by such guidelines.
- f. **Abusive commands:** Handlers should refrain from reprimanding or using abusive or intimidating commands in the Trial Ring. Judges will penalize such acts as a penalty for misbehavior.
- g. **Physical abuse of dog:** A Judge will impose a penalty up to a disqualification for any physical abuse of a dog in a Trial Ring.
- h. **Praise:** Praise and petting are allowed between and after exercises. There will be a penalty for misbehavior of 10 points where any dog is picked up and/or carried in the Ring (including on the way into and out of the Ring).
- i. **Removal of unruly dog:** The Judge may order the removal of any dog from a Trial Ring if it consistently disobeys its handler or whose behavior is considered by the Judge to be too unruly. A non-qualifying score in any exercise shall not itself constitute grounds to order a removal. In considering the possibility of ordering any such removal, the Judge shall be guided by the principle that all handlers and dogs should be given the opportunity to gain experience and complete all exercises.

j. **Re-judging:** If a dog has failed a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged or given a second chance. However if the dog's performance was prejudiced by unusual or extraordinary conditions, the Judge may, at his own discretion, re-judge the dog on the entire exercise.

k. **Guide to judging:** The Judge must remember that he is judging the dogs only on their ability to perform the exercises set for them and not on their show points or conformation. The Judge must not be too lenient in his scoring, as dogs should not attain their titles upon work of poor quality.

The Judge should also look for the following points in judging:

i. Enjoyment and willingness to work is to be desired and encouraged. Lack of willingness and enjoyment on the part of the dog must be penalized, as must lack of precision in the dog's performance. Speed alone does not necessarily indicate willingness and enjoyment.

ii. Gentleness and smoothness of handling is to be greatly desired. Roughness in handling by the handler must also be penalized.

iii. The dog should never anticipate the handler's command but wait for commands.

iv. The dog's withers should be approximately level with and reasonably close to the handler's left leg at all times when the handler is heeling his dog.

v. The handler should never be crowded by the dog.

vi. All right and left turns should be of 90 degrees and sharply executed.

vii. A dog is to sit in front of its handler when it first returns to the handler in the recalls, retrieves or jumping exercises. It should not anticipate the finish, or fail to finish.

viii. Breaking from position: When a dog sits or moves all (4) paws after the command Stay in the Stand Stay and Group Stand Stay, it is deemed to have broken from position.

3. STEWARDS

a. **Appointment:** The SKC shall appoint Stewards to assist the Trial Manager and Judge in the Trials.

b. **Restrictions:** Stewards must not enter or handle a dog in any Event that they are stewarding.

c. **Assignment:** Stewards are provided to assist, and may only act on the Trial Manager's and Judge's instructions. They must not give information or instruction to owners/handlers except when the Trial Manager and/or Judge ask them to do so.

CHAPTER 3: ELIGIBILITY FOR THE TRIALS

1. Owners and Handlers

- a. **Members of SKC or affiliated clubs:** All owners who are fully paid members of the SKC or its affiliated clubs can enter their dogs in the Trials on payment of the fees set by the SKC.
- b. **Members of SKC and affiliated clubs:** As a benefit for all fully paid members of the SKC or its affiliated clubs they can participate in the Trials as handlers at no charge.
- c. **Non-members of SKC or affiliated clubs:** Persons who are not members of the SKC or its affiliated clubs may enter their dogs in the Trials on paying the same fees charged to members of the SKC. However, non-member handlers shall have to pay additional fees set by the SKC.
- d. **Disqualified/Suspended persons:** Persons disqualified or suspended under any of the SKC or its affiliate club's rules and regulations or under the provisions of these Rules shall not be permitted to enter their dogs for the Trials and/or cannot be handlers until such time they are no longer disqualified or suspended.
- e. **Handler of dog that passes the UD class:** The handler of a dog that has passed UD class at any time will not be further permitted to handle other dogs in Pre Novice Class.

2. Eligibility of Dogs

- a. **Pedigree and Non-pedigree:** Dogs entered for the Trials may be pedigrees or non-pedigrees. Owners of non-pedigree dogs are to pay a one time fee on entering a non-pedigree dog in its first Trial.
- b. **Minimum age:** Dogs entered for the Obedience or Utility Trials must be at least six months of age on the day of the Trials.
- c. **Maximum no. of Obedience Classes entered:** Each dog can be entered into maximum of 2 Obedience Classes, that is, the lower class it is entered for and the next higher Obedience Class.
- e. **Maximum no. of passes in one Obedience Class:** Each dog is allowed to compete in the same class and attain a pass mark in that class a maximum of 3 times. A dog that has reached that maximum must thereafter join a higher class. This Rule does not apply to the Open Class.
- f. **No Limit to Open Class and Utility:** There is no limit to the number of times a dog can be entered for the Open Class or Utility.
- g. **Unfit dog:** A Judge may in his sole discretion, disqualify any dog that he considers too physically or medically unfit for the Trial or from any Event. A dog that is lame in the ring at any obedience trial may not compete in the trial. Lameness is defined as any irregularity of locomotion. The Judge must determine, without a veterinarian's opinion, whether a dog is lame. No dog will be allowed to compete in the Trial if it is taped or bandaged in any way or if it has anything attached to it for corrective or medical purposes. Such a dog will be immediately excused and under no circumstances will it be judged.
- h. **Bitches in season:** Bitches in season will not be permitted to compete in the Trials or to remain within the grounds or premises where the Trials are held. All bitches will be inspected for discharge when registering before being permitted to compete.

CHAPTER 4: CONDUCT OF HANDLERS/OWNERS AND BEHAVIOUR OF DOGS

1. Handlers/Owners

- a. **Registration:** Handlers/Owners must present themselves to the Trial Secretary upon arrival at the grounds or premises of the Trials for registration.
- b. **Attire:** Handlers are to be smartly attired in the Trial Ring. No Handler are not allowed to handle a dog whilst wearing shorts, Bermudas or slippers, except in outdoor trials or trials held in a non-air conditioned venue, where Bermudas are allowed. No advertisement, which in the opinion of the Trial Manager has or is likely to have a commercial objective, shall be allowed to be displayed in any form or manner by a handler in the Trial Ring. Any handler who, in the opinion of the Trial Manager dresses in an indecent or inappropriate manner may be disqualified.
- c. **Dog Exhibit Numbers:** Handlers will be provided with the dog exhibit number(s). The exhibit number is to be worn when a handler is in the Trial Ring. It should be worn where it can be clearly seen.
- d. **Food/Training aids:** Handlers must not bring food or any other training aids into the Trial Ring except for Leash, Check Chain or Collar. No special training collars, such as spiked, prong or electronic collars will be permitted in the ring. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar except ID tags. The Trial Manager shall disqualify handlers breaching this Rule.
- e. **Heel Position:** The heel position applies whether the dog is sitting, standing, lying down, or moving at heel. The dog should be straight in line with the direction in which the handler is facing, at the handler's left side. The area from the dog's head to its shoulders is to be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog should be close, but not crowding, so that the handler has freedom of motion at all times.
- f. **Third call:** Handlers should answer with their dogs by the third call made by the Trial Manager or Steward for the start of any Event or exercise for an Event. The Trial Manager will disqualify handlers who do not answer by the third call with their dogs.
- g. **Compliance with instructions:** Handlers must wait for and adhere to the instructions or orders given by the Trial Manager, Judge or Steward.
- h. **Compliance with Regulations and Standards:** In accordance with the certification on the entry form, the handler of each dog and the person signing each entry form must be familiar with the Rules for Obedience Trials and Utility Trials applicable to the class in which the dog is entered.
- i. **Retiring dogs:** Handlers/Owners must seek the permission of the Trial Manager to retire their dogs if they wish to do so before they enter the Trial Ring or before the group exercises. If a handler/owner wishes to retire his dog in the course of an exercise or while in the Trial Ring, he shall do so only with the consent of the Judge.
- j. **Restriction on assistance/coaching:** Handlers should not receive or ask for any assistance or be prompted or coached by persons outside the Trial Ring while performing any exercise. Any such assistance, prompting or coaching especially from trainers or owners will result in disqualification of the handler and dog.
- k. **Physical Abuse of dog:** The Judge may disqualify a handler and the dog in the case of any physical abuse of a dog in a Trial Ring. The Trial Manager may also disqualify any handler and the dog for the physical abuse of a dog on the day of the Trials, whether or not the act was committed in the Trial Ring.
- l. **Abusive commands:** Handlers should refrain from reprimanding or using abusive or intimidating commands in the Trial Ring. Judges will penalize such acts.
- m. **Praise:** Praise and petting are allowed between and after exercises. There will be a penalty for misbehaviour of 10 points where any dog is picked up and/or carried in the Ring (including on the way into and out of the Ring.)
- n. **Sportsmanship and Decorum:** Handlers and owners are to display good sportsmanship and decorum at all times during the course of any Trials and when they are within or around the premises or grounds where Trials are being held. Handlers or owners who:

- (I) use any indecent, threatening, abusive or insulting words or
- (ii) behave in any indecent, threatening, abusive or insulting manner or
- (iii) distribute or display any writing, sign or other visible representation which is indecent, threatening, abusive or insulting;

against a Trial Manager, Judge, Steward, any other person assisting in the conduct of the Trials, any SKC official or any other handler/owner during the course of any Trials and when they are within or around the premises or grounds where Trials are being held shall be deemed not to have displayed good sportsmanship nor decorum. Any action being contrary to the Purpose on page 5 may result in disciplinary action being taken against the offender by the SKC Obedience Committee.

o. **Discipline:** The Obedience Committee will investigate any report of either abuse or severe disciplining of dogs on the grounds of the Trial. Any person whose conduct is in any manner prejudicial to the best interests of the sport will be dealt with promptly. This will be done after the offender has been notified of the specific charges and has been given an opportunity to be heard in his/her own defense.

p. **Suspension:** After the alleged offender has been given an opportunity to be heard, the Governing Council reserves the right to suspend any handler or owner from participating or entering a dog in a maximum of 3 future Trials if a handler or owner breaches any of these Rules or shows any conduct prejudicial to the sport. The Governing Council shall give any handler or owner notice of an intention to invoke this right to suspend and the handler or owner shall have 14 days to send a written representation or ask to give an oral representation.

2. Dogs

a. **Fouling:** A dog that relieves itself in any way at any time while in the Trial Ring for judging in any class will be disqualified immediately.

b. **Attack:** Any dog that attacks a person and/or dog or shows an obvious tendency to attack while in the Trial Ring will be disqualified from the Trials at the discretion of the Judge. Any dog that attacks a person or shows an obvious tendency to attack while in the grounds or premises for the Trial will be disqualified from the Trials at the discretion of the Trial Manager.

c. **Misbehavior:** Any display of fear or any uncontrolled behavior such as continuous/excessive barking or running away from its handler must be penalized, whether it occurs during or in between an exercise, or before or after judging. The Judge and/or Trial Manager may excuse the dog from further competition in the class.

d. **Sit Stay/Down Stay:** In the event a dog breaks its position when disturbed by another dog in the above exercise, it will be allowed a re-test.

e. **In between exercises:** Handlers are not allowed to move to the new exercise position until told to do so. Handlers are also not allowed to lead their dogs by its collar or chain to the next exercise. A misbehavior penalty of 10 points will apply.

f. **Position your dog:** Handlers are not allowed to use their hands to position their dogs at the start of every exercise. Immediate disqualification applies.

g. **Left About Turns:** All left about turns must be executed with the dog at heel position in all classes, where applicable.

CHAPTER 5: GENERAL CONDUCT OF TRIALS

1. No. of Events: The Governing Council on the recommendations of the Obedience Trials Committee shall decide on the types of Events to be offered at a Trial.

2. Limitation of Entries: If the SKC anticipates an entry in excess of its facilities for a sanctioned trial, it may limit entries in any or all classes to a reasonable and manageable number, for example 30 in Pre-Novice, 30 in Novice, 20 in Intermediate, 20 in Open, 10 in Utility etc. Prominent announcement of such limits will appear on the entry forms for the Trials. This announcement will state that entries in one or more specified classes will automatically close when certain limits have been reached, even if this occurs before the official closing date.

3. Elimination System: The Obedience Trial Committee shall decide whether the Elimination System is to be imposed for certain events at a Trial instead of a limitation of entries as stated above in Para 2. The Elimination System is when a dog attains a zero in an exercise; it is immediately eliminated from the trial and will not be allowed to continue with the rest of the exercises.

4. Order of events and judging of entries

a. **Change in times for events:** The SKC reserves the right to vary the time at which any Event is to be judged, provided that no Event is to be judged earlier than the original reporting time for handlers and dogs for that Event unless all handlers and dogs are available.

b. **Order of judging dogs:** The order in which dogs are judged will be based on the running order of exhibit numbers; but the order may be varied at the sole discretion of the Trial Manager. Any request by a handler/owner for a change in the running order must be substantiated with good reasons to the Trial Manager.

c. **Positions in group exercises:** Positions of dogs in group exercises will be based solely on the running order of the exhibit numbers. For handlers with more than 1 dog entered in the same class, he has to appoint a stand-in handler for the group stay exercises, Requests for a change in position or to be judged in a separate group exercises may be made to the Trial Manager prior to the commencement of the class. This will be allowed subjected to the no of dogs entered in the class and availability of time. The Trial Manager's decision will be final.

d. **Minimum no. for group exercises:** Group exercises should consist of a minimum of three dogs. If there are insufficient entries, the Judge may use stand-in dogs to make up the minimum number. The number of stand-in dogs shall be at the discretion of the Judge. These dogs may be left on lead and handlers may stay with such stand-in dogs.

5. Use of Trial Rings

a. **Only for judging:** Handlers and their dogs shall be permitted to enter or use the Trial Rings only for the purpose of being judged. Use of Trial Rings for other purposes such as practice may be allowed in certain instances, but only with the permission of the Trial Manager who shall accord equal opportunity for such use for all trialers.

b. **Permitted entry only when called:** A handler and dog will enter the ring only when the dog's exhibit number or the handler's name is called. When so called, the handler and dog shall proceed and stand at the designated start point.

c. **Use of leash:** All dogs must be kept on leash and must be brought into and taken out of the Trial Ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the Ring when brought in to receive prizes and awards, and when waiting in the collecting ring before and after exercises. It must be of fabric or leather and need only be long enough to provide adequate slack during the Heel On Lead exercise. In exercises that require a dog to be off leash, the leash will be taken off and handed to a Steward where appropriate at the starting point.

6. Use of Collecting Rings

a. **Only handlers and their dogs permitted:** Only handlers and their respective dogs may enter a Collecting Ring for the purposes of awaiting their turn in an Event they are entered for.

b. **Practicing in the Collecting Ring:** Handlers are not allowed to practice in the Collecting Ring at any time.

7. Specification of Trial Rings and Equipment

- a. **Outdoor Trial Ring:** The minimum size of an Outdoor Trial Ring shall be 30 meters by 15 meters.
- b. **Indoor Trial Ring:** The minimum size of an Indoor Trial Ring shall be 15 meters by 10 meters. The jumping areas shall be covered with matting or other non-slip surface.
- c. **Specification of equipment:** All equipment necessary for the proper conduct of the Trials shall be provided by the SKC. The Judge must inspect and approve all equipment used in the Trials. See Annex A for recommended specification of equipment.

*Handlers shall provide their own dumbbells or other equipment as specified, if necessary for an exercise.

The dumbbell shall be made of plastic, wood and/or metal. Apart from numbering stickers it shall not be covered with any other foreign material. The weight and shape of the dumbbell should be in proportion to the size and/or breed of the dog.

For the scented articles, handlers are to have 15 identical articles available for each exercise. The scented articles should be cloth articles of one colour and size (at least 25-cm square) folded by half and the rolled-up. Each end will then be secured by rubberband of identical colour at a distance of 1 to 1.5 inches from the ends.

8. Protests

- a. **To use forms:** Handlers/Owners are not to approach the Judge directly when there is a dispute or to make protests.
- b. **Time period for lodging protests:** A person can only submit his/her protests pertaining to an Event in which he has participated as a handler/owner. Any such protest shall be lodged with the Trial Manager orally as soon as possible after the incident or matter relating to the protest is known to the handler/owner. All protests must also be submitted in writing to the SKC Obedience Committee within the next working day after the Trial.
- c. **Protest fee:** A protest fee of \$100.00 shall be paid at the time of making any protest. Such fees shall be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- d. **Protest Committee:** The protest shall be heard by a Protest Committee comprising of the Trial Manager and at least two members of the SKC Obedience Committee. The Protest Committee shall meet as soon as practicable after any protest is received.
- e. **No appeals:** No appeals against the decision of the Protest Committee will be entertained.

CHAPTER 6: ORDERS AND COMMANDS

1. Orders to Handlers

- a. **English Language:** All verbal orders will generally be given by the Judge or Steward in the English Language. A Judge or Steward may give verbal orders in any other language; but shall not be obliged to do so.
- b. **Physical signal:** Handlers are entitled to be notified in advance if an order from the Judge/Steward is to be given by way of a physical signal instead of a verbal order.
- c. **Start and end of exercises:** Prior to the start of each exercise, the Judge/Steward will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" The Handler is to clearly acknowledge the Judge's request. An exercise is completed and the judging for that exercise will end only when the Judge/ Steward orders "Exercise Finished". Details of other orders to handlers are set out at the description of each Event.

2. Commands by Handlers to Dogs

In these Rules, the terms relating to commands shall have the following meanings:

- a. Where the word "**commands**" appears in specific exercises, it will mean verbal command and/or signal used simultaneously unless otherwise specified.
- b. Where the word "**restricted command**" appears in specific exercises, it will mean a verbal command or signal and not both together.
- c. One command only is given to the dog for a specific action on the part of the dog. The verbal command must be a single word.
- d. The command may be given by the use of the handler's voice and/or specific action of the handler in the form of a signal.
- e. A signal should be a single gesture of the arms and/or hands only, which must be promptly returned to their pre command position. Signals must be inaudible and must not touch the dog.
- f. Any unusual noise (e.g. Whistling), prolonged or extended sign or movement of the Handler may be considered by the Judge as an 'extra signal', or 'extra command'.
- g. Language: English is the default language for all verbal commands. Handlers may give verbal commands to their dog in any language provided this is made known to the Judge prior to the start of the first exercise in the class.
- h. **Delay in Commands:** The Handler must wait for the Judge and/or Steward to give the various orders and will then respond to the order without delay. Failure to comply with this Rule must incur a penalty.
- i. **Excessive verbal commands:** Any extra verbal utterances, made by a handler may be deemed by a Judge to be additional commands, especially at the Open Class and Utility Trials. The Judge will not permit any handler to use excessive verbal commands, to move toward the dog to correct it or to practice any exercise in the Trial Ring at any time. Any handler who does so will be disqualified. A dog whose handler disciplines it in the Trial Ring will be disqualified.
- j. **Use of dog's name:**
 - (i) In all other classes, a dog's name is to be used only once immediately before any command at the commencement of any exercise, where specified. A breach of this rule will be considered as an extra command.
 - (ii) A dog that responds to its name without waiting for the command will be considered as having anticipated the command. The dog should never anticipate the handler's directions, but will wait for the appropriate commands.

CHAPTER 7: OBEDIENCE SCORING, PLACINGS AND AWARDS

1. Scoring

- a. **Zero:** No points awarded.
- b. **Substantial Deductions:** Any number of points over 20% and up to 50% of the maximum points allocated for an exercise.
- c. **Minor Deductions:** Any number of points up to 20% of the maximum points allocated for an exercise.
- d. **Score Sheets:** Each score sheet shall be signed by the Judge who must personally indicate the points on the score sheet at the conclusion of each exercise. The Judge should hand or read the score sheet to the Steward immediately after each sheet is completed.
- e. **Explanations and Errors:** The Judge is not required to explain his/her scoring and need not enter into a discussion with a dissatisfied handler. Any interested person who thinks that there may have been a numerical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards or to the Trial Manager so that the matter may be checked.

2. Placing

- a. For all placing, a passing score for that Obedience Class must be attained.

A passing score means that the dog has:

- (i) Earned more than 50% of the points for each exercise
- (ii) Met the qualifying score for that Obedience class

| SCORE | QUALIFYING SCORE | TOTAL |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| PRE NOVICE | 75 | 100 |
| NOVICE | 80 | 100 |
| INTERMEDIATE | 150 | 200 |
| OPEN | 160 | 200 |

- b. **No equal placing:** Two or more separate dogs shall not be placed equal in any award. In the event of a tied score the placing shall be decided by a count-back of the sum of points awarded in the following manner for each of the Obedience Classes:

| | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| PRE NOVICE | : | HEEL ON LEAD PLUS RECALL |
| NOVICE | : | HEEL FREE PLUS RECALL |
| INTERMEDIATE | : | HEEL FREE PLUS DROP ON RECALL |
| OPEN | : | HEELWORK PLUS RETRIEVE OVER HIGH JUMP |

- c. **Run-offs:** In the event there is still a tied score after the count-back, the Judge shall conduct run-off(s) in any exercise(s) he selects until separate placing can be made.

3. Certificates

- a. A certificate of passing will be awarded to all dogs that pass in any Obedience Class.

A 'Novice Obedience Dog' (NOD) Certificate will be awarded to any dog that receives a passing score in the Novice Class under 3 different judges.

An 'Intermediate Obedience Dog' (IOD) Certificate will be awarded to any dog that receives a passing score in the Intermediate Class under 3 different judges.

An 'Obedience Dog Excellent' (ODX) Certificate will be awarded to any dog that receives a passing score in the Open Class under 3 different judges.

An 'Obedience Champion' (OCH) Certificate will be awarded to any dog that has won first in the Open Class under 3 different judges.

4. Prizes: The prizes to be awarded will be based on the number of dogs that were entered and actually judged in any particular Obedience Class:

- a. Less than 5 dogs per Obedience Class - 1st, 2nd prizes
- b. 5 or more dogs per Obedience Class - 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes
- c. 8 or more dogs per Obedience Class - 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th prizes

5. National Obedience Champion

a. **Eligible Classes:** The award is for dogs at the Novice, Intermediate and Open Class and is awarded by calendar year. No points for the awarded will be earned at Pre-Novice Classes.

b. **Minimum entries:** Points will be awarded only if there are at least 3 dogs entered and actually judged in the particular Obedience Class on the Trial date.

c. **Point system:** Points to be awarded for Novice, Intermediate and Open Classes are as follows:

NOVICE CLASS:

- First - 25 points
- Second - 18 points
- Third - 12 points
- Fourth - 8 points

INTERMEDIATE CLASS:

- First - 50 points
- Second - 35 points
- Third - 25 points
- Fourth - 15 points

OPEN CLASS:

- First - 100 points
- Second - 70 points
- Third - 50 points
- Fourth - 30 points

d. **Run-offs:** In the event of a tie on points after the final Trial of the year, a run-off on Heel Work at the last trial of the year will determine the winner. If the dogs that are tied on points after the final Trial of the year are not all present at the final Trial, the Obedience Committee reserves the right to conduct a run-off at a convenient date to determine the winner.

e. **Trialing 2 classes on the same day:** If a dog competes in 2 classes on the same day, points will be awarded to only 1 class, the class with the higher points.

CHAPTER 8: PRE-NOVICE CLASS

1. The respective exercises for the Pre-Novice Class and the maximum points for each of the exercises are as follows:

| <u>Exercises</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Heel on lead | 45 |
| Stand stay | 10 |
| Recall | 25 |
| Sit stay (30 sec) | 10 |
| Down stay (1 min) | 10 |
| Total: | 100 |

2. The **qualifying score** shall be **75** points.
(To attain a Passing Score, refer to Chap 7, Para 2a for definition and criteria to be met)

3. **Heel on lead** **Maximum Points: 45**

A. Principal features

Dog and handler are to work as a team.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Are you ready - Forward - Right turn - Left turn - Right about turn - Fast pace - Slow pace - Normal pace - Halt (automatic sit) - Exercise finished. These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The name of the dog should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" On order of "Forward", the handler gives the dog a command to heel and at the same time commences walking at the directed pace.

b. When ordered to move at a "Fast pace" or "Slow pace" the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably faster or slower speed than "Normal Pace". The pace at which a dog is to be worked should be proportionate to the size and breed of the dog.

c. The handler shall command the dog accordingly when ordered to make a "Right Turn", "Left Turn", and "Right About Turn".

d. At each order from the Judge to "Halt", the handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel and not move until next ordered to do so

e. Handlers should use sufficient length of lead to give freedom of movement and show a distinct loop at all times. The dog should not be guided by tugging or jerking with the lead.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

If a dog is unmanageable, or if its handler constantly controls its performance by tugging on the lead, or is adapting to the pace of the dog.

Substantial

Failure to change pace noticeably for slow and fast pace or lagging, heeling wide, forging, or crowding. [Deduction of 9 to 20 points]

Minor

For poor sits, for occasional guidance with the lead, an extra command and for other imperfections in heeling. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 8 points]

4. **Stand Stay**

Maximum Points: 10

A. Principal features

The dog is to stand steadily on leash with the handler standing a leash length away and not show undue resentment or shyness.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (stand position) - Are you ready --Leave your dog – Return to your dog - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The name of the dog should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. On the order to "Position your dog", the handler will command the dog to stand at heel position.

b. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" before he is ordered to command his dog to stay & leave the dog.

c. The dog is to stay in the stand position whilst the Judge circles at approximately 1 meter around the dog. The Judge will make at least one complete circle around the dog & handler. The Judge will not touch the dog.

d. The dog must remain in the standing position until after the Judge/Steward has ordered "Exercise finished".

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that attacks or shows an obvious tendency to attack or shows undue resentment. Rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to his handler's attempts to have it stand. For a dog that moves all its 4 paws from their original positions after the stay command is given or does not complete the principal features of the exercise.

Substantial

For a dog that moves any 2 or 3 of its paws from the original positions after the stay command is given. [Deduction of 3 to 5 points]

Minor

For an extra command or minor imperfections in the stand stay. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 2 points]

5. **Recall**

Maximum Points: 25

A. Principal features

The dog is to sit where left at a distance of an approximately 10 meters, off the lead and promptly obey the handler's command to come.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (sit position) - Are you ready - Leave your dog - About turn - Halt - Call your dog - Finish - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The name of the dog should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

- a. On order to "Position your dog", the handler will command his dog to sit at heel position.
- b. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Leave your dog" and the handler is to command the dog to stay and will walk away from the dog.
- c. The Judge/Steward will give the order to the handler to "About Turn" and "Halt". The handler is to be halted at approximately 10 meters away from the dog.
- d. On order to "Call your dog", the handler will command the dog to go to him. The dog should go directly to its handler at a brisk pace and sit straight, centered in front of the handler.
- e. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that breaks from the sit position or anticipates the command to go to the handler.

Substantial

For slow response to commands or for failure to go to the handler at a brisk pace, for failure to sit, for moving more than half its body from where it was left, for failure to finish or anticipation of the finish. [Deduction of 5 to 10 points]

Minor

For an extra command, poor sits, or poor finishes. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 4 points]

6. **Sit Stay**

Maximum Points: 10

A. Principal features

The dog is to stay off lead for 30 seconds in the sit position until the completion of the exercise.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (sit position) - Are you ready - Last command and Leave your dog - About turn - Halt - Return to your dog - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be given. No extra command should be given once the handler gives his last command and leaves the dog.

D. Description of exercise

- a. This is a group exercise. The handlers will form a line approximately 1.5 meters apart with their dogs. The dogs are to be made to sit in the heel position on order of "Position your dogs".
- b. Handlers will be asked "Are you ready?" They will next be given the order of "Last Command and Leave your dogs". The handlers may command their dogs to stay and will immediately walk away from their dogs.

c. On order to "About turn" and "Halt", the handlers will about turn to face their dogs and halt respectively. The handlers are to be halted at least 5 meters from their dogs.

d. 30 seconds from the time the Judge/Steward ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, he will give the order "Return to your dogs". The handlers must return to their dogs together and go to the heeling position.

e. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge/Steward orders "Exercise Finished".

f. If a dog gets up and starts to roam during the course of the exercise, the Judge may instruct a Steward, or the handler to take the dog away from the other dogs.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog, which fails to remain in the sit, position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left, repeatedly barking or whining. Any unusual or additional act and signal.

Substantial

For a dog that barks or whines only once or twice, or minor movements, e.g. fidgeting. [Deduction of 4 to 7.5 points]

Minor

For an extra command, or if a handler does not leave or return with other handlers. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 3 points]

7. **Down Stay**

Maximum Points: 10

A. Principal features

The dog is to stay off lead for 1 minute in the down position until the completion of the exercise.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (down position) - Are you ready - Last Command and Leave your dog - About turn - Halt - Return to your dog - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be given. No extra command should be given once the handler gives his last command and leaves the dog.

D. Description of exercise

a. This is a group exercise. The handlers will form a line approximately 1.5 meters apart with their dogs. The dogs are to be placed in the down position on the order to "Position your dog".

b. Handlers will be asked "Are you ready?" They will next be given the order of "Last Command and Leave your dogs". The handlers may command their dogs to stay and will immediately walk away from their dogs.

c. On order to "About turn" and "Halt", the handlers will about turn to face their dogs and halt respectively. The handlers are to be halted at least 5 meters from their dogs.

d. 1 minute from the time the Judge/Steward ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, he will give the order "Return to your dogs". The handlers must return to their dogs together and go to the heeling position.

e. The dogs must not move from the down position until after the Judge/Steward orders "Exercise Finished".

f. If a dog gets up and starts to roam during the course of the exercise, the Judge may instruct a Steward, or the handler to take the dog away from the other dogs.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog which fails to remain in the down position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left, repeatedly barking or whining. Any unusual or additional act and signal.

Substantial

For a dog that barks or whines only once or twice, or minor movements, e.g. fidgeting. [Deduction of 4 to 7.5 points]

Minor

For an extra command, or if a handler does not leave or return with other handlers. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 3 points]

CHAPTER 9: NOVICE CLASS

1. The respective exercises for the Novice Class and the maximum points for the exercises are as follows:

| <u>Exercises</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Heel free | 45 |
| Stand for Examination | 10 |
| Recall | 25 |
| Sit stay (1 min) | 10 |
| Down stay (3 min) | 10 |

Total: 100

2. The **qualifying score** for the Novice Class shall be **80** points. (To attain a Passing Score, refer to Chap 7, Para 2a for definition and criteria to be met)

3. **Heel Free**

Maximum Points: 45

A. Principal features

Dog and handler are to work as a team without the use of a lead.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Are you ready - Forward - Right turn - Left turn - About turn (right or left) - Fast pace - Slow pace - Normal pace - Halt - Down - Stand - Figure of Eight - Lead out - Exercise finished. These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated.

C. Type of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The name of the dog should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" On order of "Forward", the handler gives the dog a command to heel and at the same time walks at the directed pace.

b. When ordered to move at a "Fast pace", the handler must run (pace to be in proportion to the size and/or breed of the dog). At "Slow pace" the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably slower speed than "Normal Pace". The pace at which a dog is to be worked should be proportionate to the size and breed of the dog.

c. The handler shall heel the dog accordingly when ordered to make a "Right Turn", "Left Turn", "Right About Turn", or "Left About Turn". Any unusual or additional act, signal or command, which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalized. The handler shall command the dog accordingly when ordered to "Down" or "Stand" the dog.

d. At each order from the Judge to "Halt", the handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command or signal and not move until ordered to do so.

e. The handler and dog must execute a "Figure of Eight" in which they must heel twice around 2 cones or other similar objects placed approximately 3 meters apart. There must be at least one "Halt" during this portion of the exercise. The handler and dog are to leave the figure of eight only when ordered to "Lead Out".

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

If a dog is unmanageable, or if its handler constantly adapts pace to that of the dog, or if the dog does not complete the principal features of the exercise.

Substantial

Failure to change pace noticeably for slow and fast pace or lagging, heeling wide, forging, or crowding. [Deductions of 10 to 22.5 points]

Minor

For an extra command, poor sits, downs, stands, and other imperfections in heeling. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 9 points]

4. **Stand for Examination**

Maximum Points: 10

A. Principal features

The dog is to stand steadily off lead until the completion of the exercise and not show undue resentment or shyness.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Position your dog (stand position) - Are you ready - Leave your dog - About turn - Halt - Return to your dog - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The dog's name is to be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

- a. On the order to "Position your dog", the handler will command the dog to stand.
- b. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Leave your dog". The handler will command the dog to stay and will walk away from the dog.
- c. The Judge/Steward will order the handler to "About Turn" and "Halt" respectively. The handler is to be halted at approximately 4 meters from the dog.
- d. The dog is to stay in the stand position whilst the Judge circles at approximately 1 meter around the dog. The Judge will make at least one complete circle around the dog. The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front but not direct front. The Judge will run a hand gently down the back of the dog.
- e. The Judge/Steward will then give the order "Return to your dog", whereupon the handler will return to the heeling position. The dog must remain in the standing position until after the Judge/ Steward has ordered "Exercise finished".

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that attacks or shows an obvious tendency to attack or shows undue resentment. Rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to his handler's attempts to have it stand.

For a dog that moves all its 4 paws from their original positions after the stay command is given or does not complete the principal features of the exercise.

Substantial

For a dog that moves any 2 or 3 of its paws from the original positions after the stay command is given. [Deduction of 3 to 5 points]

Minor

For an extra command or failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 or 2 points]

5. **Recall**

Maximum Points: 25

A. Principal features

The dog is to sit where left at a distance of approximately 15 meters, off the lead and promptly obey the handler's command to come.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (sit position) - Are you ready - Leave your dog - About turn - Halt - Call your dog - Finish - Exercise Finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The dog's name may be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. On the order to "Position your dog", the handler will command his dog to sit at the heel position.

b. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Leave your dog". The handler is to command the dog to stay and will walk away from the dog.

c. The Judge/Steward will give the order to the handler to "About Turn" and "Halt". The handler is to be halted at approximately 15 meters away from the dog.

d. On order to "Call your dog", the handler will command the dog to go to him. The dog should go directly to its handler at a brisk pace and sit straight, centered in front of the handler.

e. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that breaks from the sit position, or which anticipates the command to go to its handler, or does not come on the first command.

Substantial

For slow response to commands or for failure to go to the handler at a brisk pace, for failure to sit, for moving more than half its body from where it was left, for failure to finish or anticipation of the finish. [Deduction of 6 to 12.5 points]

Minor

For an extra command, poor sits, or poor finishes. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 5 points]

6. **Sit Stay**

Maximum Points: 10

A. Principal features

The dog is to stay off lead for 1 minute in the sit position until the completion of the exercise.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (sit position) - Are you ready - Last Command and Leave your dog - Halt - About turn - Return to your dog - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The name of the dog should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. This is a group exercise. The handlers will form a line approximately 1.5 meters apart with their dogs. The dogs are to be made to sit in the heel position on order of "Position your dogs".

b. Handlers will be asked "Are you ready?" They will next be given the order of "Last Command and Leave your dogs". The handlers may command their dogs to stay and will immediately walk away from their dogs.

c. On order to "Halt", the handlers will stop and stay facing away from their dogs. The handlers are to be halted at least 7 meters from their dogs.

d. 1 minute from the time the Judge/Steward ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, he will give the order "About Turn" and "Return to your dogs". The handlers must return to their dogs together and go to the heeling position.

e. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge/Steward orders "Exercise Finished".

f. If a dog gets up and starts to roam during the course of the exercise, the Judge may instruct a Steward, or the handler to take the dog away from the other dogs.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog which fails to remain in the sit position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left, repeatedly barking or whining. Any unusual or additional act and signal.

Substantial

For a dog that barks or whines only once or twice, or minor movements, e.g. fidgeting. [Deduction of 3 to 5 points]

Minor

For an extra command, or if a handler does not leave or return with other handlers. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 2 points]

7. **Down Stay**

Maximum Points: 10

A. Principal features

The dog is to stay off lead for 3 minutes in the down position until the completion of the exercise.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Position your dog (down position) - Are you ready - Last Command and Leave your dog - Halt - About Turn - Return to your dog - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The name of the dog should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. This is a group exercise. The handlers will form a line approximately 1.5 meters apart with their dogs. The dogs are to be placed in the down position on the order of "Position your dogs".

b. Handlers will be asked "Are you ready?" They will next be given the order of "Last Command and Leave your dogs". The handlers may command their dogs to stay and will immediately walk away from their dogs.

c. On order to "Halt", the handlers will stop and stay facing away from their dogs. The handlers are to be halted at least 7 meters from their dogs.

d. 3 minutes from the time the Judge/Steward ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, he will give the order "About turn and return to your dogs". The handlers must return to their dogs together and stand in the heeling position.

e. The dogs must not move from the down position until after the Judge/Steward orders "Exercise Finished".

f. If a dog gets up and starts to roam during the course of the exercise, the Judge may instruct a Steward, or the handler to take the dog away from the other dogs.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog which fails to remain in the down position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left, repeatedly barking or whining. Any unusual or additional act and signal.

Substantial

For a dog that barks or whines only once or twice, or minor movements, e.g. fidgeting. [Deduction of 3 to 5 points]

Minor

For an extra command, or if a handler does not leave or return with other handlers. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 2 points]

CHAPTER 10: INTERMEDIATE CLASS

1. The respective exercises for the Intermediate Class and the maximum points for the exercises are as follows:

| <u>Exercises</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Heel free | 45 |
| Stand for temperament test | 15 |
| Drop on recall | 30 |
| Retrieve on flat | 30 |
| Broad jump | 30 |
| Sit stay (out of sight 1 min 30 sec) | 25 |
| Down stay (out of sight 3 min) | 25 |

Total: 200

2. The **qualifying score** for the Intermediate Class shall be **150** points. (To attain a Passing Score, refer to Chap 7, Para 2a for definition and criteria to be met)

3. **Heel Free**

Maximum Points: 45

A. Principal features

Dog and handler are to work as a team without the use of a lead. This exercise must be performed at a higher level than that for the Novice Class.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Are you ready - Forward - Right turn - Left turn - About turn (right or left) – Double About turns (left and/or right) -Fast pace - Slow pace - Normal pace - Halt - Down - Stand -Figure Of Eight - Lead out - Exercise finished. These orders may be given in any sequence and repeated.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The dog's name is to be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" On order of "Forward", the handler gives the dog a command to heel and commences to walk at the directed pace.

b. When ordered to move at a "Fast pace", the handler must run (pace to be in proportion to the size and/or breed of the dog). At "Slow pace" the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably slower speed than "Normal Pace". The pace at which a dog is to be worked should be proportionate to the size and breed of the dog."

c. The handler shall heel the dog accordingly when ordered to make a "Right Turn", "Left Turn", "Right About Turn", or "Left About Turn". Any unusual or additional act, signal or command, which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalized. The handler shall command the dog accordingly when ordered to "Down" or "Stand" the dog."

d. At each order from the Judge to "Halt", the handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command or signal and not move until ordered to do so.

e. The handler and dog must execute a "Figure of Eight" in which they must heel twice around 2 cones or other similar objects placed approximately 3 meters apart. There must be at least one "Halt" during this portion of the exercise. The handler and dog are to leave the figure of eight only when ordered to "Lead Out".

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

If a dog is unmanageable, or if its handler constantly adapts pace to that of the dog, or left about turns not executed with the dog at heel position, or if the dog does not complete the principal features of the exercise.

Substantial

For an extra command. Failure to change pace noticeably for slow and fast pace or lagging, heeling wide, forging, or crowding. [Deductions of 9 to 22.5 points]

Minor

For poor sits, downs, stands, and other imperfections in heeling. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 8 points]

4. **Stand for Temperament Test**

Maximum Points: 15

A. Principal features

The dog is to stand steadily off lead until the completion of the exercise and not show undue resentment or shyness.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Position your dog (stand position) - Are you ready - Leave your dog - About turn - Halt - Return to your dog - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be given. The dog's name is to be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

- a. On the order to "Position your dog", the handler will command the dog to stand.
- b. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Leave your dog". The handler may command the dog to stay and will walk away from the dog. The Judge/Steward will then order the handler to "About Turn" and "Halt" respectively. The handler is to be halted at approximately 4 meters from the dog.
- c. The dog is to stay in the stand position whilst the Judge circles around the dog. The Judge will make at least one complete circle around the dog. The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front but not direct front. The Judge will touch the dog's head, body and hindquarters.
- d. After the dog has been tested, the order "Return to your dog" will be given whereupon the handler will return to the heeling position.
- e. The dog must remain in the standing position until after the Judge/Steward has ordered "Exercise finished".

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that attacks, or shows an obvious tendency to attack, or shows undue resentment or moves all its 4 paws after the stay command is given or does not complete the principal features of the exercise.

Substantial

For an extra command, a dog that requires a second command to stand or slow response to command. [Deductions of 4 to 7.5 points]

Minor

For poor stands and any other minor imperfections. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 or 3 points]

5. **Drop on Recall**

Maximum Points: 30

A. Principal features

The dog is to sit where left at a distance of approximately 20 meters, off the lead by the handler and promptly obey the handler's command to come, to adopt the down position when commanded to do so and to remain in the down position until again commanded to come.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (sit position) - Are you ready - Leave your dog - About turn - Halt - Call your dog - Down your dog - Call your dog - Finish - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The dog's name may be used at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

- a. On the order to "Position your dog", the handler will command his dog to sit at the heel position.
- b. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Leave your dog". The handler is to command the dog to stay and will walk away from the dog.
- c. The Judge/Steward will give the order to the handler to "About Turn" and "Halt". The handler is to be halted at approximately 20 meters away from the dog.
- d. On order to "Call your dog", the handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name once and then giving the command for the dog to go to the handler.
- e. The dog must come directly at a brisk pace.
- f. On further order and/or signal from the Judge/Steward, the handler shall command the dog to down. The dog should drop immediately to a complete down position.
- g. The dog must remain down until the Judge/Steward gives the order for the handler to command the dog to come.
- h. The dog should go directly to its handler at a brisk pace and sit straight, centered in front of the handler.
- i. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that breaks from the sit position, or which anticipates the command to go to its handler, or does not come on the first command, or does not drop completely to the down position on a single command, or for a dog that does not remain in the down position until called.

Substantial

For an extra command, slow response to commands, or for failure to come at a brisk pace, or for failure to sit, finish or anticipation of command to finish. [Deductions of 6 to 15 points]

Minor

For poor sits, or poor finishes. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 5 points]

6. **Retrieve on Flat**

Maximum Points: 30

A. Principal features

The dog is to retrieve the dumbbell on command.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (sit position) - Are you ready - Throw your dumbbell - Send your dog - Take it -Finish - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. Dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of the exercise

- a. On order to "Position your dog", the handler is to command the dog to sit in the heel position.
- b. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Throw your dumbbell". The handler may give the dog the command to stay before throwing the dumbbell. The handler is to throw the dumbbell at least 6 meters away.
- c. The Judge may order a re-throw of the dumbbell if he considers that the dumbbell is less than the minimum distance of 6 meters away. The Judge/Steward shall not be obliged to measure the said distance with any equipment or instrument for this purpose. No re-throw is otherwise to be allowed.
- d. On order to "Send your dog", the handler may call the dog's name and give it the command to retrieve the dumbbell. The retrieve should be executed at a brisk pace.
- e. The dog will go directly to the dumbbell and retrieve it, returning directly to the handler without unnecessary mouthing or playing.
- f. On its return to the handler, the dog must sit straight, centered immediately in front of the handler, holding the dumbbell until the Judge/Steward gives the order "Take it". The handler can then give the dog a command to release the dumbbell to him. The dog is to release the dumbbell readily and remain sitting in front of its handler.
- g. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that fails to go out on the first command, or anticipates the command to retrieve, or fails to retrieve, or refuses to release the dumbbell to its handler.

Substantial

For an extra command, slowness in going out, returning, slowness in picking up the dumbbell, not going directly to the dumbbell, excessive mouthing, reluctance to release the dumbbell to the handler, failure to sit in front of handler after retrieving, failure to finish, or anticipation of the finish. [Deductions of 6 to 15 points]

Minor

For dropping the dumbbell but picking it up without further command, poor sits, finishes, minor mouthing of the dumbbell and any other minor imperfections. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 5 points]

7. **Broad Jump** **Maximum Points: 30**

A. Principal features

The dog must stay where left and on command, must jump the entire length of the broad jump and return to the handler after it has jumped.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (sit position) - Are you ready - Leave your dog - Send your dog - Finish - Exercise finished.

C. Types of permitted commands

Commands can be used. Dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of the exercise

- a. The length of the broad jump will be twice the height of that particular dog at the withers.
- b. The Judge/Steward will order the handler to "Position your dog" in front of the jump with the dog sitting at heel The handler is to decide on the distance he and the dog will be from the broad jump.
- c. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Leave your dog". The handler may command the dog to stay and then position himself at the center point of the right side of the broad jump. The handler should be approximately 0.5 meters from the broad jump.
- d. On order to "Send your dog", the handler may say the dog's name and give a command to the dog to jump over the broad jump.
- e. The handler is to turn on the spot to his right whilst the dog is performing the jump. On its return to the handler, the dog must sit straight, centered immediately in front of the handler.
- f. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that fails to stay until directed to jump, or refuses to jump over the broad jump on the first command, or steps on or walks over any part of the jump, anticipates the command to jump or does not complete the principal features of the exercise.

Substantial

For an extra command, clipping the broad jump, display of hesitation in jumping, not returning directly to the handler, failure to sit or finish or anticipation of finish. [Deductions of 6 to 15 points]

Minor

For poor sits, poor finishes and any other minor imperfections. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 5 points]

8. Sit Stay (out of sight - 1 min 30 sec)

Maximum Points: 25

A. Principal features

The dog is to stay off lead for 1 minute 30 seconds in the sit position with the handler out of the sight until the completion of the exercise.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dogs (sit position) - Are you ready - Last Command and Leave your dogs - Return to your dogs - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. Dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

- a. This is a group exercise. The handlers will form a line approximately 1.5 meters apart with their dogs. The dogs are to be made to sit in the heel position on order of "Position your dogs".
- b. Handlers will be asked "Are you ready?" They will next be given the order of "Last Command and Leave your dogs". The handlers may command their dogs to stay and will immediately walk away from their dogs.
- c. A Steward will lead handlers to a place out of sight of the dogs.
- d. 1 minute 30 seconds after the Judge/Steward ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, he will give the order to recall the handlers to the Trial Ring.
- e. The handlers are to return to the Trial Ring and shall each stand facing their own dogs at a distance indicated by the Judge/Steward. Upon the order to "Return to your dogs" the handlers are to return to their dogs together and go to the heel position.
- f. The dogs must not move from the sit position until after the Judge/Steward orders "Exercise Finished".
- g. If a dog gets up and starts to roam about during the course of the exercise, the Judge may instruct a Steward, or the handler to take the dog away from the other dogs.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog, which fails to remain in the sit, position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left, repeatedly barking or whining.

Substantial

For an extra command after the last command had been given. [Deduction of 5 to 12.5 points]

Minor

For a dog that barks or whines only once or twice, or minor movements, e.g. fidgeting. If a handler does not leave or return with other handlers. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 4 points]

9. **Down Stay (out of sight)**

Maximum Points: 25

A. Principal features

The dog is to stay off lead for 3 minutes in the down position with the handler out of the sight until the completion of the exercise.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dogs (down position) - Are you ready - Last Command and Leave your dogs - Return to your dogs - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. Dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. This is a group exercise. The handlers will form a line approximately 1.5 meters apart with their dogs. The dogs are to be placed in the down position on order of "Position your dogs".

b. Handlers will be asked "Are you ready?" They will next be given the order of "Last Command and Leave your dogs". The handlers may command their dogs to stay and will immediately walk away from their dogs.

c. A Steward will lead handlers to a place out of sight of the dogs.

d. 3 minutes after the Judge/Steward ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, he will give the order to recall the handlers to the Trial Ring.

e. The handlers are to return to the Trial Ring and shall each stand facing their own dogs at a distance indicated by the Judge/Steward. Upon the order to "Return to your dogs" the handlers are to return to their dogs together and go to the heel position.

f. The dogs must not move from the down position until after the Judge/Steward orders "Exercise Finished".

g. If a dog gets up and starts to roam during the course of the exercise, the Judge may instruct a Steward, or the handler to take the dog away from the other dogs.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog which fails to remain in the down position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left, repeatedly barking or whining.

Substantial

For an extra command after the last command had been given. [Deduction of 5 to 12.5 points]

Minor

For a dog that barks or whines only once or twice, or minor movements, e.g. fidgeting. If a handler does not leave or return with other handlers. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 4 points]

CHAPTER 11: OPEN CLASS

1. The respective exercises for the open level and the maximum points for the exercises are as follows:

| <u>Exercises</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Heel work | 45 |
| Distance control | 25 |
| Send away | 25 |
| Retrieve over high jump | 30 |
| Scent discrimination | 35 |
| Sit Stay (out of sight 3 min) | 20 |
| Down Stay (out of sight 5 min) | 20 |

Total: 200

2. The **qualifying score** for the open level shall be **160** points.
(To attain a Passing Score, refer to Chap 7, Para 2a for definition and criteria to be met)

3. **Heel Work** **Maximum Points: 45**

A. Principal features

Dog and handler are to work as a team without the use of a lead. During the heeling routine the dog will be required to do the sit, stand and down while the handler is still on the move.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Are you ready - Forward - Right turn - Left turn - About turn (right or left) – Double About turns (left and/or right) - Fast pace - Slow pace - Normal pace - Halt - Down - Stand - Position coming up - Now - Heel your dog (or pick up your dog) - Figure of eight - Lead out - Exercise finished. These orders may be given in any sequence and repeated.

C. Types of commands permitted

Only restricted commands permitted. Dog's name should only be used at start of exercise.

D. Description of the exercise

a. Before the start of the exercise, the sequence for the sit, stand and down positions (as determined by the Judge) for the heeling in motion will be made known to the handlers. It is the responsibility of the handlers to remember this sequence.

b. For the heeling in motion part of this exercise, the dog shall be required, whilst heeling at normal pace, to be left at the sit, stand and down position whilst the handler continues walking. The Judge/Steward will alert the handler that a position is coming up by saying "Position coming up". The Judge/Steward will then order "Now" and the handler has to give a command to the dog according to the sequence of positions determined by the Judge.

c. The handler should walk on alone without hesitation and continue walking as ordered by the Judge/Steward until given the order to "Heel your dog" in which case the handler is to do so upon next reaching the dog.

d. This exercise includes all other heeling routines as outlined in the Intermediate Class.

e. The handler and dog must execute a "Figure of Eight" in which they must heel twice around 2 Stewards standing approximately 3 meters apart. There must be at least one "Halt" during this portion of the exercise. The handler and dog are to leave the figure of eight only when ordered to "Lead Out".

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that is unmanageable, for a dog that misses more than 1 position during the heeling in motion part of the exercise, or if its handler continually adapts pace to that of the dog, or left about turns not executed with the dog at heel position, or if the dog does not complete the principal features of the exercise.

Substantial

For an extra command, or failure to change pace noticeably for fast and slow pace, or lagging, heeling wide, forging, or crowding, for a handler who does not leave the dog promptly during the heeling in motion, for a dog which anticipates. For a dog that misses only 1 position during the heeling in motion part of the exercise. [Deductions of 10 to 22.5 points]

Minor

For poor sits, downs, stands, and other imperfections in heeling. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 9 points]

4. Distance Control (5 positions)

Maximum Points: 25

A. Principal features

The dog is to promptly respond to the handler's commands, which are given from a distance of 8 to 10 meters.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (stand position) - Are you ready - Leave your dog - About turn - Halt - Now/hand signal from Judge/Steward (or Judge/Steward will say Position 1,2,3,4,5.) for each of the orders to Sit, Down and Stand your dog - Return to your dog - Exercise finished. Orders may be given in any sequence and repeated.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of the exercise

a. The handler will be shown the position of a Distance Control Board with a sequence of instructions for the distance commands (5 positions) just before the start of the exercise.

b. On order to "Position your dog in the stand position", the handler will command the dog to stand in the heel position.

c. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Leave your dog". The handler may then command the dog to stay before walking away from the dog. The handler will be ordered to "About Turn" and "Halt". The handler should be halted at approximately 8 to 10 meters from the dog.

d. On separate orders from the Judge/Steward, the handler will command the dog to sit, stand or down accordingly. The handler may use the dog's name only once before giving the first command from a distance. The handler must wait for the individual orders from the Judge/Steward before giving any distance commands to the dog.

e. The handler may refer to the Distance Control Board for the sequence of distance commands that must be given. The handler is to return to the dog at the heel position only when ordered to "Return to your dog".

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that fails anticipation of orders by the handler, anticipation of command by the dog, movement of more than one body length of the dog from where it was left at the start of the exercise or for failure to perform the principal features of the exercise.

Substantial

For an extra command, prolonged distance commands (verbal or physical), for slow response to commands/signals. [Deductions of 5 to 12.5 points]

Minor

For movement of less than one body length and any other minor imperfections. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 5 points]

5. **Send Away**

Maximum Points: 25

A. Principal features

The dog, on command, should go away from the handler to a distance of approximately 15 meters, to adopt the down position when commanded to do so and to remain in the down position until again commanded to heel.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Position your dog (stand position) - Are you ready - Send your dog - Forward - About turn - Call your dog - Halt - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used for this exercise. The dog's head can be held before the send away command is given. Dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of the exercise

a. On order to "Position your dog", the handler is to position the dog in the stand position at a start point. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" On order to "Send your dog", the handler may use a simultaneous verbal and physical command to signal the dog to go forward at a brisk pace to a distance of approximately 15 meters away and in the center of the ring. The center of the ring will be clearly marked by a cone. The required distance indicating the drop-line will be marked by 2 cones approximately 2 to 3 meters apart. The cone shall be supplied by SKC and be approximately 8" to 12" in height.

b. When the dog has reached the correct position, the handler will give the command for the dog to adopt the down position facing the handler.

c. The dog must drop immediately to a complete down position with its attention on the handler & remain in the down position until the Judge/Steward gives the order for the handler to command the dog to heel.

d. The handler will be ordered to move "Forward" until he reaches a marker which is about 13 to 14 meters from the starting point, the handler will be ordered to "About Turn".

e. The order "Call your dog" will be given about 2 meters after the about turn and the handler is to command the dog to go to the heeling position whilst the handler continues walking. The dog should go directly to its handler at a brisk pace and walk with the handler in the heeling position. Handler and dog will continue moving together until ordered to "Halt".

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that fails or anticipates to go out on first command, does not reach the distance required from the start point, does not adopt the down position on command, does not respond to first command to heel from the down position, anticipates or fail to heel back in position.

Substantial

For an extra command, slowness in going out, hesitation in going out, or does not stop in the approximate center of the ring, or anticipation and slow respond to down. [Deductions of 6 to 12.5 points]

Minor

For any other minor imperfections or for any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 5 points]

6. **Retrieve Over the High Jump**

Maximum Points: 30

A. Principal features

The dog, on command, to go clearly over the high jump, retrieve the dumbbell and return clearly over the high jump.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dog (sit position) - Are you ready - Throw your dumbbell - Send your dog - Take it - Finish - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. Dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of the exercise

a. The high jump is to be set at the height of the dog at its withers. Minimum height is 250mm and the maximum is 900mm.

b. The Judge/Steward will order the handler to "Position your dog" in front of the high jump with the dog sitting at heel. The handler is to decide on the distance he and the dog should be from the high jump. The handler will remain in the same spot throughout the exercise.

c. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Throw your dumbbell". The handler may command the dog to stay and then throw the dumbbell over the high jump & at least 4 meters away from the jump.

d. The Judge may order a re-throw of the dumbbell if the dumbbell does not clear the high jump, or if he considers that the dumbbell is less than the minimum distance of 4 meters away. The Judge/Steward shall not be obliged to measure the said distance with any equipment or instrument for this purpose. No re-throw is otherwise to be allowed.

e. On order to "Send your dog", the handler may call the dog's name and give a command for the dog to retrieve the dumbbell. The retrieve must be executed at a brisk pace.

f. The dog is to jump over the high jump to retrieve the dumbbell and is to jump over the high jump again on its return to the handler. No part of the dog's body should clip the high jump.

g. On its return to the handler, the dog must sit straight, centered immediately in front of the handler, holding the dumbbell until the Judge/Steward gives the order "Take it". The handler can then give the dog a command to release the dumbbell to him. The dog is to release the dumbbell readily and remain sitting in front of its handler.

h. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that fails to go out on the first command, or anticipates the command to retrieve, or fails to retrieve, or fails to jump over the high jump from either direction or refuses to release the dumbbell to its handler.

Substantial

For an extra command, slowness in going out, using the top of the high jump as an aid, returning, slowness in picking up the dumbbell, not going directly to the dumbbell, excessive mouthing, reluctance to release the dumbbell to the handler, failure to sit in front of handler after retrieving, failure to finish, or anticipation of the finish. [Deductions of 5 to 10 points]

Minor

For dropping the dumbbell but picking it up without further command, poor sits, finishes, minor mouthing of the dumbbell and any other minor imperfections. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 4 points]

7. **Scent Discrimination**

Maximum Points: 35

A. Principal features

The dog must select by scent alone and retrieve an article that has been scented by its handler from a set of 10 identical articles.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Take up position - About turn - Are you ready - Give your scent and send your dog - Take it - Finish - Article correct/ incorrect - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used for this exercise. The dog's name can only be at the start of the exercise

D. Description of exercise

a. Unless otherwise recommended by the Obedience Trials Committee, the articles used in this exercise shall be cloths of one colour and size (at least 25-cm square). Handlers to provide the cloth articles and prepared in accordance to the skc specifications laid out in Chapter 5 para 7.

b. The handler, with the dog sitting at heel, will take up position as directed by the Judge, at least 5 meters away from and facing in the opposite direction to the articles.

c. The Judge will designate the article that the handler will leave his/her scent, which will be handled with tongs. The Steward will place the other nine articles in a pattern set by the Judge. This pattern must be the same for each dog.

d. The handler's scent must be imparted to the chosen article only from his hands, which must remain in plain sight. The scented article is then returned to the Steward who will then use tongs to place the scented article in the position set by the Judge. Each of the articles including the scented one is to be within 500mm of each other.

e. The handler and the dog will only turn to face the articles on the order of "About turn".

f. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Give your scent and send your dog". The handler may place his hand gently over the dog's nose and may give a command to retrieve. The dog should go directly to the articles at a brisk pace. It may take a reasonable time to select the right article but must work continuously and should not pick up any article other than the handler's scented one.

g. After picking up the correct article, the dog must promptly return and sit straight, centered immediately in front of the handler, holding the handler's scented article until the Judge/Steward gives the order "Take it".

- h. The handler can then give the dog a command to release the article to him. The dog is to release the article readily and remain sitting in front of its handler.
- i. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that fails to go out to the group of articles, retrieves the wrong article, or anticipates the retrieve. For an extra command to retrieve.

Substantial

For an extra command, excessive slowness in going out, does not go directly to the articles, or does not work continuously, or playing with the articles or picking up the wrong article even though it puts it down immediately, for failure to sit or finish or anticipating the finish. [Deductions of 7 to 15 points]

Minor

For minor mouthing, poor sits or poor finishes, or any other minor imperfections. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 6 points]

8. Sit Stay (out of sight 3 min)

Maximum Points: 20

A. Principal features

The dog is to stay off lead for 3 minutes in the sit position with the handler out of the sight until the completion of the exercise.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dogs (sit position) - Are you ready - Last Command and Leave your dogs - Return to your dogs - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. Dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

- a. This is a group exercise. The handlers will form a line approximately 1.5 meters apart with their dogs. The dogs are to be made to sit in the heel position on order of "Position your dogs".
- b. Handlers will be asked "Are you ready?" They will next be given the order of "Last Command and Leave your dogs". The handlers may command their dogs to stay and will immediately walk away from their dogs.
- c. Handlers will be led by a Steward to a place out of sight of the dogs.
- d. 3 minutes after the Judge/Steward ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, he will give the order to recall the handlers to the Trial Ring.
- e. The handlers are to return to the Trial Ring and shall each stand facing their own dogs at a distance indicated by the Judge/Steward. Upon the order to "Return to your dogs" the handlers are to return to their dogs together and go to the heel position.
- f. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge/Steward orders "Exercise Finished".
- g. If a dog gets up and starts to roam about during the course of the exercise, the Judge may instruct a Steward, or the handler to take the dog away from the other dogs.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog, which fails to remain in the sit position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left, repeatedly barking or whining..

Substantial

For an extra command after the last command has been given. For a dog that barks or whines only once or twice, or minor movements, e.g. fidgeting.
[Deduction of 5 to 10 points]

Minor

If a handler does not leave or return with other handlers. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 4 points]

9. Down Stay (out of sight 5 min)

Maximum Points: 20

A. Principal features

The dog is to stay off lead for 5 minutes in the down position with the handler out of the sight until the completion of the exercise.

B. Orders from the Judge/ Steward

Position your dogs (down position) - Are you ready - Last Command and Leave your dogs - Return to your dogs - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. Dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

- a. This is a group exercise. The handlers will form a line approximately 1.5 meters apart with their dogs. The dogs are to be placed in the down position on order of "Position your dogs".
- b. Handlers will be asked "Are you ready?" They will next be given the order of "Last Command and Leave your dogs". The handlers may command their dogs to stay and will immediately walk away from their dogs.
- c. Handlers will be led by a Steward to a place out of sight of the dogs.
- d. 5 minutes after the Judge/Steward ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, he will give the order to recall the handlers to the Trial Ring.
- e. The handlers are to return to the Trial Ring and shall each stand facing their own dogs at a distance indicated by the Judge/Steward. Upon the order to "Return to your dogs" the handlers are to return to their dogs together and go to the heel position.
- f. The dogs must not move from the down position until after the Judge/Steward orders "Exercise Finished".
- g. If a dog gets up and starts to roam during the course of the exercise, the Judge may instruct a Steward, or the handler to take the dog away from the other dogs.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog which fails to remain in the down position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left, repeatedly barking or whining. For an extra command after the last command has been given. Any unusual or additional act & signal.

Substantial

For an extra command after the last command has been given. For a dog that barks or whines only once or twice, or minor movements, e.g. fidgeting.

[Deduction of 5 to 10 points]

Minor

If a handler does not leave or return with other handlers. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 4 points]

CHAPTER 12: UTILITY TRIAL

1. The Utility Trial is only open to dogs which have CD titles. There is no limit to the number of times a dog can be entered for the Utility Trial regardless of whether it passes or is the winning dog.

The exercise for each dog and the maximum points shall be:

| <u>Exercise</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Seek Back Lost Article | 45 |
| Directed Retrieve | 30 |
| Scent Discrimination | 40 |
| Directed Jumping | 40 |
| Signal Exercise | 45 |

Total: 200

2. The **qualifying score** for the Utility Trial shall be **160** points
(To attain a Passing Score, refer to Para 4a below for definition and criteria to be met)
3. **Scoring**
 - a. **Zero:** No points awarded. If a dog receives a zero for an exercise, it cannot pass the Utility Trial.
 - b. **Substantial Deductions:** Any number of points over 20% and up to 50% of the maximum points allocated for an exercise.
 - c. **Minor Deductions:** Any number of points up to 20% of the maximum points allocated for an exercise.
 - d. **Score Sheets:** Each score sheet shall be signed by the Judge who must personally indicate the points on the score sheet at the conclusion of each exercise. The Judge should hand or read the score sheet to the Steward immediately after each sheet is completed.
 - e. **Explanations and Errors:** The Judge is not required to explain his/her scoring and need not enter into a discussion with a dissatisfied handler. Any interested person who thinks that there may have been a numerical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards or to the Trial Manager so that the matter may be checked.
4. **Placing**
 - a. For all placing, a passing score must be attained.

A passing score means that the dog has:
 - (i) Earned more than 50% of the points for each exercise
 - (ii) Met the qualifying score for Utility class
 - b. **No equal placing:** Two or more separate dogs shall not be placed equal in any award. In the event of a tied score the placing shall be decided by a count-back of the sum of points awarded for the Seek Back and Directed Jumping.
 - c. **Run-offs:** In the event there is still a tied score after the count-back, the Judge shall conduct run-off(s) in any exercise(s) he selects until separate placing can be made.
5. **Certificates**
 - a. A 'Utility Dog' (UD) Certificate will be awarded to any dog that receives a passing score in the Utility Trial under 3 different judges.

b. A 'Grand Obedience Champion' (GOC) Certificate will be awarded to any dog that won first in the Utility Trial under 3 different judges.

6. **Prizes:** The prizes to be awarded will be based on the number of dogs that were entered and actually judged in a particular Utility Trial:

- a. Less than 5 dogs per trial - 1st, 2nd prizes
- b. 5 or more dogs per trial - 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes
- c. 8 or more dogs per trial - 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th prizes.

7. **NATIONAL UTILITY CHAMPION**

a. This award is only for dogs in the Utility Trial.

b. Points to be awarded are as follows:

First - 100 points
Second - 70 points
Third - 50 points
Fourth - 30 points

c. **Run-offs:** In the event of a tie on points after the final Trial of the calendar year, a run-off on Seek Back will determine the winner.

d. **Minimum entries:** Points will be awarded only if there are at least 3 dogs entered and actually judged in the Utility Trial on the Trial date.

Exercises for Utility Trials

8. **Seek Back**

Maximum Points: 45

A. Principal Features

The dog is to seek and retrieve an article on command.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Are you ready - Forward - followed by any order that the Judge may give from the Heel Free routine excluding the Figure Eight - About Turn - Halt - Send your Dog - Face your Dog - Take it - Finish - Exercise Finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The dog's name is only to be used at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. The handler is to bring his own article made of leather. Its dimension shall not exceed 150mm by 25mm x 25mm. The article must not be touched by the Judge or Steward.

b. The handler will be asked "Are you ready". The handler and dog are to execute a Heel Free exercise. The primary function of the heel work is to lay a track. It is not desirable that the handler should cross his own tracks.

c. The article will be discretely placed on the track by the Judge or Steward whilst the handler and dog are executing the Heel Free exercise. When the dog and handler have proceeded at least 20 meters after the placement of the article, the Judge/Steward must order 'About Turn' and 'Halt'. The Judge/Steward will then order the handler to send his dog.

d. The handler may place his hand gently on the dog's nose and may give a command and/or signal to retrieve. The handler must not point to the article but may point in the direction of the track. The dog is expected to find the article, either by scent or sight, within 120 seconds, to pick it up and promptly return to the handler.

e. After the dog has picked up the article, the Judge/Steward will order the handler to face the dog, but the handler must remain in the place from where the dog was sent. The dog is to return to the handler and sit directly in front of the handler, and hold the article until the

Judge/Steward orders "Take it" when the handler may give the dog a command and/or signal accordingly.

f. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until the Judge/Steward orders 'Finish'. On the handler's command, the dog must then go smartly to heel position and sit.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that does not find and retrieve the article on one command and/or signal, anticipates the command and/or signal to seek, does not constantly seek, returns with the article after 120 seconds, refuses to give up the article, or does not deliver the article to hand.

Substantial

For an extra command, a dog that fails to sit before being sent out, does not leave the handler promptly, returns to the handler with the article between 90 to 120 seconds, shows a lack of interest, excessively mouths the article, fails to sit in front, anticipates the finish, or fails to finish. [Deduction of 9 to 20 points]

Minor

For heeling imperfections, playing with the article, poor sits or finishes, or where the article is dropped and immediately picked up without further command. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deduction of 1 to 8 points]

9. Directed Retrieve

Maximum Points: 30

A. Principal Features

The dog stays until directed to retrieve, then it goes directly to the designated glove and retrieves it promptly.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Are you ready - Take up position - Glove Number One, Two or Three - About turn and halt -Send your dog - Take it - Finish - Exercise Finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be given. The dog's name is only to be used at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. In this exercise, the handler will provide three predominantly white, wrist length cotton work gloves, which must be opened and must be approved by the Judge.

b. The handler, with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to, and at least 12 meters from where the centre glove is to be placed. The Judge or Steward will then drop the three gloves across the end or side of the ring away from the handler and dog.

c. The three gloves should be placed in a straight line approximately 1 meter from the edge or side of the ring. The distance between neighbouring gloves is approximately 6 meters. All three gloves must be clearly visible to both dog and handler, when the handler turns to face the glove designated by the Judge.

d. The gloves shall be designated 'One', 'Two' and 'Three' reading from left to right when the handler turns and faces the gloves. The Judge will give the order 'One', 'Two', or 'Three' and then order the Handler to 'About Turn'. The Handler will give the command to Heel, and then turn in place, right or left, to face the designated glove. The Handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting at heel. The Handler must not touch the dog, nor reposition the dog.

e. The Judge will then give the order 'Send'. The Handler will give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of the left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. The Handler may bend the body and knees to the extent necessary in giving the direction to the dog.

Either simultaneously with, or immediately following giving the direction, the handler must give the verbal command to retrieve. The handler will then stand erect in a natural position.

f. The dog must go directly to the designated glove at a brisk pace and retrieve it, returning directly to the handler without unnecessary mouthing or playing.

g. On its return to the handler, the dog must sit straight, centered immediately in front of the handler, holding the glove until the Judge/Steward gives the order "Take it".

h. The handler can then give the dog a command to release the glove to him. The dog is to release the glove readily and remain sitting in front of its handler.

i. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.

j. The exercise shall consist of a single retrieve, and the Judge shall designate the same glove for successive dogs.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that does not go directly to the designated glove, or does not retrieve the designated glove on one command, anticipates the command to retrieve, refuses to give up the glove, or does not deliver to hand. For an extra command to position the dog after the handler turns to face the designated glove.

Substantial

For an extra command, a handler who does not turn in place, or does not face the designated glove. For a dog that breaks from the sit position, or for slowness in going out, in picking up the glove, excessive mouthing, reluctance to release the glove to the handler, failure to sit in front of handler after retrieving, failure to finish, or anticipation of the finish. For touching the dog, or excessive motions when turning to face the glove. [Deductions of 6 to 12.5 points]

Minor

For poor sits and finishes, minor mouthing of the glove or where the glove is dropped and immediately picked up without further command. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 5 points]

10. Scent Discrimination II

Maximum Points: 40

A. Principal features

The dog must select the 3rd party's (could be the judge or someone designated by the judge) article from among the other articles by scent alone, and the prompt delivery of the right article to the handler.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Are you ready - About turn and halt - Give the 3rd Party's scent and send your dog - Take it - Finish - Part exercise finished - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Only restricted commands can be used for this exercise. The dog's name can only be used at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of exercise

a. Unless otherwise recommended by the Obedience Trials Committee, the articles used in this exercise shall be cloths of one colour and size (at least 25-cm square). Handlers to provide the cloth articles and prepared in accordance to the skc specifications laid out in Chapter 5 para 7.

b. The handler, with the dog sitting at heel, will take up position as directed by the Judge, at least 5 meters away from and facing in the opposite direction to the articles.

c. The Judge will designate the article that the 3rd party will leave his/her scent, which will be handled with tongs. The Steward will place the other nine articles in a pattern set by the Judge, of which 2 will be handled by hand (to serve as decoys). This pattern must be the same for each dog.

d. The 3rd party's scent must be imparted to the chosen article only from his hands, which must remain in plain sight. The scented article is then returned to the Steward who will then use tongs to place the scented article in the position set by the Judge. The position of the scented article shall be the same for all dogs. Each of the articles including the scented one is to be within 500mm of each other.

e. The handler and the dog will only turn to face the articles on the order of "About turn".

f. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" He will next be given the order to "Give the 3rd party's scent (by another cloth article scented by the same 3rd party) and send your dog". The handler may place his hand gently over the dog's nose and may give a command to retrieve. The dog should go directly to the articles at a brisk pace. It may take a reasonable time to select the right article but must work continuously and should not pick up any article other than the handler's scented one.

g. After picking up the correct article, the dog must promptly return and sit straight, centered immediately in front of the handler, holding the handler's scented article until the Judge/Steward gives the order "Take it".

h. The handler can then give the dog a command to release the article to him. The dog is to release the article readily and remain sitting in front of its handler.

i. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that fails to go out to the group of articles, retrieves the wrong article, or anticipates the retrieve. For an extra command to retrieve.

Substantial

For an extra command, excessive slowness in going out, does not go directly to the articles, or does not work continuously, or playing with the articles or picking up the wrong article even though it puts it down immediately, for failure to sit or finish or anticipating the finish.[Deductions of 9 to 20 points]

Minor

For minor mouthing, poor sits or poor finishes, or any other minor imperfections. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 8 points]

11. Directed Jumping

Maximum Points: 40

A. Principle Features

The dog, on command, should go away from the handler to a distance of approximately 20 meters, into a prescribed area, adopt the sit position when commanded to do so, and to jump as directed. This is a 2-part exercise.

B. Orders from the Judge/Steward

Position your dog (stand position) - Are you ready - Send your dog - Bar - High - Finish - Part exercise finished - Exercise finished.

C. Types of commands permitted

Commands can be used. The dog's head can be held before the send away command is given. Dog's name should be used only at the start of the exercise.

D. Description of Exercise

- a. The jumps consisting of a bar jump and a high jump will be placed on each side of the Trial Ring, approximately 7.5 meters apart. The height of the jumps shall be the height of the dog at its withers.
- b. On order to "Position your dog", the handler is to position the dog in the stand position at a start point facing the jumps and midway between them. The handler and dog should be approximately 10 meters from the jumps.
- c. The handler will be asked "Are you ready?" On order to "Send your dog", the handler may use a simultaneous verbal and physical command to signal the dog to go forward at a brisk pace to a distance of approximately 20 meters away and in the approximate center of the ring. The required distance will be clearly marked by a frame (1.5 meter square using approximately 1" diameter flat white bar).
- d. When the dog has reaches this marker, the handler will give the command for the dog to sit. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but need not sit squarely.
- e. The Judge/Steward will order either "Bar" or "High" for the first jump and the handler will command the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump.
- f. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn and face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit straight, centered in front of the handler.
- g. On order to "Finish", the handler is to give a command for the dog to go smartly to heel position and sit.
- h. When the dog is set up for the second half of this exercise, the Judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the order for the second part of the exercise.
- i. The same procedure will be followed for the second jump.
- j. It is optional which jump the Judge first indicates, but both jumps must be included, and the Judge must not designate the jump until the dog has reached the required distance.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a Handler who directs the dog to the incorrect jump. For a dog which requires more than one command to leave the Handler or to sit in the prescribed area, anticipates any part of the Principal Feature, does not go substantially in the right direction or fails to sit substantially within the prescribed area goes past the back edge of the prescribed area or enters from behind. Does not jump as directed, on command; knocks the bar off the bar jump, climbs the solid jump, or does not return to the Handler, must be marked zero for that particular portion of the exercise

Substantial

For an extra command, failure to sit, or for anticipation of the handler's command to sit, or for slowness in going out, for touching the jumps, or for any hesitation in jumping. [Deductions of 7 to 15 points]

Minor

For poor sits, or poor finishes. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 6 points]

12. Signal Exercise

Maximum points: 45

A. Principal Features

The dog to work at heel in response to signals only and to promptly respond to the handler's signal given from a distance.

B. Orders from Judge/Steward

Are you ready - Forward - followed by any order from the Heel Free exercise (except Figure Eight) - Stand your dog - Leave your dog - About turn - Halt - Down your dog - Sit your dog - Call your dog - Finish - Exercise finish.

The orders for those parts of the exercise where the dog is at heel may be given in any order and may be repeated, but those orders given after the handler has left the dog in the Stand position must be given in the order specified.

C. Types of commands permitted

Only signal permitted. Verbal commands must not be used.

D. Description of exercise

a. The heeling is done in the same manner as in the heel free exercise except that there is no "Figure of Eight" and that the handler may use signal only and must not speak to his dog at any time during this exercise.

b. On order from the Judge/Steward, the handler will signal his dog to stand. On further order from the Judge/Steward, the handler may signal his dog to stay and will move forward until ordered to turn and face his dog.

c. On separate and specific order from the Judge/Steward in each case, the handler will give his dog the physical commands to down, sit, come and finish.

E. Guidelines to Deductions

Zero

For a dog that is unmanageable, or receives a verbal command from the handler, or that fails the handler's first, single signal to stand, stay, down, sit, come, or fails to sit in front of its handler, or fails to finish and sit, or anticipates the signal given after the dog has been left at the stand position.

Substantial

For an extra command, a dog that walks forward on the stand, down or sit portions of the exercise. For any extra signal or failure to sit, stand or down during the heel routine, prolonged signals, slow response to signals or inattention. [Deductions of 9 to 20 points]

Minor

For imperfections in heeling. For any failure to take up the starting position promptly. [Deductions of 1 to 8 points]

ANNEX A

EQUIPMENT FOR THE OBEDIENCE TRIALS

HIGH JUMP

The high jump will consist of two grooved uprights of maximum 1200mm high, and fill-in boards of several sizes so as to provide adjustment for each 25mm up to a maximum of 900mm. The jump should be painted white. The height in millimeters will be shown on the uprights. Suggested sizes of the boards:

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 x 250mm; | 2 x 200mm; | 1 x 150mm; |
| 1 x 100mm; | *1 x 50mm; | 1 x 25mm. |

The height to be jumped by a dog shall be the height of the dog at its withers.

BROAD JUMPS

The Broad Jump will consist of four separate hurdles. All hurdles are to be a minimum of 1200mm in width to a maximum of 2000mm in width. The hurdles may have different heights but the maximum height is 175mm. They should be painted white.

In general, 2 hurdles are to be used for dogs jumping up to 800mm and 3 hurdles to be used for dogs jumping over 800mm. Four hurdles should be used for dogs jumping more than 1300mm.

The hurdles will be spaced equally in order of height with the lowest hurdle nearest to the dog.

The length of the broad jump that a dog has to jump shall be equivalent to twice the height of the dog at its withers.

BAR JUMPS

The Bar Jump must consist of two uprights of maximum 1200mm high and a bar approximately 35mm in diameter. The bar must be painted black and white alternate sections of about 75mm and be minimum length of 1200mm to a maximum length of 2000mm. The jump will be adjustable for height. Side post adjustment to be constructed so as the bar will fall off if hit hard enough, in either direction.