



Below is the first in a series of Random Little Tidbits of information (from me) in regards to the AKC Obedience Regulations. Knowledge of the Regulations provides you the power for...

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Today's Random Little Tidbit -

When does an exercise and the scoring of that exercise actually begin?

A team (dog and handler) are under judgement from the time they enter the ring until they leave the ring. Once the team passes through the ring entrance the scoring begins and does not stop until the team passes back through the ring entrance on the way out. Scoring is not to be viewed as just points off as scoring in the Judge's Book can also reflect perfection indicated by a "0" for no points off.

So how does this all work? For today's Random Little Tidbits of information, it helps to know when an exercise actually begins and when it ends per the Regulations. This is spelled out in Chapter 2, Section 4. Plus, keep in mind: each exercise has basically two parts - the principal part and non-principal part. The principal parts of an exercise are the minimum standards spelled out in the description of the exercise. Non-principal parts of an exercise are the parts not required to be met for a qualifying score, for example, the Finish. This will be addressed more as various exercises are covered in future Random Little Tidbits of information.

For now, when the team enters the ring they are being judged during the time frame, before, between or after an exercise. Scorable errors (if any) are recorded in the Judge's Book under Miscellaneous penalties. Once an exercise officially starts the scoring then shifts to the exercise.

How can a handler know when an exercise is officially underway and they are no longer being observed before, between or after an exercise? It is quite easy actually. Before ANY exercise is to begin the judge MUST ask the following question, "Are you ready?" At this point NO exercise or scoring of that exercise has officially begun. A question was merely asked by the judge for feedback from the handler whether the team was ready to proceed with the exercise. Scoring of the "exercise" is not taking place during the question and answer period. Maybe the handler is not quite ready and they will inform the judge. Once they are ready and the handler gives an affirmative answer to the question the exercise is ready to proceed. The actual scoring of the exercise still does NOT start UNTIL the judge's first order. In the description of each exercise the judge's first order is spelled out. Once that first order is given, the scoring of the exercise now begins.

At the end of the exercise, the judge is required to order, "Exercise finished." The scoring of the exercise now stops and the team is being judged once again for actions before, between or after an exercise. Such scorable actions before, between or after an exercise will be covered later but for a quick look at a few, check out Chapter 2, Sections 22, 23 & 25.

Link to the AKC Obedience Regulations

<http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>

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