



Below is the next installment 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 – **A quick review of significant revisions of exercises coming December 1, 2015.**

Changes in eligibility requirements for a few classes will be covered in Random Little Tidbits #9

REGULAR CLASSES:



Novice A:

Walkthrough: “At the listed start time for the class, a walkthrough of up to 10 minutes will be allowed for handlers without their dogs and judging of the class will follow. The judge must be available in the ring during this period to brief the handlers and answer any questions they might have.” New language for a shorter walkthrough (was 15 minutes) and after the walkthrough, which sometimes can be short, the class will proceed to be judged. No longer will you see a start time for the walkthrough and another start time for the judging of the class.

Novice A & B: Out of date in regards to Group Exercises, see Tidbit #37 for updates. This Tidbit #5 is being saved for historical purposes of our past.

After the individual exercises: “Handlers of dogs that have qualified during the individual exercises will have the option of returning for the group exercise. Each handler is required to notify the table steward of their intention to return for the group exercise after the completion of the individual exercises.”

Group Exercises: The leash remains attached to the dog's collar and will be dropped or placed on the ground **between the dog and handler** with the armband weighted as necessary before the exercise begins. Judges have the option of deciding if a set of group exercises will be conducted after a specified number of dogs or if the group exercises will be conducted after the last individual team is judged. Once determined the judge must post this information at the ring.

Open A & B: Out of date in regards to Group Exercises, see Tidbit #46 for updates. This Tidbit #5 is being saved for historical purposes of our past.

After the individual exercises: The Novice group exercises are the *foundation exercises* for Open, therefore, “Each handler is required to notify the table steward of their intention to return for the group exercise after the completion of the individual exercises.”

Group Exercises: “These exercises are performed and scored in the same manner as in the Novice classes, except the leash will be removed and placed **behind** the dog with the armband weighted as necessary; and the handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring then leave in a single file and go completely out of the dogs' sight.” Judges have the option of deciding if a set of group exercises will be conducted after a specified number of dogs or if the group exercises will be conducted after the last individual team is judged. Once determined the judge must post this information at the ring.

Utility A & B:

Scent Discrimination: See Random Little Tidbits #4 for expanded details. To obtain a copy of the detailed revision, step-by-step, request a copy by noting the Tidbit #4, dog-talk@comcast.net

Articles: “The articles will be provided by the handler and will consist of two (2) sets only. The handler will choose which two (2) sets are to be used, metal, leather or wood.”

Directed Retrieve: The designated glove is now required to be posted. No longer is a non-qualifying score (NQ) “required” for the direction not given simultaneously or immediately following, or lack of directness.

Moving Stand and Examination: “The exam will consist of the judge gently using both hands in a single smooth motion beginning at the sides of the dog's neck, proceeding along the body and ending at the dog's croup. The purpose of the revision is to make the examination consistent from judge to judge. In addition, the definition for croup will be added to the Glossary of Terms.

Preferred Optional Titling Classes, formerly Pre-Classes:

Preferred Novice, class renamed (formally Pre-Novice):

Eligibility: “The Preferred Novice class is an alternative titling class for dogs that have not won the CDX or PCDX title.”

Walkthrough: “At the listed start time for the class, a walkthrough of up to 10 minutes will be allowed for handlers without their dogs and judging of the class will follow. The judge must be available in the ring during this period to brief the handlers and answer any questions they might have.” New language for a shorter walkthrough (was 15 minutes) and

after the walkthrough, which sometimes can be short, the class will proceed to be judged. No longer will you see a start time for the walkthrough and another start time for the judging of the class.

Preferred Open, class renamed (formally Pre-Open):

Eligibility: The Preferred Open class is an alternative titling class for dogs that have won the CD or PCD or higher Regular or Preferred title.

Order of exercises (as in Open B): "Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the order of exercises to be performed in that class. This order will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes before the start of the class. In future assignments, judges are required to alternate the six orders of exercises so that each will be used approximately the same number of times."

Preferred Utility, class renamed (formally Pre-Utility):

Eligibility: "The Preferred Utility class is an alternative titling class for dogs that have won the CDX or PCDX or higher Regular or Preferred title."

Order of exercises (as in Utility B): "Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the order of exercises to be performed in this class and the glove number. The order and glove number will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes before the start of the class. In future assignments, judges are required to alternate the six orders of exercises and the designated glove number so that each will be used approximately the same number of times."

Signal exercise: No verbal command during the signal portion.

Scent Discrimination: **10** articles, not eight. Since this exercise will be performed and scored the same as in the Utility Scent Discrimination in regards to the new procedure, articles, and Judge's new orders, see the Utility A & B Scent Discrimination above.

Moving Stand and Examination: "The exam will consist of the judge gently using both hands in a single smooth motion beginning at the sides of the dog's neck, proceeding along the body and ending at the dog's croup. The purpose of the revision is to make the examination consistent from judge to judge. In addition, the definition for croup will be added to the Glossary of Terms.

Directed Retrieve: The designated glove is now required to be posted. No longer is a non-qualifying score (NQ) "required" for the direction not given simultaneously or immediately following, or lack of directness.

Other Optional Titling Classes:

Beginner Novice:

Walkthrough: "At the listed start time for the class, a walkthrough of up to 10 minutes will be allowed for handlers without their dogs and judging of the class will follow. The judge must be available in the ring during this period to brief the handlers and answer any questions they might have." New language for a shorter walkthrough (was 15 minutes) and after the walkthrough, which sometimes can be short, the class will proceed to be judged. No longer will you see a start time for the walkthrough and another start time for the judging of the class.

Recall: "The handler's arms and hands should hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front." The change was made to make consistent language as required in all exercises where the dog is coming to front. This will help new exhibitors learn correct and consistent handling from the beginning.

Run-Off Procedure: In case of a tie in the Beginner Novice class, the dog and handler will perform the Heel on Leash the same as it is performed in the Beginner Novice Heel on Leash exercise.

Graduate Novice: Out of date in regards to Group Exercises, see Tidbit #46 for updates. This Tidbit #5 is being saved for historical purposes of our past.

Heeling: "This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog will be off leash." All heeling is to be done off leash, no longer the Heel on Leash and the Figure Eight off leash.

Dumbbell Recall over High Jump: Instead of a Recall over the High Jump without a dumbbell, the dog is now to carry the dumbbell over the jump. "The principle feature of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Dumbbell Recall, is that the dog return with the dumbbell over the jump."

After the individual exercises: Keep in mind, since the Graduate Novice Group exercise is performed as in the Open Group exercise, and the Open Group exercise refers back to the foundation exercise of Novice; therefore, the following will also apply to the Graduate Novice groups: "Each handler is required to notify the table steward of their intention to return for the group exercise after the completion of the individual exercises."

Group Exercise: "Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the Sit/Down position to be performed in this class. The position will not be disclosed to the exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes before the start of the class. In future assignments, judges are required to alternate the Sit/Down position so that each will be used approximately the same number of times." The Sit is a new added option for the Group. Judges have the option of deciding if a set of group exercises will be conducted after a specified number of dogs or if the group exercises will be conducted after the last individual team is judged. Once determined the judge must post this information at the ring.

Graduate Open:

Change the order of the exercises to:

1. Signal Exercise
2. Scent Discrimination
3. Go Out
4. Directed Jumping
5. Moving Stand and Exam
6. Directed Retrieve

Signal exercise: Changing from “10-20 feet” to “At least 10 feet” allows the handler to go further than 20’ should they choose to do so as they prepare for the Utility class. This is a positive change for the handler in preparing for the Utility Classes.

Scent Discrimination: Since this exercise will be performed and scored the same as in the Utility Scent Discrimination in regards to the new procedure, articles, and Judge’s new orders, see the Utility A & B Scent Discrimination above. Otherwise the exercise remains the same as before in regards to the handler facing the articles and four articles used.

Articles: “The articles will be provided by the handler and will consist of two (2) sets only. The handler will choose which two (2) sets are to be used, metal, leather or wood.”

Go Out: “The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position facing the unobstructed end of the ring in the approximate center at any distance from about 20 feet beyond the jumps up to midway between the jumps.”

Moving Stand and Examination: “The exam will consist of the judge gently using both hands in a single smooth motion beginning at the sides of the dog’s neck, proceeding along the body and ending at the dog’s croup. The purpose of the revision is to make the examination consistent from judge to judge. In addition, the definition for croup will be added to the Glossary of Terms.

Directed Jumping: “Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide which jump will be performed and which glove retrieved. This information will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes before the start of the class. The judge will designate the same jump and glove for each handler. For each judging assignment, judges are required to alternate the jump and glove used.”

Non-Regular Classes removed from the Regulations:

- 1) Sub-Novice
- 2) International Class
- 3) Obedience Advanced Teamwork

Judges Exhibiting:

“Judges (including provisional) may not handle dogs that are not owned or co-owned by themselves or a family member **at obedience and/or rally trials**. It is not proper for a judge to co-own a dog solely to permit the judge to handle the dog. Tracking, agility, obedience, rally and conformation judges may enter the “A” classes, if otherwise eligible.” **Removes the restriction** on judges to allow them to handle dogs that are not owned or co-owned by themselves or a family member at events other than obedience or rally trials.

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