



Below is the next in a series of Random 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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NEW EXERCISE

Today's Random Little Tidbit - **One of The Two New Regular Novice (A & B) Exercises**
Group Exercise – Sit and Down Stay (a two part exercise)

This exercise will also replace the Group exercises in Brace, Veterans and Team classes.

The Novice Group exercises with the 1-minute Long Sit and 3-minute Long Down are now a thing of our past. Just as the old Utility Group Stand was replaced in 1988 with the Moving Stand and Examination, the Novice Group exercises will be replaced with two new Novice exercises (and challenges) for the Regular Novice (A & B) exhibitors, effective March 1, 2018. The other Novice replacement exercise is the **Sit Stay – Get Your Leash**. See Tidbit #36 for those details.

Section 3. Novice Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum scores in the Novice classes:

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

Section 14. Group Exercise – Sit and Down Stay: The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in a sitting or down position, whichever is required at the time.

Judge's Orders: The orders are: "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

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

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

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

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

Handlers of dogs that have qualified during the individual exercises will have the option of returning for the group exercise. After completion of the last individual exercise, if the dog has qualified, **the judge will ask if the handler will be returning** for the group exercise. Once handlers have notified the judge of their decision not to return for the group exercise they may not change their minds.

Dogs that have been released or excused and handlers who have left the ring during the individual exercises may not return for the group exercise. See Judges' Guidelines, Judge's Book.

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

Ring Length	Maximum # of Dogs Single Row	Maximum # of Dogs Back-to-Back Row
50'	6	12
45'	5	10
40'	4	8
35'	4	8
30'	3	6

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 15. Group Exercise – Sit and Down Stay, Scoring: A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

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



This = 3 or more points off your score...OR...leave the ring like this and save points!



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

Scoring of the exercise for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit or lie down starts with the first order, sit or down your dogs. **These will be penalized substantially** and in extreme cases the dog may be released.

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

* Keep in mind, there may also be other penalties (Chapter 2, Section 24) which are not listed. For example, the handler who is not in the proper heel position after returning to their dog.

As with any exercise it is always best to know the principal parts and non-principal parts. The principal feature of an exercise must be met to earn a qualifying score in that exercise.

Principal features vs. non-principal parts of these exercises: These exercises are another example of scoring starting with a **non-principal feature to a principal feature and then back to a non-principal feature**.

* After the Judge asks "Are you ready?" the Judge's first order is "Sit your dog." or "Down your dog." The **non-principal** scoring of *this* exercise is at the beginning of the exercise for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit, which starts with the first order.

* The **principal feature** starts with the Judge's second order, "Leave your dog." This feature continues until the handler has returned to heel position.

* The **non-principal** feature and scoring takes hold once again for the short time in which all the handler is standing in heel position until the Judge's orders "Exercise finished."

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