



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 Open (A & B), Preferred Open & Graduate Novice Exercises - Stay – Get Your Leash

Out of date in regards to Open, see Tidbits #46 for updates. This Tidbit #39 is being saved for historical purposes of our past.

The Regular Open Group exercises of the 3-minute Long Sit and 5-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 long-standing Regular Open Group exercises have been replaced with two new Open exercises (and challenges) for the **Regular Open (A & B) and Preferred Open** exhibitors. See Tidbit #38 for the other exercise details. This particular exercise (only) Stay – Get Your Leash, will also replace the single Group exercise in Graduate Novice.

Additional Wording in Open A (Section 1) & Open B (Section 2): Prior to the start of judging, **the judge will decide where the leash will be placed and post this information at the ring approximately 45 minutes or earlier before the start of the class.**

Section 17. Sit and Down Stay – Get Your Leash: The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sitting or down position, whichever is required at the time.

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

Exercise Description: For the first part of this exercise, the handler will stand with the dog in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order the handler may command **and/or** signal the dog to sit or down without touching the dog or the dog's collar. On further order to "Leave your dog," the handler may give a command **and/or** signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to a place designated by the judge, turn, and face the dog.

After one minute from the time the judge ordered the handler to leave the dog, the judge will give the order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must not move from the required position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished."

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

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

Section 18. Sit and Down Stay – Get your Leash. Scoring: **A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required** for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during either part of the exercise, not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

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

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



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

*** Note in the Scoring, all penalties listed in this exercise are Substantial, which is defined as 3 or more points.**



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 this exercise: This exercise is 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 to get your leash." This feature (Parts 1 & 2) continues until the handler has returned to heel position.

* The **non-principal** feature and scoring takes hold once again for the short time when the handler is standing in heel position (Parts 1 & 2) until the Judge orders "Exercise finished."

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