



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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Today's Random Little Tidbit – [The AKC Obedience Judge's Book](#)

This article is directed towards Judges and perspective Judges for review. Just how well are you doing in filling in **ALL** those many boxes and columns in the Obedience Judge's Book? Exhibitors and observers may also find this article helpful when they observe the Judge's Book's "tear sheets" which are posted after a class is finished. It is always wise for the exhibitor to check the finished sheets as it pertains to them to make sure there are no mistakes with their score. If there are errors, the time to seek an explanation, or bring it to the attention of the Judge, is at the trial where it can be dealt with promptly. Also the AKC Records Department needs to make sense from the Judge's Books to do their job in recording the data correctly. If the books are filled out incorrectly (boxes/columns not completed, information lacking) it can become a headache for all involved. So where does one go to learn how to fill out the Judge's Book correctly?

For starters, turn to **page 117** ([AKC Obedience Regulations Guidelines](#)) and the information is there for the reading. There are even visual examples of how to mark the Judge's Books on **pages 120, 121 & 122**. These pages are also posted in the following pages of this article along with blank sheets which may be printed out to practice on, hint, hint.

Here is what the Obedience Guidelines state for those who do not have a copy of the Regulations (also on line):

[http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999\\_0318.pdf](http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999_0318.pdf)

#### Judges' Book

"The judge alone is responsible for the judge's book. The trial secretary or superintendent may correct an error or omission that has been made in preparing the book for the judge. No one except the judge may enter any other notation in the judge's book. Following the judging of each class, the judge must immediately deliver the judge's book to the superintendent, obedience chairperson, or trial secretary. No other person may be entrusted with the judge's book."

#### Marking the Judge's Book

"Chapter 2, Section 10, of the *Obedience Regulations* instructs judges how to correctly mark the book. Judges must be thorough, neat and precise in marking their books. The awarding of obedience titles based on a dog's performance at obedience trials is valueless if the scores are not accurate. Judges must double-check the accuracy of score totals.

"When all dogs have been judged and the four official placements determined, then ribbon prizes can be awarded: blue, red, yellow, and white or white, yellow, red, and blue. Where ribbons or prizes for additional places are offered, the awards for these should be made after the awarding of the four official placements. The judge must sign the book, mark the time finished, and then return the book for the completed class promptly to the trial secretary, obedience chairperson, or superintendent. When the judge returns the book, the trial secretary, obedience chairperson or superintendent should briefly scan the book for obvious omissions or oversights that can be corrected immediately.

"The superintendent, trial secretary, or obedience chairperson will ensure the judges get a copy of their judge's book(s) at the end of their judging assignment. Judges must retain their judging records for at least six months. If such records are required to provide information relative to the judging of a particular class, the information will be readily available to the AKC.

"On the following pages are samples of Novice, Open B and Utility A sheets that show the proper procedure for marking the judge's book. This procedure is applicable for all classes."

#### PROCEDURES FOR JUDGES TO FOLLOW IN MARKING THE JUDGE'S BOOK (from the Obedience Guidelines)

- 1) Indicate the class.
- 2) In the **Open B, Utility B, Preferred Open, Preferred Utility and Versatility** classes the exercises will not be listed; write them in. (all pages in the Book)
- 3) To correct an error after marking a score under a wrong catalog number, cross out the error, write the correction, and initial the change.
- 4) Non-qualifying scores should be indicated in the relevant exercise box **then** carry down an "**NQ**" in the "**Total Score**" box.

- 5) If a dog has non-qualified and is “Released” write “**NQ-R**” (“Non- Qualifying Released”) then carry down an “**NQ**” in the “**Total Score**” box.
- 6) If a handler leaves the ring before completing the exercises, write “**HLR**” (Handler Left Ring) then carry down an “**NQ**” in the “**Total Score**” box.
- 7) Verify that all the **Group Exercise boxes** have been marked accordingly, including a zero for no points off.
- 8) Verify that all **Miscellaneous Penalty boxes** have been marked accordingly, including a zero for no points off.
- 9) Verify all absentees have been marked accordingly.
- 10) **Carry only** qualifying scores down to the “**Final Qualifying Score**” box.
- 11) Mark the catalog number, the score of the four official placements, the time started, and the time finished. This should be on the first sheet for the class only.
- 12) Where run-offs of ties have taken place for any of the four official placements, **indicate the winner of the tie by placing a plus sign (+) after the winner’s score.** In case of a three-way tie, use a double plus (++) for the winner and a single plus (+) for the dog placing second out of the three, etc.
- 13) In the case of a dog that is “**Disqualified,**” **state the reason** in the judge’s book and bring it to the attention of the superintendent or trial secretary. **In addition,** if a dog is disqualified for attacking a person in the ring, complete the form available from the superintendent or trial secretary. This completed form **must** be turned into the superintendent or secretary.  
If any dog or handler is excused, **state the reason.**

## SIGN THE BOOK

**NOTE:** Judges should use the inside cover of the book for any comments or explanations required. If additional information is deemed necessary by the judge, comments or explanations should be forwarded to the Event Operations Department, or emailed to [Obedience@akc.org](mailto:Obedience@akc.org)

I judge, too, and fill out the Judge’s Books and make my share of mistakes as we are all human and we do/will make mistakes. As an Obedience Contractor Field Representative I have been observing some common and frequent errors occurring in Judge’s Books which I would like to bring to your attention.

- ❖ Miscellaneous Penalty boxes are being left blank. They need to be filled in. If no penalty occurred, place a zero (0) in the box, not a line or some other hieroglyphic symbol, please. **(see example)**
- ❖ I am seeing when there is to be a total qualifying score (numerical digits) the Total Score box is left blank and only carried down to the Final Qualifying Score box. The Q score is to be in both boxes. The Total Score box should have either a score or NQ filled in. The only exception being left blank would be where a dog was excused, disqualified, absent from the class (not to be confused with absent from the Groups, in which case a NQ would be filled in.) **(see example)**
- ❖ NQ-R is not being placed in both the “Group boxes” when a dog is released and not coming back to the Groups. **(see example)**
- ❖ When a dog is released from the first Group exercise “Released” is not written in the second Group exercise box. **(see example)**
- ❖ Writing Excused **instead of HLR** when the handler chooses to leave the ring.
- ❖ If a handler chooses to leave the ring during the individual exercises, **or** does not return for the groups due to conflicts or other reasons, write “Absent” in the Group exercise boxes. **(see example)** Or AB per the blog.
- ❖ In **PO, OB, PU, UB** and **Versatility** place the Exercise Order Roman Numeral somewhere at the top of the sheet if there is not a place for it. **(see example)**
- ❖ In **PN & GN** indicate if it was a Sit or Down

We as Judges and perspective Judges spend a lot of our time in going over the Obedience Regulations to get them right in our heads to do a good job, but we (I include myself) sometimes fall short when it comes to our knowledge/procedure in filling out the Judge’s Book correctly. Let us all work on that so we can earn a 200 in that category! 😊

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