



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...

Saving Withdrawals from Your 200 Account ©



Today's Random Little Tidbit – [Tips on Saving Time and Managing a Ring.](#)

Planning on becoming a Judge down the line? Are you now a Judge planning on advancing to the next level? Do you have all levels? Not a Judge but participates in judging matches or practice sessions? Regardless of your answer, it never hurts to review your time and ring management skills to insure a peak performance with the utmost in efficiency. A good way to begin is video tape *your* performance *now* while judging. Take a good hard look at that video (with an open mind) observing the ring and time management skills, or lack of. Another suggestion is to sit outside a ring and watch other Judges. There are lessons to be learned during those observations, good ideas (and maybe some not so good) which may help you in the process of honing your own skills.

[Listed below are a variety of tips to help in saving time with ring management:](#)

Novice Classes:

- ✓ *Make it a point* to be at your ring 45-minutes before the class is to start to check your ring, make modifications (if needed), plus posting the required materials and placing marks in your ring. You may need to *plan ahead* back at the hotel to arrange the needed transportation to accomplish this task.
- ✓ Provide good instructions to your stewards covering all points for their duties; they are there to assist but need your guidance.
- ✓ Have laminated written instructions for your stewards so no points will be overlooked, plus they can refer to them later, if needed.
- ✓ Is the gate & table (outside the ring) where you want it? Can it be changed easily to suit you in regards to your heeling pattern(s) and ring flow?
- ✓ Is the Figure Eight at the end of the ring (entrance end), saving steps and time for the stewards entering and exiting?
- ✓ Avoid long conversations with the exhibitor when they enter the ring or when leaving after the last exercise. Be friendly but brief.
- ✓ Show the heeling pattern prior to the start of the class, start judging on time with the first exhibitor entering the ring.
- ✓ Have some marks to indicate where the handler should set up for heeling and/or the Recall. This will prevent having to reposition handlers, which ends up wasting time.
- ✓ As the handler is lined up for an exercise there is NO need to tell them what exercise is about to commence. For example, as they are standing midway between two stewards why mention, "This is the Figure Eight exercise." HELLO, what else is it? Consider the ramifications. Doing this type of announcement before each exercise (5 *individual* exercises in Novice) in a class of forty, as an example, equals **two-hundred** needless time-wasting announcements! This is not helping the handler; but it creates dead time between exercises. Also, there is no need to tell them they may go in either direction.
- ✓ Plan to have the next exercise start near the area where the previous exercise ended.
- ✓ When returning to the table to record scores in the Judge's Book, do it without interruptions thus avoiding mistakes in the judge's book.
- ✓ Make conversations at the table with stewards or exhibitors brief so you can get on with judging the next dog that is waiting ringside.
- ✓ Avoid sitting down to enter scores in the Judge's Book, or having the book in an area where you would need to do extra walking.
- ✓ Just prior to the last team entering the ring, remind stewards to have the Group sheet ready and start lining up the qualifying dogs for the Group exercise. The steward can also remind the handlers to have a **6-foot leash** which must be clipped to the collar.
- ✓ Have your Group timing device out of your case, set and ready, preferably before the class has started to save time.
- ✓ Have the Table steward make sure the needed ribbons and awards are at the table and ready to go.
- ✓ During the awards ceremony, be brief while congratulating, and avoid teams lingering in the ring when the awards are concluded. They can do their chatting outside the ring while you are getting ready for the next class, if there is one. The next class will appreciate your efficiency for being on time.



Open Classes:

- ✓ **All applicable check marks above in Novice will also apply for the Open classes.**
- ✓ Check the jumps and make sure all boards are available for the High Jump, and all hurdles for the Broad Jump, so the class can start on time.
- ✓ The extra boards and hurdles *not being used keep* close to the proximity of the jump(s), but well out of the way of the jumps. Make use of a chair to hold the extra boards and hurdles just outside making it faster and easier on the stewards to change the jumps.
- ✓ Have a stopwatch (or another way of keeping time) with you so when the last exercise is finished right before the Stay-Get Your Leash, you will be ready to continue without having to return to the table to retrieve it.
- ✓ Develop an efficient routine with the stewards for dumbbell duties, plus check the dumbbell before the handler enters the ring. If a dumbbell does not conform to the Regulations, it can be then corrected before the handler enters, thus saving time.
- ✓ Designate a place for the leash outside, but near, the ring entrance.
- ✓ As a dog is about to enter the ring, look at the dog *then* the jumps to confirm if set correctly before they enter.



Utility Classes:

- ✓ **All applicable check marks above in Novice and Open will also apply for the Utility classes.**
- ✓ Check the Bar to make sure it has the weight of wood; if not, get it corrected *before* the starting time of the class.
- ✓ Develop an efficient routine with the stewards for Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve and Moving Stand and Examination duties, plus develop a routine to check the articles and gloves before the handler enters the ring. If either does not conform to the Regulations, or items are missing, it can be then corrected before the handler enters.
- ✓ Inform the steward to be aware of the last exercise in the class so they can have the leash ready.



A few helpful charts to help your stewards save time and be accurate can be requested at the email address below:

Summary:

Giving advanced forethought to running your ring in an efficient manner will save you, the stewards and exhibitors valuable time. Plus, the day will move along at a good pace making your job more pleasant. I suggest you now get busy as there are a lot of classes and variations in each class to be prepared for when it is **SHOWTIME!** Examples of class variations to ponder:

- 1 Novice
- 1 Preferred Novice
- 1 Graduate Novice
- 1 Graduate Open
- 6 Open and 6 Preferred Open class variations
- 6 Utility and 6 Preferred Utility class variations
- 12 Versatility class variations, remember in this class you can arrange your order of exercises for flow. It does *not* have to be 2 Novice followed by 2 Open and then 2 Utility exercises, in that order.

AKC Blog Address: <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/> Sign up to receive updates.