



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 – **Revisions to the Open Stay - Get Your Leash**
Effective January 1, 2019

Now here is just one more reason *you* need to sign up to **AKC's Obedience/Rally Blog** to keep up-to-date! Were you aware that the **Open Stay – Get Your Leash** exercise has just been revised? Had you signed up for the Blog and filled in the box for automatic notifications you would have been notified immediately via email. NOW IS THE TIME to get (and keep) in the know by signing up to the Blog. It is open to EVERYONE interested in our Sports. **Note:** Hard for me to believe there are still some of you Judges who need to get with the program and sign up to the Blog! <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/>

For those who have not signed up, below is the post in regards to the revisions of the **Open Stay – Get Your Leash** exercise. This will affect the classes of **Open A, Open B, Preferred Open and Graduate Novice**. The **Novice A & B, Preferred Novice, Brace, Veterans and Team** classes remain unchanged with the **Novice Sit Stay – Get Your Leash** exercise.

Obedience – Amendment to the Open Class, Stay-Get Your Leash Exercise – Effective 01/01/2019

Currently (until December 31, 2018), in the Open class, the “Stay – Get Your Leash exercise is made up of two-parts. First the handler must leave the dog in either the sit or down position when commanded to do so by the judge for a period of one-minute, then after one-minute, the judge orders the handler to return to the dog, and then to leave the dog again to go get the leash, which is outside the ring. The handler picks up the leash, re-enters the ring, stops at the ring gate entrance facing the dog, and waits for the judge's order to return to the dog.

The AKC Board of Directors approved a change to this exercise to make this a single-part exercise with a “Stand” Stay – Get Your Leash. Changing the exercise to a **single-part exercise** will save time over the course of the Open judge's assignment. It is important that the exercise demonstrate the dog's ability to control its impulses and maintain the worthiness of this practical exercise.

Obedience Regulations – Chapter 4 will be amended as follows:

Section 3. Open A Exercises and Scores.

The exercises and maximum score in the Open A class:

Heel Free and Figure Eight - 40 points

Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit) - 30 points

Drop on Recall - 30 points

Retrieve on Flat - 20 points

Retrieve over High Jump - 30 points

Broad Jump - 20 points

Stand Stay - Get Your Leash - 30 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

Section 4. Open B Exercises and Scores. The various orders of exercises in the Open B class:

OPEN I-VI

Stand Stay – Get Your Leash

Section 17. Stand Stay – Get Your Leash. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand and stay in position until the handler has returned to heel position.

The orders are: “Stand your dog,” Leave your dog to get your leash,” and “Back to your dog.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge, approximately 15 feet from the ring gate. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand without touching the dog or the dog's collar. The dog must stand but need not stand in heel position.

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 ring gate designated by the judge for the leash. The handler will pick up the leash, re-enter the ring, stop and wait for the judge's order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must remain standing until 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 gate 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 outside the ring on a chair or similar leash holder.*

The leash will be placed outside the ring by the steward after the dog and handler have entered the ring for judging. When positioning the dog and handler for this exercise, the judge 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, and that the handler, when reentering the ring, is at least 15 feet away from the dog until ordered to return. 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. Stay – Get Your Leash, Scoring. A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for a dog that does any of the following: Fails to stand on the first command and/or signal, moves a substantial distance away from the place it was where it was left, sits or lies down before the handler has returned to heel position, or repeatedly barks or whines.

Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that sits or lies down after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said, "Exercise finished."

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for the dog that moves a short distance from where it was left, or that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place.

A substantial deduction, under Miscellaneous Penalties, must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while leaving the ring.

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