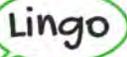




Below is the next in a series of Random Tidbits of information (from me) in regards to the AKC Obedience Regulations. Knowledge of the Regulations provides you the power for...

Saving Withdrawals from Your 200 Account ©

Today's Random Little Tidbit – Standardized Judging and That Includes the...



Judges, Trainers, Handlers... Let's refresh our memory on **Chapter 2, Sections 1 & 4** of the AKC Obedience Regulations.

Standardized Judging, Section 2.

"The Obedience Regulations are the basic guide to judging but do not contain explicit directions for every possible situation and only list the more common and serious faults. They clearly define the exercises, their order and the standards by which they are to be judged. If a decision depends on the exact wording of the Obedience Regulations, the judge is expected to look up the specific regulation prior to making the decision.

Standardized judging is of paramount importance. Judges are **not** permitted to **inject their own variations** into the exercise but will see that each handler and dog perform the various exercises exactly as described in these regulations. **A handler who is familiar with these regulations should be able to enter the ring** under any judge without having to inquire how that particular judge wishes to have an exercise performed and **without being confronted with any unexpected requirements."**

Judge's Directions, Section 4. The judge's orders and signals should be given to the handlers in a clear and understandable manner but in such a way that the work of the dogs is not disturbed. Before starting each exercise, the judge will ask, "Are you ready?" At the end of each exercise the judge will say, "Exercise finished." Each dog will be worked and judged separately, except for during the group exercise. The judging of an exercise will not begin until the judge has given the first order.

So why the purple highlights on the wording above? Part of carrying out Standardized Judging is for the Judge to use the correct Judge's Orders (verbiage) which is specific for each exercise **and is in "_____"**. A Judge is **not** to inject their own words into the Judge's Orders **or** abbreviate the words which are in quotes!

Our AKC Judge's Blog also addresses this issue:

Judge's Directions [July 1, 2010](#)

"Several judges have been observed using only one word for an order that requires more than one word to be used. Example: "left" for "left turn", "about" for "about turn", "send" for "send your [...]" In my ringside observations there are more than "several", thus the purpose and goal of this Tidbit article.

Handlers enter the ring expecting to hear specific orders coming from our judges. It does a disservice to the handler and the sport when a judge does not do their part in following the Regulations. For example, I have heard judges use only *one* of three words in a quote as mentioned above [Send]. The Regulations require all three (3) words be used, "Send your dog". Some may think this is all a bit anal, but shortening the verbiage is not only against the Regulations, it may lead a handler to misunderstand the order, or not hear it correctly in a noisy building. Using the *full correct verbiage* is what handlers expect from the judge. **Just do it!** Learn all the orders and USE them *as quoted* in the Regulations! If one is having difficulty implementing all of the specific quoted orders into their memory, maybe having them printed out on your worksheets to refer to when out in the ring might help.

For those of you who instruct or train with others you might also want to learn the correct judge's orders when putting your students or buddies through their paces. It will not only help them prepare for what will take place in the ring, it will help you to play out the correct role as a judge in their learning process.

While on the subject, just prior to the official quoted order the judge [you] will ask the question, "Are you ready?" There is no place in the Regulations where a judge is required to tell the handler what exercise is about to take place, or to ask if they have any questions. As a team is lined up ready to go in front of the Broad Jump (as an example) the judge is not required to state, "This is the Broad Jump exercise." **Hello!!!** What else could it be??? ☺ Doing that is a time-waster; however, a judge can provide customer service as one exercise has ended to mention, "let's go over here for the Broad Jump". In the mixed exercise order classes (Open, Utility & Versatility) this not only helps the seasoned handler for ring flow and efficiency, it helps the novice handler learning the ropes without wasting time.

Let's learn the correct orders...on page 2

The Correct Judge's Orders per the AKC Obedience Regulations

The Judge will ask before the exercise starts... "Are you ready?" At the end of the exercise will say, "Exercise finished"

Regular Novice:

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight...Forward, Left turn, Right turn, Fast, Normal, Slow, About Turn

Stand for Examination...Stand your dog and leave when **you are** ready, Back to your dog

Recall...Leave your dog, Call your dog, Finish

Sit Stay Get Your Leash...Sit your dog, Leave your dog to get your leash, Back to your dog

Group Exercise...Sit your Dogs, Down your dogs, Leave your dogs, Back to your dogs

Regular Open:

Heel Free...See Regular Novice foundation exercise above. Orders are the same.

Command Discrimination...Leave your dog, Back to your dog. Judge must use signals for directing the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change position **except for the first position** and that order is, Stand your dog or Down your dog.

Drop on Recall...Leave your dog, Call your dog, then give a clear signal to drop the dog, followed by, Call your dog, Finish

Retrieve on Flat...Throw it, Send your dog, Take it, Finish

Retrieve Over High Jump...Throw it, Send your dog, Take it, Finish

Broad Jump...Leave your dog, Send your dog, Finish

Stand Stay Get Your Leash...Stand your dog, Leave your dog to get your leash, Back to your dog

Regular Utility:

Signal Exercise...Orders the same as Regular Novice Heel on Leash, except for the order to, Stand your dog, signals for the Down, Sit, Come, Finish

Scent Discrimination...Take an article, the taking of the article (from the handler, is a silent order), Send your dog, Take it, Finish

Directed Retrieve...One, Two, Three, (it is that simple, note the word Glove is not in the order), Take it, Finish

Moving Stand and Examination...Forward, Stand your dog, Call your dog to heel.

Directed Jumping...Send your dog, Bar, High (note the word Jump *is not in the order*), Finish

Preferred Novice:

See Regular Novice foundation exercises above. Orders are the same.

Stay – Sit or Down – Handler walk around the ring...Sit your dog, or Down your dog, Leave your dog.

Preferred Open:

See Regular Open foundation exercises above. Orders are the same.

Preferred Utility:

See Regular Utility foundation exercises above. Orders are the same.

Beginner Novice:

Heel on Leash...See Regular Novice foundation exercise above. Orders are the same BUT are stated on signs placed around the ring.

Figure Eight...Forward, Halt. Verbal orders from the Judge

Stand for Examination...Sit your dog and leave when **you are** ready, Back to your dog

Sit Stay - Handler walk around the ring...Sit your dog, Leave your dog

Recall...Leave your dog, Call your dog (no Finish in this class)

Graduate Novice:

Heel Free and Figure Eight...See Regular Novice foundation exercise above. Orders are the same.

Drop on Recall...See Regular Open foundation exercise above. Orders are the same.

Dumbbell Recall...Give your dog the dumbbell, Leave your dog, Call your dog, Take it, Finish

Dumbbell Recall over High Jump...Give your dog the dumbbell, Leave your dog, Call your dog, Take it, Finish

Recall over Broad Jump...See Regular Open foundation exercise above. Orders are the same.

Stand Stay Get Your Leash...See Regular Open foundation exercise above. Orders are the same.

Graduate Open:

Signal Exercise...See Regular Utility foundation exercise above. Orders are the same.

Scent Discrimination...See Regular Utility foundation exercise above. Orders are the same.

Go Out...Send your dog, Back to your dog

Directed Jumping...Leave your dog, Bar, High (note the word Jump *is not in the order*), Finish

Moving Stand and Examination...See Regular Utility foundation exercise above. Orders are the same.

Directed Retrieve...See Regular Utility foundation exercise above. Orders are the same.

Versatility:

See the Regular Novice, Open and Utility foundation exercises above. Orders are the same.

Note: In Novice the Judge will tell the handler to, **Clip** your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog, after returning to the dog with the leash.

In Open and Graduate Novice the Judge will tell the handler to, **Attach** your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog, after returning to the dog with the leash.

In ALL classes the handler *is required* to exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Judges: Print/laminate this page to have on your judging clip board, if needed. **Instructors:** Post in your training building for your students to learn the lingo.

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