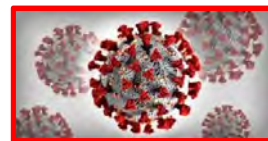




Below is the next in a series of Random Tidbits of information (from me) in regards to the AKC Obedience Regulations. Knowledge of the Regulations provides you the power for...

### ***Saving Withdrawals from Your 200 Account***



Today's Random Little Tidbit – [Q & A to Covid-19 on the AKC Blog](#)

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

As our shows are coming around and getting back into the swing of things, have you kept up to date with the AKC Obedience/Rally blog as to:

#### Best practices in:

1. Covid-19 AKC Suggested Best Practices for Obedience & Rally
2. Covid-19 Follow up
3. Handling of the Leash – Covid-19 Best Practices
4. Handling of Scent Articles – Covid-19

#### Temporary changes to the Obedience and Rally Regulations in regards to:

1. Assignment Limitations – Covid-19 Adjustments
2. Title Requirements Amended – Covid-19
3. Scheduling Dogs per hour – Covid-19

On the following pages are the AKC blogs pertaining to the subjects on Covid-19 to help keep you informed. Once you sign up, if you haven't already, you will be notified of new posts to keep you up-to-date.

The objective of this Tidbit #66 is to inform those who have not signed up to do so to keep informed via the Blog, plus putting all the Covid-19 related Blog posts in one pdf for easy viewing and printing.

Questions about any posted material should be directed to either [obedience@akc.org](mailto:obedience@akc.org) or [rally@akc.org](mailto:rally@akc.org)

When entering a show also read the Premium List for other information which may pertain to the local government requirements.

# AKC Obedience & Rally Judges

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## Covid19 AKC Suggested Best Practices for Obedience & Rally

By AKC Companion Events Department on May 12, 2020

Dear Judges:

Please review the newly published [Obedience & Rally Suggested Best Practices – Covid19](https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/12165904/Obedience-and-Rally-Suggested-Best-Practices.pdf) (<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/12165904/Obedience-and-Rally-Suggested-Best-Practices.pdf>).

The most common concerns are addressed in this document. If you have additional specific questions please don't hesitate to contact us at [obedience@akc.org](mailto:obedience@akc.org) (<mailto:obedience@akc.org>) or at [rally@akc.org](mailto:rally@akc.org) (<mailto:rally@akc.org>).

We will continue to share "Best Practices" ideas here on the blog.

STAY SAFE!

Posted in: Uncategorized

**Blog at WordPress.com.**



# AKC Obedience & Rally Judges

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## Covid19 Follow Up – Suggested Best Practices

By AKC Companion Events Department on June 16, 2020

AKC previously published (see below) “Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants.” These were intended to be helpful suggestions. We have had several questions asking about various procedures to ensure safety while maintaining a sense of efficiency at Obedience and Rally Trials.

Q. Can clubs require participants to wear masks?

A. Yes, a club may require masks. The club should be explicit and forthcoming with information in the premium list. If a club should require all participants to wear masks, that then becomes the club’s responsibility to enforce. If someone should not be compliant, the proper recourse would be to notify the trial committee.

Q. Can a judge require the club to require masks?

A. No. If you feel strongly about this, you should decline the judging invitation.

Q. Can a judge require exhibitors to wear a mask to enter the ring?

A. No. If you feel strongly about this, you should decline the judging invitation.

Q. Figure 8 posts – what should be used for posts in place of people?

A. The judge should ask the club to provide stable upright posts, tall pylons or chairs. The judge should consider the common items people use for posts at home when human posts are not available.

Q. Can the judge leave the Figure 8 posts in the ring during other exercises, or must the posts be moved in and out?

A. Yes, the judge may decide to keep the posts in position throughout the performance if the posts won’t interfere with the performance of any other exercise.

Q. How should the dumbbell be handled?

A. In an effort to have the handler handle their own equipment as much as possible, consider having two chairs available, one for the current team in the ring and one for the next team coming in the ring. Depending on the ring set up, the handler could put the dumbbell on the chair before coming in, or once they enter the ring. The judge may approve the dumbbell visually. After each retrieve exercise is complete, the handler would put the dumbbell back on the chair. Once all the exercises are complete the exhibitor will remove the dumbbell from the chair. The second chair will be used for the next handler. A steward should clean each chair between exhibitors.



Q. What about the Utility class equipment, how should that be handled?

A. Similar to the above suggestions that have not otherwise been previously published. Have the handler put their leash on the chair inside the ring. If gloves will be used, enough gloves must be provided to avoid cross contamination.

Q. In allowing these safety measures and adding to the handler's responsibility before, between and after exercises, what is the handler to do with their dog?

A. Due to these unusual times and circumstances, the judge should allow a handler to reasonably manage the dog before, between and after exercises without penalty. In all classes beyond Novice the dog may not be physically guided but should be readily controllable. This would include allowing the handler to require the dog to stay in a position, be it a sit, stand or down, while the handler is moving about to either get or return equipment to its place.

Q. What about the leash in Rally; how should that be handled?

A. Same concept as above. The judge should have a chair inside the ring for the leash for all classes including Excellent. In all classes except Excellent, once the team crosses the finish line the handler may take hold of the dog's collar as needed and may gently guide the dog to pick up the leash. A steward should clean the chair between exhibitors.

Q. Rally Walk throughs – how many handlers should we allow in a 40' x 50' ring to maintain social distancing, and should we allow more time to walk?

A. Twelve people without dogs is doable. Six or seven minutes for twelve people to walk the course a few times is reasonable.

Posted in: Uncategorized

**Blog at WordPress.com.**



# AKC Obedience & Rally Judges

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## Handling of the Leash – Covid19 Best Practices

By AKC Companion Events Department on August 18, 2020

There is still a lot that is unknown about Covid 19 and the different ways it may spread. It may be possible that people can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

The goal is to keep everyone as safe as possible, while running an efficient ring.

Before starting a class, the judge should decide the most effective and efficient way to have the leash handled by the handler and/or by a steward, and then share the plan with all.

Some things to consider:

- Have the handler put it in their pocket? Not all handlers have pockets. Not all leashes are small enough to fit in pockets.
- Have the handler put it around their neck? Every time the handler bends the leash may be in the way of the dog, and it could be a safety hazard.

Best suggestions:

- Depending on the class, the judge may have the handler put the leash on a leash holder inside the ring.
- If someone other than the handler is to touch the leash, tongs or hand coverings should be used.
- Have a steward use a try/container to have the leash placed on by the handler and then returned to the handler.
- Whatever is used that comes in contact with the leash, that item should be wiped down between handlers/dogs to avoid cross contamination.

Posted in: Covid19

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# AKC Obedience & Rally Judges

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## Handling of Scent Articles – Covid19

By AKC Companion Events Department on June 23, 2020

Due to concerns about some dogs being ultra sensitive to some hand sanitizers, it is recommended that stewards use tongs to put the articles out and then sanitize the tongs between dogs, or use hand coverings. We have been asked if it is OK for stewards to use dog waste bags in place of gloves, yes, absolutely!

Our continued goal is to help our clubs, judges and exhibitors navigate these rough roads.

If you have questions or concerns please write [obedience@akc.org](mailto:obedience@akc.org) (<mailto:obedience@akc.org>) or [rally@akc.org](mailto:rally@akc.org) (<mailto:rally@akc.org>).

Stay safe!

“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.” Roger Caras

Posted in: Covid19

**Blog at WordPress.com.**



# AKC Obedience & Rally Judges

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## Assignment Limitations – Covid 19 Adjustments

By AKC Companion Events Department on May 7, 2020

The Obedience and Rally Departments continue to monitor the situation surrounding the COVID-19 virus. We are once again adjusting the assignment limitations for judges effective for trials scheduled through **December 30, 2020**. As judges continue to be restricted in their travel, we hope that this change will be helpful. If a club needs to replace a judge, AKC will waive the 30-day and 100-mile rule to the judge's assignment limitations. Clubs must still submit their request to change the judge and receive AKC approval.

Posted in: Uncategorized

**Blog at WordPress.com.**

# AKC Obedience & Rally Judges

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## Title Requirements Amended

By AKC Companion Events Department on July 24, 2020

Titling Requirements Temporarily Amended – Obedience/Rally/Agility

July 16, 2020

To All Clubs Licensed for Obedience, Rally and Agility:

To better assist clubs and exhibitors during this unusual time in our sports, the Obedience, Rally and Agility departments received approval by the AKC Board of Directors to change the number of judges required for awarding some titles in obedience, rally and agility. Due to the travel restrictions and other local regulations impacting the country from COVID-19, many clubs are struggling to bring in judges from outside their area, plus exhibitors are looking to stay close to home.

This change will eliminate the requirement that two different judges are required for the titles shown below that require three qualifying scores (legs) to earn the titles. The change is effective retroactively to July 1, 2020 and will be in effect through December 31, 2020. The Regulations suspension will be revisited at the end of the year.

For all of the titles listed at the bottom of this announcement exhibitors may earn three qualifying scores (legs) under the same judge through December 31, 2020.

List of Titles by Sport Where the Two-Judge Requirement Currently Applies

Agility — 18 titles

Novice level: NA – NAP – NAJ – NJP – NF – NFP

Open level: OA – OAP – OAJ – OJP – OF – OFF

Excellent level: AX – AXP – AXJ – AJP – XF – XFP

Obedience — 10 titles

Novice level: CD – PCD

Open level: CDX – PCDX

Utility level: UD – PUTD

Beginner Novice: BN

Graduate Novice: GN

Graduate Open: GO

Versatility: VER



Rally — 4 titles  
Novice: RN  
Intermediate: RI  
Advanced: RA  
Excellent: RE

Please address questions to [obedience@akc.org](mailto:obedience@akc.org) (<mailto:obedience@akc.org>), [rally@akc.org](mailto:rally@akc.org) (<mailto:rally@akc.org>), or [agility@akc.org](mailto:agility@akc.org) (<mailto:agility@akc.org>).

Posted in: Uncategorized

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# AKC Obedience & Rally Judges

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## Scheduling – Dogs per hour – Covid19

By AKC Companion Events Department on June 23, 2020

Clubs may improve the overall judging schedule, for our judges and exhibitors, by decreasing the number of dogs per hour. This decrease should help with the time needed to manage social distancing, and sanitation practices between teams. Judges please feel free to share this with the clubs you are working with.

Class	Dogs per hour
Novice & Preferred Novice	8 dogs per hour
Open & Preferred Open Graduate Novice	7 dogs per hour
Utility & Preferred Utility Graduate Open	6 dogs per hour
Versatility	5 dogs per hour
Beginner Novice	9 dogs per hour
Rally – All Classes	18 dogs per hour

Posted in: Covid19

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