



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 – [Excusal vs. Release Reference Chart](#)

Back in the day the sport of obedience followed the conformation Dog Show Rules in many ways, especially in regards to excusals. When a dog(s) is excused in the conformation ring the number of dogs calculated in “competition” drops accordingly as that dog(s) is no longer being compared against others for the class award. This was also the way it worked in obedience for decades, following the Dog Show Rules.

In June 1977 the Obedience Trial Championship (OTCH) was introduced with its own point schedule also based on dogs in competition to earn points towards the OTCH title. If a dog(s) in the Open B or Utility B classes were excused the OTCH points may have dropped accordingly based on the OTCH scales. Back then the *excused* dog(s), whatever the reason, were not factored into the dogs in “competition” for that class.

As obedience evolved so did the thinking in calculating the number of dogs in competition. The Obedience Regulations introduced the concept of having a dog *released* vs. excused. Released dogs will count as dogs in competition. Excused dogs will not count as dogs in competition. It boils down to a dog is excused for a severe infraction of the Regulations; a released dog is a less severe infraction of the Regulations. See chart for details.

Dogs are still excused in the AKC obedience ring along with dogs now being released. To help keep it straight in all of our minds for marking the Judge's Book accordingly, the following chart was developed as a quick reference guide. The right hand columns cite the Chapters and Sections in the Obedience Regulations where further information on the particular action may be easily verified.

As a suggestion, print the chart then laminate the two pages back-to-back to protect it while on the judge's table or in your briefcase.

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

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EXCUSAL vs. RELEASE REFERENCE CHART GUIDELINE

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Page I

When Excused State Reason – When Released Carry NQ to Total Score Box Do not state reason

	JUDGE'S OBSERVATION	DISQUALIFY	RELEASE	EXCUSE	OPTION TO REJUDGE		CHAPTER	SECTION
					YES	NO		
1.	Dog blind - W/O USEFUL vision	X				X	1	17
2.	Dog deaf - W/O USEFUL hearing <u>May compete</u>						1	12
3.	Dog changed for <u>cosmetic</u> reasons	X				X	1	17
4.	Dog <u>attempts</u> to <u>attack</u> a person in the ring	X				X	1 2	17 25
5.	Dog <u>attacks</u> a person in the ring	X				X	1 2	17 25
6.	Handler willfully interferes			X		X	1	18
7.	Handler abuses dog - report <i>immediately</i>			X		X	1 2	6 3
8.	Dog unfit to compete -or- Vet excusal in writing			X		X	1	17
9.	Lame - Irregularity of locomotion			X		X	1	17
10.	Dog Taped/bandaged/medical attachments			X		X	1	17
11.	Bitches in season – Bitches attractive to males			X		X	1	14 17
12.	Bench/trial committee excusal			X		X	1	17 & 17a
13.	Identification. Clothing may display the person's name, the dog's call name and/or the dog's picture. Titles may not be displayed. Writing or graphics on the clothing must not be in poor taste or contain profanity. Clothing must not display any information that would be in conflict with a sponsor of the trial.		See reminders on Page II		X		1	10
14.	Hair - Permitted: eyes, ears or beard... May be tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes as in breed ring		See reminders on Page II		X		1	17
15.	Hair - Not permitted: dyed, chalk, powder, protection, adornment		See reminders on Page II		X		1	17
16.	Leash – fabric, leather, adequate length		See reminders on Page II		X		2	16
17.	Collars - properly fitted and approved by the judge. No special training collars		See reminders on Page II		X		2	17
18.	Fear/nervousness – may be released depending on the extent		X			X	2 2	3 25
19.	Barking/snapping – may be released depending on the extent		X			X	2	25
20.	Foul ring - may be released		X			X	2 2	3 25
21.	Dog out of control or not under control - Uncontrolled behavior - <i>excessive</i> barking or running away		X			X	1 2	18 25
22.	Training in ring – <i>excessive</i> verbal commands		X			X	2	27
23.	NQ score for carrying or offering food in the ring. Release the team because the food is considered a training aid		X			X	2	3
24.	Handler wishes to leave the ring (HLR)		X			X	2	10
25.	Fix n' Go		X			X	2	27
26.	Group – NQ does not return – NQ-R, Rough treatment by the handler, Failed the Sit portion		X			X	3	13

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EXCUSAL vs. RELEASE REFERENCE CHART GUIDELINE

Page II

When Excused State Reason – When Released Carry NQ to Total Score Box Do not state reason

Equipment that does not meet the requirements of the Obedience Regulations

	CHAPTER	SECTION
Novice Equipment for the Ring:		
Identification	1	10
Leash	2	16
Collar	2	17

Open Equipment for the Ring:		
Identification, leash, collar same as in the Novice classes	1	10
Dumbbell	4	11

Utility Equipment for the Ring:		
Identification, leash, collar same as in the Novice classes	1	10
Scent articles	5	8
Gloves	5	10

Reminders:

Can't compete as is – which is the same as incorrect equipment –
Let them get the right stuff - tag(s) on collar remove/tape it etc...
 Stuff happens, we need to remember we're there to help each other while maintaining the integrity of "sport." In the end it is "sport" not life or death, no body dies and we don't need to wound spirits in the process.

Obedience Regulation Guidelines:

"This book cannot cover all situations; nor can it substitute for common sense."
 Those words also hold true for this Reference Chart Guideline.

Glossary of Obedience Terms:

Excused – "A dog must be excused any time there is aggressive behavior toward another dog, a dog that is lame, unfit to compete, if there is anything attached to it for medical or corrective purposes, bitch in season, handler who willfully interferes with another competitor/dog, a handler training/disciplining a dog in the ring, or a dog that is unable to be examined."

Released – "A dog must be released if it is not under the handler's control. A dog will be released from performing the group exercise if it has non-qualified in the individual exercises. In the group exercise, in extreme cases, a dog that must be repositioned by its handler if it is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog may be released. A dog must be released from the group exercise if it does not remain sitting during the first part. A dog may be released from competition in the class for misbehavior."