



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 – **Novice, Open & Utility Are Linked Together**

“All applicable penalties listed under the ____ shall apply”



Have you ever taken a *real close* look at the scoring section of each exercise? Check it out. In addition to the listing of possible penalties for that exercise (minor or substantial to non-qualifying), the last sentence of the scoring section will provide an additional insight into how other points may also be lost. That last sentence states, ***“All applicable penalties listed under the ____ shall apply.”***

With that being said, you will *not* find that “last sentence” in the scoring sections in Chapter 3 (Regular Novice). The Novice exercises are referred to as Foundation Exercises for other applicable obedience classes. What is a Foundation Exercise? A foundation exercise is where a particular discipline is *first* printed in the Regulations. For example, Novice heeling and scoring are described in detail in the Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise. When one reads on about Novice Heel Free, or heeling in Open and/or Utility, it will refer back to the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise. This is the foundation exercise for all other exercises in all classes where heeling is mentioned.

In Chapter 4 (Regular Open) and Chapter 5 (Regular Utility) *new foundation exercises* are to be found. For example, new disciplines in Open (introduction of jumps and retrieving) then become the foundation exercises for Open and applicable Utility exercises; therefore, all of the applicable Regular class exercises are the foundation exercises for the Preferred track, Optional Titling and Non-regular classes.

Here are a few examples of how this all works to help with your training to understand how an exercise is judged:

I. First, review Tidbit #73 on Chapter 2 which pertains to all classes. Knowing the details in Chapter 2 may save points in all exercises, including before, between and after exercises (in all classes) which are not listed in the individual exercise scoring sections.

II. Review all the Novice exercises (Chapter 3) in detail along with all the scoring sections of each exercise. This will give a better understanding of how Novice exercises are scored. As you read the Open and Utility exercise scoring sections where it states, “All applicable penalties listed under the ____ will apply,” you will then have a better understanding of *other possible penalties* not listed in detail in the Open/Utility scoring sections.

A. Let's look at one exercise in Open as an example, the Drop on Recall. The scoring section reads, “A non-qualifying (NQ) score must be given to any dog that does not drop completely to the down position on a single command or signal or to a dog that does not remain down until called or signaled.” “Minor or substantial deductions, up to a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for delayed or slow response to the handler's command or signal to drop and for slow response to either of the recalls. **All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.**”

B. Referencing back to the Novice Recall scoring section,

“A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if it fails to come on the first command or signal, if it moves from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not sit close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot.”

“Substantial deductions will be made for a handler's extra command or signal to sit or finish and for a dog that fails to remain sitting and either stands or lies down, fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, fails to sit in front, or fails to finish or sit at heel.”

“Minor or substantial deductions will be made for slow or poor sits, for finishes that are not prompt or smart, for touching the handler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler’s feet.”

C. Let’s look at one exercise in Utility as another example, Scent Discrimination.

“A dog that retrieves a wrong article or that does not complete the retrieve of the right article must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. If the “After a sit” method is used, anticipating the command or signal to retrieve must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. If the “Send directly” method is used, any additional command or signal to retrieve must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.”

“Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, once the handler leaves the dog to take an article, that changes position while the handler is taking or scenting the article, or moves from the place where it was left. Similar deductions will be made for a handler petting the dog while scenting the article, for any roughness in giving their scent to the dog, not returning their arm and hand to a natural position after giving the scent and before turning, excessive motions when turning toward the articles, or for not turning in place or for talking to the dog after the judge has taken the article.”

“Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that is slow, that does not go directly to the articles, that does not work continuously, or that picks up the wrong article, even if it is immediately put down again. There should be no penalty for a dog that takes a reasonably long time examining the articles, provided it is working continuously. *All applicable penalties listed under the Heel Free, Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.*”

D. Referencing back to the Novice Heel Free, Novice Recall and Open Retrieve on Flat exercises:

1. Heel Free scoring example, as a dog turns with the handler (After a sit method) to face the articles it must be in Heel Position as it turns; if not, it is scorable. This is an example of an *applicable penalty* during this exercise as the dog turns and sits. The sit is also subject to being scored as it is an applicable part to the Heel Free scoring. The Heel Free in Novice is referred back the Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, the foundation exercise.

2. Novice Recall scoring example, see **B** above.

3. Retrieve on Flat scoring example, “A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it fails to go out on the first command or signal, goes to retrieve before the command or signal is given, fails to retrieve, or does not return with the dumbbell sufficiently close that the handler can easily take the dumbbell as described above.”

“Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog’s slowness in going out, returning, or picking up the dumbbell, not going directly to the dumbbell, unnecessary mouthing or playing with the dumbbell, and reluctance or refusal to release the dumbbell to the handler. Depending on the extent, minor or substantial deductions will be made for dropping the dumbbell. *All other applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall will apply.*” In regards to the Scent Discrimination “Send directly” method, penalties under the Retrieve on Flat states the dog must go directly. During the “Send directly” method the dog is not required to be in Heel Position (as in the “After a sit” method mentioned above) during the turn. A dog that may go wide during the turn (depending on the extent of wideness) would not be going *directly* to the articles, thus an applicable penalty under the Retrieve on Flat would apply for not going directly.

Note: Scent Discrimination, Moving Stand and Examination and Directed Retrieve scoring sections refer back to **three (3)** foundation exercises in regards to applicable scoring. Needless to say, but I will 😊, it is good to know *all* your foundation exercises!

If one reads *only* the scoring section(s) of a particular exercise(s) they most likely will be missing the other foundation applicable exercises; therefore, missing other scoring nuances. And let’s not forget to factor in Chapter 2! **Knowledge can save withdrawals from your 200 account!**

III. Review the Principal Features of each Exercise to Help Better Understand the Total Picture In Regards to Scoring. The Principal features of exercises are detailed in the following Tidbit articles:

Tidbit #31 Principle features & non-principal features of the Novice Exercises

<https://saintbernardarchive.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Random-Little-Tidbits-31.pdf>

Tidbit #32 Principle features & non-principal features of the Open Exercises

<https://saintbernardarchive.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Random-Little-Tidbits-32.pdf>

Tidbit #33 Principle features & non-principal features of the Utility Exercises

<https://saintbernardarchive.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Random-Little-Tidbits-33.pdf>

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John Cox, AKC obedience judge. dog-talk@comcast.net