



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 – Know ALL Your Distances For The Various Exercises

For a Handler (or judge) it is imperative to know your distances for each of the different AKC Obedience exercises. If in doubt, the required exercise distances are all spelled out in the AKC Obedience Regulations.

1. As a handler, one needs to know what to expect and train for when showing in the ring.
2. As a judge, one needs to know the distance requirements for Standardized Judging.

The Regulations address all the required ring requirements, all the class exercises (in detail), including all the needed “judging distances” to be aware of when training or judging. If an actual “measured distance” is not covered, a guideline is provided for performing that exercise in the **Exercise Description, Judging Procedures or Obedience Judges' Guidelines**. Check them out!

The “**Distance Chart**” on the following pages will outline distance requirements to assist you as handlers or judges:

1. **Handlers**, a *quick guide* for training and knowing what to expect in the ring when being judged.
2. **Judges**, it can be used for a *quick review* the night before you are to judge.

The chart's 8-font is to make everything fit. 😊 One can expand it on a desktop/phone etc., or an office supply store can print it to a larger size than 8 ½ x 11, if needed. Consider laminating the two sheets back-to-back for your training case or judge's attaché.

For additional charts, log on to the link below and scroll down to Charts:

<https://saintbernardarchive.com/library/>

1. Jump Height Chart
2. Group Exercise sheet
3. Score Conversions, from fractional points off to Total & Final Scores
4. Judge's Book Release/Excuse Chart Guideline
5. Tally Sheet for Regular and Preferred Class Placements
6. Tally Sheet for figuring:
 - a. Regular High Combined Award
 - b. Preferred High Combined Award
 - c. Rally High Combined Award
 - d. Rally Triple High Combined Award

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

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* AKC Obedience Regulations - Distance Requirements *



Rings & Conditions <small>(minimum) Chapter 1, Sections 32 & 33</small>	Novice	Open	Utility	Outdoors	An indoor ring should be rectangular and about 40 by 50 feet for all obedience classes. The floor must have firm footing, using rubber or similar non-slip material at least 4 feet wide for takeoffs and landing of all jumps unless the judge feels the surface does not require it.																	
	Not less than 30' x 40'	Not less than 30' x 40'	Not less than 35' x 50'	Not less than 40' x 50'																		
Regular Novice Exercises <small>Chapter 3</small>	Heel On Leash and Figure Eight	Heeling Pattern. The heeling patterns should not be in the area of the table and/or gate and should have only one element of an exercise on a leg. (For example, there shall not be a halt and a slow on the same leg of an exercise.) A fast must always be on a long dimension of the ring; slow may be either on the short or long dimension of the ring. The fast and slow should be of significant length, not just several steps. No pattern will have more than one fast and one slow. If possible, have one leg of the heeling pattern with no element on it. Keep in mind physically challenged handlers, LARGE breeds, and the space they may need – beforehand.																				
	Stand For Examination	The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position, and may give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet, and then turn and face the dog.																				
	Heel Free	See Heel on Leash and Figure Eight																				
	Recall	The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. On the judge's order, the handler will then walk forward to the other end of the ring , turn to face the dog.																				
	Sit Stay - Get Your Leash	The leash will be placed inside the ring near the gate entrance on a chair or similar leash holder. The handler and dog will be positioned at least 30 feet from and facing the direction of the gate entrance. The judge must be in position to watch the dog and handler throughout the exercise including exiting the ring.																				
	Group	Dogs must be spaced with a minimum of six (6) feet between each dog and a minimum of four (4) feet from the ring barriers. Judges will position the dogs in the approximate center of the ring in one row or back-to-back in two rows with a minimum of six (6) feet between the rows. If the back-to-back formation is used, it must be used for all groups in the class. On a 50' side of the ring the maximum # of dogs allowed in a single row would be six (6) and in a back-to-back row twelve (12) dogs (see table): <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #FFD700;">Ring Length</th> <th style="background-color: #FFD700;">Maximum # of Dogs Single Row</th> <th style="background-color: #FFD700;">Maximum # of Dogs Back-to-Back Row</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">50'</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">6</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">45'</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">5</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">40'</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">4</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">35'</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">4</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">30'</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">3</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700;">6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Ring Length	Maximum # of Dogs Single Row	Maximum # of Dogs Back-to-Back Row	50'	6	12	45'	5	10	40'	4	8	35'	4	8	30'	3
Ring Length	Maximum # of Dogs Single Row	Maximum # of Dogs Back-to-Back Row																				
50'	6	12																				
45'	5	10																				
40'	4	8																				
35'	4	8																				
30'	3	6																				
Cones	For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand facing the judge, midway between two cones that are 17 to 37 inches high and no more than 15 inches wide at the base , that will be placed 8 feet apart (measured from inside of base to inside of base).																					
Regular & Preferred Open Exercises <small>Chapters 4 & 12</small>	Heel Free & Figure Eight	This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Novice Heel On Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog will be off leash.																				
	Command Discrimination	Judging Procedure: This exercise may be performed in an area of the ring that is at least 40 feet in length. The 15-foot distances must be clearly marked. The judge must be positioned so that both the dog and handler are under continuous observation during the entire exercise. An excellent position for judging this exercise is at an adequate distance to the side and slightly to the rear of the dog. Reference to Obedience Judges' Guidelines, Chapter 3.																				
	Drop On Recall	The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. On the judge's order, the handler will then walk forward to the other end of the ring , turn to face the dog.																				
	Retrieve On Flat	After the dumbbell is thrown at least 20 feet , the judge will order the handler to "Send your dog." The judge will require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side or too close to the ring's edge. Size of dumbbell to be in proportion to the dog.																				
	Retrieve Over High Jump	The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position at least 8 feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump and will remain in the same spot throughout the exercise. On the judge's order the handler will throw the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. (These 8-foot distances must be clearly marked.) Judging Procedures: The judge must make certain that the handler throws the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. Reference the Obedience Judges' Guidelines, Chapter 3.																				
	Broad Jump	The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump facing the lowest side of the lowest hurdle. (This 8-foot distance must be clearly marked.) Handlers may stand anywhere between the lowest edge of the first hurdle and the highest edge of the last hurdle with their toes about two (2) feet from the jump.																				
	Stand Stay - Get Your Leash	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. 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. 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.																				
	Jumps	Refer to Chapter 4, Sections 13 & 15 for specific High Jump & Broad Jump measurements and requirements.																				
Measuring Dogs	In all classes with jumps, as the dog is brought into the ring, the judges may, at their discretion, measure the dog to verify the height at the withers. The measurement is made using an ordinary folding ruler or steel tape Nothing may be attached to determine level position. No other measuring device is required or acceptable in the ring. (Chapter 2, Section 1) Review Appendix A for ¼ Jump Heights Table & Appendix B for Standard Jump Height Table.																					

Regular & Preferred Utility Exercises <small>Chapters 5 & 13</small>	Signal Exercise	Heeling will be done as in the Heel Free. While the dog is heeling at one end of the ring, the judge will order the handler to "Stand your dog." The handler will signal the dog to stay, go to the other end of the ring, then turn and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give the signals to down, sit, come and finish as in the Novice Recall.
	Scent Discrimination	The handler will present all ten (10) articles to the judge. The judge or steward will handle each of the remaining eight (8) articles while randomly arranging them on the floor or ground about 6 inches apart. The closest article should be about 20 feet from the handler and dog. The articles are to be visible to both dog and handler and that they are far enough apart so that there will be no confusion of scent among articles. Size of articles to be in proportion to the dog.
	Directed Retrieve	Handlers will stand with their backs to the unobstructed end of the ring midway between and in line with the jumps. The judge or steward will drop the gloves across the end of the ring. One glove is dropped about three (3) feet in from each corner, and the remaining glove is dropped in the center, about three (3) feet from the end of the ring. Judging Procedures: The judge should be certain the gloves are visible to the smallest and largest dogs.
	Moving Stand And Examination	On the judge's order the handler may command or signal the dog to heel. After the handler has proceeded about 10 feet, the judge will order "Stand your dog." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand and continue forward about 10 to 12 feet. The handler will then turn either to the right or left to face the dog, which must stand and stay in position.
	Directed Jumping	The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring, about 20 feet from the jumps and midway between them. On the judge's order the handler will command and/or signal the dog to go forward at a brisk trot or gallop to a point about 20 feet past the jumps in the approximate center of the unobstructed end of the ring. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will give a command to sit. Judging Procedures: The judge should determine the 10-foot distance before beginning the class. The same sequence of jumps should be used for each dog. Reference the Obedience Judges' Guidelines Chapter 3.
	Jumps	Refer to Chapter 4 (Open), Sections 13 & Chapter 5 (Utility), Section 14 for specific High Jump & Bar Jump measurements
	Measuring Dogs	Measuring. In all classes with jumps, as the dog is brought into the ring, the judges may, at their discretion, measure the dog to verify the height at the withers. The measurement is made using an ordinary folding ruler or steel tape Nothing may be attached to determine level position. No other measuring device is required or acceptable in the ring. (Chapter 2, Section 1) Review the Appendix A for ¼ Jump Heights Table & Appendix B for Standard Jump Height Table.
Preferred Novice Exercises <small>Chapter 11</small>	Review →	Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Stand For Examination, Heel Free, Recall, Sit Stay – Get Your Leash, as they are all judged in the same manner as the Regular Novice classes.
	Stay – Sit - Down Handler Walk Around the Ring	The dog and handler should be positioned approximately equidistant to each side of the ring as to be perpendicular to and facing one of the sides. The handler will walk around the inside perimeter of the ring in a direction as indicated by the judge, with all dogs entered in the class being judged the same way.
Beginner Novice Exercises <small>Chapter 16</small>	Heel On Leash	Rally signs will be used for this exercise and will be placed to the right of the handler's path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the team to aid in that change. The "Start" sign, while not required, may be used to signify the starting point for the heel on leash exercise.
	Figure Eight	Refer to Regular Novice Figure Eight exercise as the Beginner Novice Figure Eight is judged in the same manner.
	Sit For Exam	The distances are the same as the Regular Novice Stand For Examination
	Sit Stay – Handler Walks Around The Ring	On the judge's order the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed to walk around the inside perimeter of the ring in a direction as indicated by the judge.
	Recall	The handler will then walk forward, approximately 25 feet, to a location as directed by the judge, turn to face the dog.
Graduate Novice Exercises <small>Chapter 17</small>	Heel On Leash And Figure Eight	This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Novice Heel On Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog will be off leash.
	Drop On Recall	The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. On the judge's order, the handler will then walk forward to the other end of the ring, turn to face the dog.
	Dumbbell Recall	On the judge's order, the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay, walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn, to face the dog and stand naturally. Size of dumbbell to be in proportion to the dog.
	Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump	The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least eight (8) feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump. On the judge's order, the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay, go around the jump to at least eight (8) feet beyond the other side of the jump, then turn, face the dog and stand naturally. (These 8-foot distances will be clearly marked.) The height of the jump will be the same as it is for the Open Retrieve Over High Jump exercise.
	Recall Over Broad Jump	The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least eight (8) feet from the jump, (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) facing the lowest hurdle. On the judge's order the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay, go around the hurdle(s) to at least eight (8) feet beyond the last hurdle, then turn and face the dog. The jump will be set to cover a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump setting for each dog.
	Stand Stay – Get Your Leash	This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Open A class Stand Stay – Get Your Leash.
Graduate Open Exercises <small>Chapter 18</small>	Signal Exercise	Heeling will be done as in the Heel Free. While the dog is heeling at one end of the ring, the judge will order the handler to "Stand your dog." The handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay, go at least ten (10) feet from the dog, then turn and face the dog.
	Scent Discrimination	This exercise will be performed and scored the same as in the Utility Scent Discrimination except as stated in the Graduate Open chapter. The handler will present four articles, consisting of two (2) sets only.
	Go Out	The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position facing the unobstructed end of the ring in the approximate center at any distance from about 20 feet beyond the jumps up to midway between the jumps.
	Directed Jumping	The handler will stand with the dog sitting at the unobstructed end and in the center of the ring. The handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay then walk forward to the other end of the ring. The judge will order either "Bar" or "High" for the jump, The dog will be sent over only one jump.
	Moving Stand And Examination	This exercise will be performed and scored the same as in the Utility Moving Stand And Examination except that the handler may pause/hesitate when giving the command and/or signal to stand.
	Directed Retrieve	This exercise will be performed as in the Utility Directed Retrieve except that a center glove is not used.