



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 – [Highlighted PDF File – 2022 AKC Obedience Regulations](#)



In a prior Facebook post I pictured what I did to my latest downloaded copy of the AKC Obedience Regulations in regards to underlining and highlighting Chapters and Sections. See samples below, (the pencil image is from the screenshot and not in the pdf).

I do this because it makes finding topics and specific measurements faster, at least for me. Don't ask how long it took to accomplish this task. 😊

There seems to be an interest in acquiring this highlighted copy that I have made. I can email you the pdf file free of charge, if you would like. Send an **email** to dog-talk@comcast.net, I will attach and hit the Return to Sender button, just like the Elvis song title.

You can then take this pdf file to an "Office Depot" type of store and have it printed, laminated and spiral bound. You might also think about having an ID or a favorite photo applied on the cover before laminating. Another suggestion is to have it enlarged. One option of printing is to have it on a letter size sheet, and do the fit to page option, the book is a little bigger, which I have grown to appreciate.

The pdf file may also be loaded on to your phone or tablet.

Section 19. Hands and Arms. *The Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise specifically states that the hands must be in a natural position but do not require that they be at the handler's side while heeling on leash. On the other hand, no judge should consider that a handler is unnatural just because they do not perform with the hands and arms in the same position for each exercise.*

In all exercises where the dog is required to heel free, one of these options should be followed: (1) when the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the sides and must hang naturally at the sides when stopped; or (2) the right hand and arm must move naturally at the side, while the left hand must be held against the front of the body, centered in the area of the waist, with the left forearm carried against the body. There will be a substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of these positions. The hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of an exercise in order to maintain balance.

In any exercise that requires a dog to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front. The handler must receive a substantial deduction for not doing so. Any movement of the handler's hands or arms from the time the dog sits in front and prior to the dog returning to the heel position will be considered an additional signal or command and will be penalized unless such movement is otherwise permitted by these regulations.

In any exercise that requires the dog to stay in one position until the handler returns to heel position, handlers may fold their arms once while leaving and once while returning to the dog without penalty. Additional movement of the arms and hands that aid the dog, will be considered additional signals and will be penalized.

Section 20. Commands and Signals. *The dog's name may be used once immediately before any verbal command or before a verbal command and signal when these regulations permit command and/or signal. The dog's name, when given immediately before a verbal command, will not be considered as an additional command, but a dog that responds to its name without waiting for the verbal command will be scored as having anticipated the command. Loud commands by handlers to their dogs create a poor impression of obedience and should be avoided. Shouting is not necessary, even in a noisy place. If the dog is properly trained to respond to a normal tone of voice. Commands that judge feels are excessively loud will be penalized substantially.*

When a signal is permitted, it must be a single gesture with one arm and hand only, and the arm and hand must immediately be returned to a natural position. A handler may bend their body and knees to bring their hand level with the dog's eyes while giving a signal to a dog in heel position. Signals must be inaudible, and the handler must not touch the dog. Any unusual noise or motion may be considered to be a signal.

CHAPTER 18 GRADUATE OPEN OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Graduate Open Class. The Graduate Open class is an optional titling class for all dogs. This class may be offered by clubs at obedience events. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class.

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide which jump will be performed and which glove retrieved. This information will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes or earlier before the start of the class. The judge will designate the same jump and glove for each handler. For each judging assignment, judges are required to alternate the jump and glove used.

This class may be judged by anyone approved to judge Open or higher classes.

Section 2. Graduate Open Exercises and Scoring. The exercises and maximum score in the Graduate Open class:

- 1. Signal Exercise 40 points
 - 2. Scent Discrimination 30 points
 - 3. Go Out 30 points
 - 4. Directed Jumping 40 points
 - 5. Moving Stand & Examination 30 points
 - 6. Directed Retrieve 30 points
 - Maximum Total Score 200 points
- The maximum judging rate is seven (7) dogs per hour.

Section 3. Graduate Open Title. The letters GO may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by two different judges to have received qualifying scores in Graduate Open classes at three licensed or member obedience trials. That dog will receive a Graduate Open certificate from the AKC.

Section 4. Signal Exercise. The principal features of this exercise are the ability of dog and handler to work as a team while heeling and the dog's correct response to the commands and/or signals to stand, stay, down, sit and come.

The orders are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash, except for the judge's order to "Stand your dog." This order will only be given when the dog and handler are walking at a normal pace and will be followed by the order to "Leave your dog." The judge must use signals for directing the handler to command and/or signal the dog to down, sit, come (in that sequence) and to finish.

Heeling will be done as in the Heel Free, except that handlers may

use signals only and must not speak to their dogs at any time during this portion of the exercise. While the dog is heeling at one end of the ring, the judge will order the handler to "Stand your dog." On further order to "Leave 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. On the judge's signal, the handler will give a command and/or signal to down, sit, and come as in the Novice Recall. On the judge's signal the handler will give a command or signal to finish as in the Novice Recall.

Section 5. Signal Exercise. Scoring. A dog that fails to obey the handler's first command and/or signal to stand, stay, down, sit or come must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that walks forward on the stand, down or sit portions of the exercise. The deduction could be up to an NQ. All applicable penalties listed under the Heel on Leash and the Novice Recall (after the dog has been given the command and/or signal to come) exercises will apply.

Section 6. Scent Discrimination Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed and scored the same as in the Utility Scent Discrimination except as stated in this section. The handler will present four articles, consisting of two (2) sets only. It is the handler's discretion as to which type of article is retrieved. The dog and handler will remain facing the articles and only one article will be retrieved. On the judge's first order, "Take an article," the dog is not required to stay in a sit position.

Section 7. Go Out. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog go away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring and stop as directed.

The orders are: "Send your dog" and "Back to your dog." 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. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. 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 ring. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will give a command to sit. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but it need not sit squarely. On the judge's order the handler will return to the heel position by walking around and in back of their dog.

Section 8. Go Out. Scoring. A dog will receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it anticipates the handler's command and/or signal to go out, fails to leave the handler, does not go out between the jumps, does not stop and remain at least 10 feet past the jumps without an additional command.

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