

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 – Knowing Starting Positions of the Various Exercises + Setting Up Your Dog Before the Exercise Starts

Oh no, not another chart?! **Yes**, another chart! 😊 This chart will provide a *quick review* of the dog's needed position to in be in before the start of an exercise. Additional Study Charts for reviewing, posting on your training building wall, or carry along when training: log on to <https://saintbernardarchive.com/library/> and scroll down to “Charts”.

Tips and reminders for the handlers, it is best to be prepared **before** you enter the ring with your teammate. Part of the preparedness is to know where the individual exercises are located, and what position **the dog** will need to be in before the start of that exercise. Having this knowledge will allow one to be ready to enter the ring giving *total attention* to their teammate.

How many times have you observed other handlers, who have not paid attention beforehand, enter the ring in a quandary of where the exercise starting point is located? Or not knowing what position **the dog** needs to be in before the start of a particular exercise? Questions are then raised in one's mind and the judge is asked for guidance. Guess what happens then? NOW your attention is off your dog and chatting with the judge. Your dog needs **you** to keep **your focus on them** and the job at hand. Don't let them down! As a learning experience, watch other handlers going into the ring. See if they have a game plan in order. Learn from what you are observing to better help your game plan of dos and don'ts.

A few suggestions to enhance your performance:

- 1) Make sure you have all the necessary required equipment for the class(es) entered.
- 2) Check-in early if at all possible. If you have a conflict this should be discussed with the Judge/steward before the class is scheduled to start. This courtesy will help the Judge in determining Group sizes, if applicable, and absentees. Keep attuned to the “white board”, if available for dogs checked in or moved out of catalog order as this information will allow your warm-up timing to be more on target.
- 3) **Before your turn, watch the heeling pattern and where each exercise will take place. In being prepared one can keep their dog better focused while moving from one exercise to the next and setting up for that exercise.**
- 4) Know the correct height of the dog's withers if there are jumps in the class entered, and double-check to make sure the stewards have the jumps set correctly before entering the ring.
- 5) If you are entered in Beginner Novice, Novice A or Preferred Novice, plan to be ringside for the walkthrough at the start time of the class. Have accommodations for the dog during the walkthrough.


Additional Charts:

1. Jump Height Chart
2. Visual Jump Setting Chart
3. Group Exercise sheet
4. Score Conversions, from fractional points off to Total & Final Scores
5. Judge's Book Release/Excuse Chart
6. Filling Out a Judge's Book
7. **Know When and What Applicable Penalties May Apply**
8. **Judge's Orders in Quotes, a part of Standardized Judging**
9. **Judge's Distance Chart**
10. **Judging Procedures**
11. **Handler Guide For Saving Points and “Going the Distance” stated in the Exercises**
12. **The Principal Feature of the Regular and Preferred Exercises + Optional Titling Exercises**
13. Tally Sheet for Regular and Preferred Class Placements
14. Tally Sheet for figuring Obedience High Combined, Rally High Combined & Rally High Triple Combined

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

Knowing Starting Positions of the Various Exercises + Setting Up Your Dog Before the Exercise Starts

Regular Novice Exercises <small>Chapter 3</small>	Heel on Leash & Figure Eight	Handler will enter the ring with the <i>dog on a loose leash</i> and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.
	Stand For Examination	Handler will stand with the dog in the heel position (Note: Sit is not required or mentioned).
	Heel Free	Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.
	Recall	Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.
	Sit Stay - Get Your Leash	Handler will take the dog to the place indicated by the judge. Approximately 30 feet from the ring gate. (Note: Sit is not required or mentioned.)
	Group	The dogs will be lined up in judging program order. Judges will position the dogs in the <i>approximate center of the ring</i> in one row or back-to-back in two rows with a minimum of 6 feet between the rows. (Note: Sit is not required or mentioned at the beginning of the Group Sit exercise or for the Group Down exercise.)
	Cones 	For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in the heel position facing the judge , midway between the two cones.
Regular & Preferred Open Exercises <small>Chapters 4 & 12</small>	Heel Free & Figure Eight	This exercise will be performed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise except that the dog will be off leash.
	Command Discrimination	Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.
	Drop On Recall	Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.
	Retrieve On Flat	Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.
	Retrieve Over High Jump	Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet (or <i>any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet</i>) from the jump, and <u>will remain in the same spot throughout the exercise.</u>
	Broad Jump	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.) When leaving the dog, go to a position facing the right side of the jump . Handlers may stand anywhere between the lowest edge of the first hurdle and the highest edge of the last hurdle with their <u>toes</u> about 2 feet from the jump.
	Stand Stay - Get Your Leash	Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. Approximately 15 feet from the ring gate.
Regular & Preferred Utility Exercises <small>Chapter 5 & 13</small>	Signal Exercise	Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.
	Scent Discrimination	On the judge's order, "Take an article"; the scoring of the exercise will begin. The handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position , then take an article and return to heel position .
	Directed Retrieve	Handler will stand with their back to the unobstructed end of the ring midway between and in line with the jumps . The dog will be sitting in the heel position .
	Moving Stand And Examination	Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.
	Directed Jumping	Handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring with the dog sitting in the heel position , about 20 feet from the jumps and midway between them.
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 stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.

Beginner Novice Exercises <small>Chapter 16</small>	Heel On Leash	<p>Rally signs will be used for this exercise and will be <u>placed to the right</u> of the handler's path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be <u>directly in front</u> 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.</p> <p>Handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position.</p>
	Figure Eight	<p>Refer to Regular Novice Figure Eight exercise as the Beginner Novice Figure Eight is judged in the same manner.</p>
	Sit For Exam	<p>Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. Unlike the Novice Stand for Examination, the dog in the Beginner Novice Sit for Exam is to be sitting before the start of the exercise.</p>
	Sit Stay – Handler Walks Around The Ring	<p>Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.</p>
	Recall	<p>Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.</p>
Graduate Novice Exercises <small>Chapter 17</small>	Heel Free & Figure Eight	<p>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.</p>
	Drop On Recall	<p>Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.</p>
	Dumbbell Recall	<p>Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.</p>
	Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump	<p>This exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Dumbbell Recall except that the dog must clear the high jump. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet (or any <i>reasonable distance</i> beyond 8 feet) from the jump. The handler is to go around the jump to at least 8 feet beyond the other side of the jump, then turn, face the dog and stand naturally.</p>
	Recall Over Broad Jump	<p>Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump, (or any <i>reasonable distance</i> beyond 8 feet) facing the lowest hurdle.</p>
	Stand Stay - Get Your Leash	<p>Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. Approximately 15 feet from the ring gate.</p>
Graduate Open Exercises <small>Chapter 18</small>	Signal Exercise	<p>Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. Heeling will be done as in the Open 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 10 feet from the dog, then turn and face the dog.</p>
	Scent Discrimination	<p>This exercise will be performed and scored the same as in the Utility Scent Discrimination except as stated in the Graduate Open chapter.</p>
	Go Out	<p>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.</p>
	Directed Jumping	<p>Handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge.</p>
	Moving Stand And Examination	<p>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.</p>
	Directed Retrieve	<p>This exercise will be performed as in the Utility Directed Retrieve except that a center glove is not used.</p>