



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 – [Learn the Applicable Penalties in the Scoring Sections](#) [Understand the nuances and how they may be applied, saving you points](#)

The Sport of Obedience is really no different from other dog sports. Fact is, basic obedience training plays an important role in many other dog sports. It may not be thought of as “obedience” but in reality it is just that. When you look at it, the Novice levels of obedience are nothing more than lessons in basic dog manners. The dog is taught to walk on a leash in a controlled manner, accept an examination, come when called, and stay still in a sit or down position with other dogs present. In the conformation ring (for example) we train the dog for similar functions: to be on our left and maintain a “heel position” of sorts, plus changing pace and stopping in a stand position. The conformation dog is also being taught to stay in a stand position and accept an examination from a stranger, along with standing still in a lineup with other dogs present as a judge makes their final decisions.

Obedience, like other sports, has its set of Rules and Regulations which define the sport, exercises, and how the game is to be played. Also, like other sports, it is judged and scoring is a part of that judging process. The scoring function is used to qualify the dogs that qualify, non-qualify the dogs who do not, and place the teams in an order by the qualifying scores.

As mentioned before in other Tidbits, there is a lot of wiggle room in a qualifying score, 30 points to be exact as long as *more than* 50% of the available points in each exercise are also obtained. A perfect obedience score is 200 points and the minimum passing score is 170 points, which is a wonderful range of scores representing the team's accomplishments on that given day under those given conditions!

Each handler has their own set of goals to obtain. Amongst the handlers there are those whose goals are for decent working dogs in the ring, turning in a performance warranting a green qualifying ribbon. Adding to the mix of exhibitors, there are handlers who like to take on the challenge of perfection, and possibly earn one of the four placements in the class. In all cases, learn how the scoring works by reading the description and scoring sections of the exercises in the class.

Each exercise has a defined principal feature, description of the exercise, and a scoring section defining many of the faults. The list of faults in the scoring sections are *not* complete, (**Chapter 2, Section 24**) “The lists of faults are not intended to be complete, but minimum penalties are specified for most of the more common and serious faults. There is no maximum limit on penalties. A dog that makes none of the errors listed may still receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for other reasons.”

Reading a sport's Rules and Regulations gives us an understanding of how the game is to be played, and how it is to be scored is an important role for success in the ring. Learn the ways that lead to points being lost (or saved 😊), plus qualifying vs. non-qualifying. One would not want to venture into a game of Strip Poker without knowing the rules, right?

You have trained your dog and are getting ready to show to earn a title! Good for you!!! Now let's learn how the scoring works to save you as many points as we can. **First, read Chapter 2.** It is a [very important chapter](#) as it reflects forward to all the other class exercises for scoring. The scoring section for each exercise pretty much pertains to that exercise, in general. Chapter 2 pertains to all exercise scoring sections. No use listing all of it twice in two different areas. For example, the definitions of a command and/or signal, hand positions, misbehavior, etc. are well defined in Chapter 2.

At the end of each scoring section (except Novice) one will see the words; “All applicable penalties listed under ___and___ shall apply”. The Novice exercises are referred to as foundation exercises. The Open and Utility exercises are built on the Novice foundations. One then refers back to the Novice foundation exercises to review all the applicable penalties.

Now to save you points, let's take a look and learn how scoring of [all applicable penalties](#) is judged, plus to help in understanding scoring. As mentioned above, Novice is the Foundation so we will not see any “all applicable penalties” in those exercise scoring sections. But remember, Chapter 2 has all applicable penalties that may and can occur. As one ventures on to Open, a few of those exercises become foundation exercises for the next advanced level, Utility. View it as a house with three floors, a foundation first level--Novice, second level--Open and top level--Utility.

| | Class Exercises | Scoring Faults | Applicable Exercises | Sample Guide to Applicable Penalties |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| NOVICE | Heel on Leash & Figure Eight | Chapter 3, Section 6 | Novice Foundation Exercise | Chapter 2, Sections 2, 3, 7, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 - Check them out! |
| | Stand For Examination | Chapter 3, Section 8 | Novice Foundation Exercise | Chapter 2, Sections 18, 20, 21, 24, 25 in particular |
| | Heel Free | Chapter 3, Section 9 | Novice Foundation Exercise | Chapter 2 & Heel on Leash & Figure Eight ^ |
| | Recall | Chapter 3, Section 11 | Novice Foundation Exercise | Chapter 2, Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 25 in particular |
| | Sit Stay Get Your Leash | Chapter 3, Section 13 | Novice Foundation Exercise | Chapter 2, Sections 18, 20, 21, 24, 25 in particular |
| | Group exercise | Chapter 3, Section 15 | Novice Foundation Exercise | Chapter 2, Sections 18, 20, 21, 24, 25 in particular |
| OPEN | Heel Free ^ | Chapter 4, Section 6 | Heel on Leash & Figure Eight | Chapter 2 + Refer to Heel on Leash & Figure Eight |
| | Command Discrimination | Chapter 4, Section 8 | No applicable exercise listed > | Chapter 2, Sections 18, 20, 21, 24, 25 in particular |
| | Drop On Recall > | Chapter 4, Section 10 | Novice Recall > | Chapter 2 + Refer to Novice Recall faults ^ |
| | Retrieve On Flat > | Chapter 4, Section 12 | Retrieving Foundation Exercise > | Chapter 2 + Refer to Novice Recall faults ^ |
| | Retrieve Over High Jump | Chapter 4, Section 14 | Jumping Foundation Exercise > | Chapter 2 + Refer to Novice Recall + Retrieve on Flat faults ^ |
| | Broad Jump | Chapter 4, Section 16 | Novice Recall + ^ > | Chapter 2 + Refer to Novice Recall faults ^ |
| | Stand Stay – Get Your Leash | Chapter 4, Section 18 | No applicable exercise listed > | Chapter 2, Sections 18, 20, 21, 24, 25 in particular |
| UTILITY | Signal Exercise | Chapter 5, Section 7 | Novice Heel on Leash & Figure Eight (Heel Free) + Novice Recall | Chapter 2, Sections 2, 3, 7, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 - Check them out! |
| | Scent Discrimination | Chapter 5, Section 9 | Novice Heel on Leash & Figure Eight (Heel Free) + Novice Recall + Retrieve On Flat | Chapter 2 + Heel Free refers back to Heel on Leash & Figure Eight + Retrieve On Flat, then refers back to the Novice Recall, sections for scoring. ^ |
| | Directed Retrieve | Chapter 5, Section 11 | Novice Heel on Leash & Figure Eight (Heel Free) + Novice Recall + Retrieve On Flat | Chapter 2 + Heel Free refers back to Heel on Leash & Figure Eight + Retrieve On Flat then refers back to the Novice Recall, sections for scoring. ^ |
| | Moving Stand & Examination | Chapter 5, Section 13 | Novice Heel on Leash & Figure Eight (Heel Free) + Stand For Examination + Novice Recall | Chapter 2 + Heel Free refers back to Heel on Leash & Figure Eight + Stand For Examination + Novice Recall, sections for scoring. ^ |
| | Directed Jumping | Chapter 5, Section 15 | Novice Recall + ROHJ Jumping | Chapter 2 + Refers back to Novice Recall faults ^ |

Learn how all the applicable penalties act out when it comes to scoring an exercise and knowing the nuances of each exercise. Knowing how and when the applicable penalties are to be applied will help in your training to save points, thus resulting a better performance overall. And maybe even make a difference in a placement, qualifying, or not. Win, Win!

Let's take a look at the Utility Scent Discrimination exercise and learn how all applicable penalties are applied:

Scent Discrimination is basically a **Retrieve On Flat** exercise with the new added element of selecting the correct scented article. The description of this exercise details the methods used to send the dog, details of the articles being used, dog working continuously when scenting, and other elements in regard to what takes place at the beginning of the exercise, etc.. The scoring section lists possible scenting faults (handler and/or dog). It also refers back to **two or three** applicable exercise penalties, *depending on what method* the handler chooses to send the dog.

For example, the judge asks the handler at the appropriate time, "What method will you be using to send your dog." The judge *needs to know this* in regard to how to score the exercise and what applicable penalties will apply.

Case 1: Handler responds, "After a Sit". During the turn in place to face the articles, the judge will be judging **three applicable penalties**. (1) **Heel Free** (which then refers back the **Heel on Leash and Figure Eight**) which lists all the applicable faults. As the handler is turning in place, heeling is now being judged (an about turn for the dog). Faults the judge will be looking for are forging, lagging, crowding or wide. Next will be the Sit in Heel Position! During this brief time of the turn in place, IF the handler gave an extra command to heel, dog did not sit, or extra command/signal to sit (assuming the dog STOPPED and there was no forward movement), those are scorable faults under the Heel Free. They are *not* NQing faults in the **Principal Feature** of the exercise, or are they in the Heel Free exercise. On the command or signal to retrieve, the dog is then scored as in (2) **Retrieve On Flat**, plus continuously working the articles searching for the correct article and retrieving promptly. The return to the handler is judged as in (3) **Novice Recall**, which includes the Front and Finish.

Case 2: Handler responds, "Send Directly". In this case the dog is to turn and go directly to the articles. The judge will be judging **two applicable penalties**. Heel position is not being judged in this case as the dog is getting up and heading directly to the articles as in (1) **Retrieve On Flat** exercise scoring. The return to the handler is judged (hopefully after promptly retrieving the correct article ☺) as in (2) **Novice Recall**, which includes the Front and Finish.

Refer to **Random Little Titbits #91** for a study guide chart listing all applicable penalties.

For complete details refer to the AKC Obedience Regulations. <https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>

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Today's Random Little Tidbit – **Know When *Applicable Penalties* Apply Beyond an Exercise's Scoring Section**



When perusing the Scoring Sections of the various exercises in the Obedience Regulations, be sure to read and understand what “All applicable penalties” listed under the _____ shall apply” are referring to. This wording will show up in exercises beyond a foundation exercise, such as in **Regular Novice** (Chapter 3).

A Foundation exercise can be defined as an exercise where a discipline element first shows up in the Regulations. The **Regular Novice** exercises and scoring sections are foundation exercises with foundation scoring. For example, the **Novice Recall** is a foundation exercise as it is the first time a Recall (& Finish) shows up in the Regulations. The exercise is defined by: the principal features, judge's orders and what is expected for carrying out the exercise. The following Recall scoring section then lists many of the faults associated with that particular exercise. The listed faults mentioned are to be scored as non-qualifying (NQ), substantial or minor deductions. However, when reviewing **Chapter 2, Section 24** “...The lists of faults are not intended to be complete, but minimum penalties are specified for most of the more common and serious faults. There is no maximum limit on penalties. A dog that makes none of the errors listed may still receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for other reasons”. Also keep in mind that **Chapter 2** has many other sections which may relate to all classes in the Regulations: sections **2, 3, 7, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, as examples**. Be familiar with them in your understanding of penalties and how to avoid them! Knowledge will give you the power for *Saving Withdrawals from Your 200 Account!*

Command Discrimination, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve Over High Jump and Broad Jump are new foundation exercises that show up in **Open**, as there are new discipline elements added to these exercises which are stated in the descriptions and scoring sections. The exercise's scoring sections under the **Drop on Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve Over High Jump and Broad Jump** will have additional wording, “All applicable penalties listed under the **Novice Recall** shall apply.” The reader then refers back to the **Novice Recall** description and scoring sections to pick up on the applicable penalties which will apply to those exercises. Such as, arms and hands hanging naturally, brisk trot or gallop into the handler, dog must come directly, sit straight, centered in front of the handler and close enough so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot or touching the handler – to mention a few. 😊

There are other advanced exercises in Utility which will refer the reader back to several Novice and Open foundation exercises and scoring sections. The Utility **Scent Discrimination** would be another example of an advanced foundation exercise as it has the added discipline element of the dog scenting. That scoring section then refers back to four (4) foundation exercises: **Heel Free** (which then refers back to the **Heel on Leash and Figure Eight**), **Retrieve on Flat**, and **Novice Recall for applicable penalties** in those exercise descriptions and scoring sections.

Instead of listing similar faults in similar exercises in the advanced classes (Open & Utility, etc.) over and over, one will notice the wording “All applicable penalties listed under the _____ shall apply” at the end of an advanced exercise scoring section.

The following chart will list the Novice, Open and Utility exercise scoring sections. The column to the far right will list the applicable foundation exercises and scoring sections that may apply.

More charts on various subject matters for quick reviews may be found at <https://saintbernardarchive.com/library/> on the lower left of that page. Print them out & laminate to post in training buildings to have as a quick reference.

Know ALL Your Distances For The Various Exercises
Judge's Order per the Regulations
Judging Procedures, Chapters & Sections
AKC Obedience Jump Charts

Quick Reference Guide To the Principal Features of Exercises
Excusal vs. Release Reference Chart Guideline
Visual Sample In How to Mark The Judge's Book Correctly

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

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Know When Applicable Penalties Apply Beyond The Exercise's Scoring Section The Regular BIG 3 Classes --- Novice & Open & Utility



Quick Guide For Following the Scoring Paths Which Connect The Exercises



| Classes | Exercise | Scoring Penalties, plus the <u>Applicable Penalties</u> Listed in the Scoring Section of an Exercise | Chapter | Section | <u>Applicable Penalties</u> Reference |
|---------------|---|--|----------|-----------|---|
| Novice | Heel on Leash & Figure Eight | <p>Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions, will be made for additional commands or signals to heel or for failure of dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.</p> <p>Minor or substantial deductions shall be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt and other heeling imperfections. Deductions should also be made for a handler who guides the dog with the leash, any tightening or jerking of the leash, or does not walk at a brisk pace.</p> | 3 | 6 | <p>Foundation Exercise</p> <p>Chapter 2, Section 18, Heel Position</p> <p>+</p> <p>Chapter 2, Section 19, Hands and Arms</p> <p>+</p> <p>Chapter 2, Sections 20 & 21 Commands & Signals</p> |
| | Stand For Examination | <p>The scoring of this exercise will not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay, except for such things as rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to its handler's attempts to have it stand. Either of these will be penalized substantially.</p> <p>A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it sits or lies down, moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination or growls, snaps or displays resentment.</p> <p>Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for shyness. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet at any time or sits or moves away after the examination has been completed.</p> | 3 | 8 | <p>Foundation Exercise</p> <p>Chapter 2, Section 18, Heel Position</p> <p>+</p> <p>Chapter 2, Sections 20 & 21 Commands & Signals</p> |
| | Heel Free | <p>This exercise will be performed as in the Heel on Leash but without either the leash or the Figure Eight. The scoring and orders will be the same.</p> | 3 | 9 | <p>Foundation Exercise</p> |
| | Recall | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 3 | 11 | <p>Foundation Exercise</p> <p>Chapter 2, Section 18, Heel Position</p> <p>+</p> <p>Chapter 2, Section 19, Hands and Arms</p> <p>+</p> <p>Chapter 2, Sections 20 & 21, Commands & Signals</p> |
| | Sit Stay – Get Your Leash | <p>A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the sit position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.</p> <p>Scoring of the exercise for such things as rough treatment of a dog by its handler or resistance by a dog to its handler's attempts to make it sit starts with the first order, "Sit your dog." These will be penalized substantially and in extreme cases the dog may be released.</p> <p>Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from the sit position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has said, "Exercise finished." A substantial deduction, under Miscellaneous Penalties, must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while exiting the ring.</p> | 3 | 13 | <p>Foundation Exercise</p> <p>Chapter 2, Section 18, Heel Position</p> <p>+</p> <p>Chapter 2, Section 19, Hands and Arms</p> <p>+</p> <p>Chapter 2, Sections 20 & 21 Commands & Signals</p> |
| | Group | | | 3 | 14 |

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|--|---|----|--|
| Open | Heel Free | Orders and scoring are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight. | 4 | 6 | Review Heel on Leash & Figure Eight for Exercise Scoring. |
| | Command Discrimination | <p>A dog that fails to obey the handler's first command and/or signal for each position and stay, or that does not stay until the handler returns to heel position must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.</p> <p>Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that changes position after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said "Exercise finished."</p> <p>Minor or substantial deductions, up to a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for the handler's hands and arms not hanging naturally.</p> <p>Depending on the extent, minor or substantial deductions, up to a non-qualifying (NQ) score, will be made for a dog that walks forward.</p> | 4 | 8 | Chapter 2, Section 18, Heel Position + Chapter 2, Sections 20 & 21 Commands & Signals |
| | Drop On Recall | The principal features of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall , are the dog's prompt response to the handler's command or signal to drop and the dog's remaining in the down position until again called or signaled to come. The dog will be judged on the promptness of its response to the command or signal. | 4 | 10 | <u>All applicable penalties</u> listed under the Novice Recall shall apply. |
| | Retrieve on Flat | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 4 | 12 | <u>Retrieving Foundation Exercise</u> <u>All applicable penalties</u> listed under the Novice Recall shall apply. |
| | Retrieve Over High Jump | A dog that fails to go over the full height of the jump in either direction, that uses the jump for any aid in going over, or that returns over the jump without the dumbbell must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score. | 4 | 14 | <u>Jumping Foundation Exercise</u> <u>All applicable penalties</u> listed under the Retrieve on Flat and Novice Recall shall apply. |
| | Broad Jump | <p>A dog that fails to stay until directed to jump, refuses the jump on the first command or signal, or steps on or between the hurdles must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.</p> <p>Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not return directly to the handler, that displays any hesitation or reluctance in jumping, or that touches the jump.</p> | 4 | 16 | <u>All applicable penalties</u> listed under the Novice Recall shall apply. |
| | Stand Stay – Get Your Leash | <p>A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for a dog that does any of the following: Fails to stand on the first command and/or signal, moves a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, sits or lies down before the handler has returned to heel position, or repeatedly barks or whines.</p> <p>Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that sits or lies down after the handler has returned to heel position and before the judge has said, "Exercise finished."</p> <p>Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for the dog that moves a short distance from where it was left, or that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place.</p> <p>A substantial deduction, under Miscellaneous Penalties, must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while exiting the ring.</p> | 4 | 18 | Foundation Exercise? No applicable penalties listed back to the Novice Sit Stay – Get Your Leash which has almost the same wording as to penalties; therefore, I am listing this as a Foundation exercise for now. |
| Utility | Signal Exercise | <p>A dog that fails to obey the handler's first signal to stand, stay, down, sit or come, or that receives a verbal command from the handler to do any of these parts of the exercise, must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.</p> <p>A substantial deduction will be made for any audible command during the heeling or finish portions of the exercise. 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 a non-qualifying (NQ) score.</p> | 5 | 7 | <u>All applicable penalties</u> listed under the Heel on Leash & Novice Recall (after the dog has been signaled to come) exercises will apply. |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------|-----------|--|
| | Scent Discrimination | <p>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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 5 | 9 | <p>Foundation Exercise</p> <p><u>All applicable penalties</u> listed under the Heel Free, Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.</p> |
| | Directed Retrieve | <p>A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for any commands or signals to position the dog after the handler turns to face the glove, for a handler failing to give a verbal command to retrieve, for a dog that retrieves a wrong glove or that does not complete the retrieve of the designated glove.</p> <p>Depending on the extent, a substantial deduction up to and including a non-qualifying (NQ) score will be made for a handler who does not turn in place, does not face the designated glove, does not give the verbal command to retrieve simultaneously or immediately after giving the direction to retrieve, or for a dog that does not go directly to the designated glove.</p> | 5 | 11 | <p><u>All applicable penalties</u> listed under the Heel Free, Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.</p> |
| | Moving Stand & Examination | <p>A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for a dog that does any of the following: displays fear or resentment; moves from the place where it was left; sits or lies down before it is called; growls or snaps; repeatedly whines or barks; fails to heel, stand, stay, or accept the judge's examination; or fails to return to the handler.</p> <p>Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet repeatedly while remaining in place or for a dog that returns to the handler as defined in the Novice Recall but not to heel position.</p> | 5 | 13 | <p><u>All applicable penalties</u> of the Novice Heel Free, Stand for Examination and Recall exercises will apply.</p> |
| | Directed Jumping | <p>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; anticipates the handler's command and/or signal to jump; returns over the wrong jump; knocks the bar off the uprights; or uses the top of any jump for aid in going over.</p> <p>Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that does not stop on command that does not stop in the approximate center of the ring about 20 feet past the jumps, that does not sit, that receives an additional command to sit after the dog has stopped, or that anticipates the handler's command to sit.</p> <p>Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the extent, will be made for slowness in going out, for touching the jumps, or for any hesitation in jumping.</p> | 5 | 15 | <p><u>All applicable penalties</u> listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.</p> |
| All Classes | Leaving The Ring | <p>The handler is required to enter and exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash. The Novice Sit Stay (& Open Stand Stay) Get Your Leash requires a substantial penalty. The other classes are judgment calls (minor or substantial) as to the severity of the fault taking place when leaving the ring.</p> | 2 | 25 | |

Always, if in doubt, do take the time to double-check the Obedience Regulations and read the full content of that exercise in question. Take the time to refer to the Regulations to make the right decision; you owe that to the team(s).