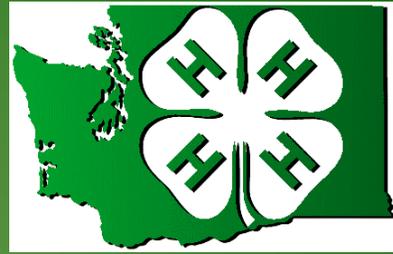


# Washington State 4-H Dog Project



## Guide To 4-H Dog Obedience Classes



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## BEGINNER NOVICE

**Beginner Novice Exercises and Scores.** The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging in Beginner Novice class:

1.	Heel on Leash	40 points
2.	Figure Eight	40 points
3.	Sit for Examination	40 points
5.	Sit Stay	40 points
6.	Recall	40 points
	<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	<b>200 points</b>

**NOTE: There are no Group (Long Sit/Long Down) exercises in the Beginner Novice class.**

**Heel on Leash.** The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise will be "Forward" and "Exercise Finished." Rally signs will be used for this exercise and will be placed to the right of the handlers 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. Signs to be used are "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal," "Fast" and "Halt/Sit." "Fast" means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. Turns will be used only when the handler is moving at a normal speed. Both change of pace signs must be followed by a normal sign. Turn signs may be placed in any sequence and may be repeated. Two of each turn sign must be available for the judge's use. The "Halt/Sit" sign will be used once at the end of the exercise. The judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class. The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position. Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of any extra commands and/or signals will be penalized. The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge will ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding. The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At the "Halt/Sit" sign, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal. The judge will order, "Exercise finished" at the completion of this exercise.

**Heel on Leash, Scoring.** If a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash, constantly talking to the dog or is adapting to the dog's pace, that dog must receive a score of zero (0) score for this exercise. Minor 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 or does not walk at a brisk pace. A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement, by the handler to the dog, will be allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, and atta boy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.) Minor 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. While scoring this exercise, the judge should be near enough to observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog without interfering with either.

**Figure Eight.** The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise are: "Forward," "Halt," and "Exercise Finished." For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two stewards, who will be standing 8 feet apart. The Figure Eight will be performed on leash; the handler may go around either steward first. After the judge asks, "Are you ready?" and gives the order, "Forward," the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two stewards twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again. A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement, by the handler to the dog, will be allowed without penalty.

**Figure Eight, Scoring.** Scoring is the same as the Heel on Leash exercise.

**Sit For Exam.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog sits in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. Orders are: "Sit your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog" and "Exercise finished. This exercise is to be performed with the dog on a 6 foot leash. On the judge's order, the handler will command the dog to sit. The handler will then stand with the dog sitting in the heel position, give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet to the end of the leash, turn and face the dog. The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch only the dog's head. On the order "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The handler may gather the leash at any time while returning to the dog. The dog must remain sitting until the judge has said, "Exercise finished."

**Sit For Exam, Scoring.** 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 sit. Either of these will be penalized substantially. A dog must receive a score of zero (0) score if it stands, lies down, or moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination, or growls, snaps, or displays resentment. Minor deductions will be made for any tightening of the leash during the exercise. Substantial deductions will be made for an extra command to the dog after the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay and left the heel position. Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet at any time or stands or moves away after the examination has been completed. Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a score of zero (0) score, will be made for shyness.

**Sit Stay – Handler Walk Around the Ring.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position. Orders for this exercise are: "Sit your dog," "Leave your dog," and "Exercise finished." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. Prior to starting the exercise, the judge will ask if the handler is ready. The leash remains attached to the dog's collar and will be dropped/placed on the ground between the dog and the handler. When the judge gives the order "Sit your dog," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. The judge will order "Leave your dog," and the handler will 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. Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the ring, the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position.

Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order "Exercise finished."

**Sit Stay, Scoring.** A score of zero score (0) is required for 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. A substantial

deduction 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 position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order, "Exercise finished." Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a score of zero

(0) score, will be made for any additional commands to the dog after the handler has commanded and/or signaled the dog to stay. Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handler to leave their dog, except 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. These will be penalized substantially; in extreme cases, the dog may be excused.

The judge will not give the "Exercise finished" order until the handler has returned to heel position.

**Recall.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly. Orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Exercise finished." The leash is removed for this exercise and kept by the handler. On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward, approximately 25 feet, to a location as directed by the judge and turn to face the dog. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, and sit in front near the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. (No finish will be required of the dog by the handler.) After the judge orders "Exercised finished," the leash is reattached to the dog's collar. A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement while the dog is coming to the handler will be allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.)

**Recall, Scoring.** A dog must receive a score of zero (0) score if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if more than two commands and/or signals are required for the dog to come, if it fails to come, if it moves from the place it was left before being called and/or signaled to come, or if it does not come close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a handler's extra command or signal to come or to sit, or if the dog fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, or fails to sit. Minor deductions will be made for slow or poor sits.

## SUB-NOVICE

**Sub-Novice Exercises and Scores.** The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging in the Sub-Novice class:

- |    |                       |           |
|----|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Heel on Leash         | 45 points |
| 2. | Figure Eight          | 25 points |
| 3. | Stand for Examination | 30 points |
| 4. | Recall                | 40 points |
| 5. | Sit Stay              | 30 points |
| 6. | Down Stay             | 30 points |

**Maximum Total Score**                      **200 points**

**Sub-Novice Exercises and Scoring.** All exercises will be performed as in the Novice class except that the Stand for Examination, Recall, Sit Stay and Down Stay are all performed on lead. The handler may not intentionally drop the lead at any time. There is no Heel Free exercise in this class.

## PRE-NOVICE

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the Sit/Down position to be performed in this class. The position will not be disclosed to the exhibitors until it is posted at the ring before the start of the class.

**Pre-Novice Exercises and Scores.** The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging in the Pre-Novice class:

1.	Heel on Leash	40 points
2.	Figure Eight	40 points
3.	Stand for Examination	30 points
4.	Heel Free	20 points
5.	Recall	30 points
6.	Stay – Sit or Down	40 points
	<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	<b>200 points</b>

**NOTE: There are no Group (Long Sit/Long Down) exercises in the Pre-Novice class.**

**Pre-Novice Exercises and Scoring.** All exercises will be performed as in the Novice class except for the following:

**Heel Free.** This exercise is performed as in the Novice class except that the pattern shall not include left or right turns or changes of pace. The pattern is a simple “down and back” performed along a long side of the ring. Orders for this exercise are “Forward”, “Halt”, “Forward”, “About Turn” and “Halt”. The handler may give one additional command during heeling without penalty.

**Stay – Sit or Down – Handler Walk Around the Ring.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit or down position as directed by the judge. All dogs entered in the class will perform the same stay exercise. 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.

Orders for this exercise are: “Sit/Down your dog,” “Leave your dog,” and “Exercise finished.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. Prior to starting the exercise, the judge will ask if the handler is ready. When the judge gives the order “Sit/Down your dog,” the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit/down. The judge will order “Leave your dog,” and the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed straight forward to the edge of the ring. 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. Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the ring, the handler will approach the dog from the front and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order “Exercise finished.”

**Stay – Sit or Down – Handler Walk Around the Ring, Scoring.** A score of Zero (0) is required for the dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the sit/down position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining. A substantial deduction 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 position after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order, “Exercise finished.” Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a score of Zero (0), will be made for any additional commands to the dog after the handler has commanded and/or signaled the dog to stay. Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handler to leave their dog, except 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/down. These will be penalized substantially; in extreme cases, the dog may be excused. The judge will not give the “Exercise finished” order until the handler has returned to heel position.

# NOVICE

**Novice Exercises and Scores.** The exercises and maximum scores in the Novice classes:

- |                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight | 40 points |
| 2. Stand for Examination          | 30 points |
| 3. Heel Free                      | 40 points |
| 4. Recall                         | 30 points |
| 5. Long Sit                       | 30 points |
| 6. Long Down                      | 30 points |

**Maximum Total Score 200 points**

**Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.** The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. Orders for this exercise are: "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn," "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal" and "Fast." "Fast" means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. All about turns will be right about turns. Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at a normal speed. The other orders may be given in any sequence, and turns and halts may be repeated. However, the judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class. The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position. Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of any extra commands and/or signals will be penalized. The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge will ask if the handler is ready before giving the order "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging or crowding. The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At each order to halt, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal and shall not move until the handler again moves forward on the judge's order. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again. The judge will say, "Exercise finished" after this portion of the exercise.

For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand, and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two stewards, who will stand 8 feet apart. The Figure Eight in the Novice classes will be done on leash; the handler may go around either steward first. After the judge asks, "Are you ready?" and gives the order, "Forward," the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two stewards twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end.

**Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Scoring.** If a handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash or is adapting to the dog's pace, that dog must receive a score of zero (0) for the exercise. Minor or substantial deductions, depending on the circumstances, 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. Substantial or minor 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 or does not walk at a brisk pace. While scoring this exercise, the judge should be near enough to observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog without interfering with either.

**Stand for Examination.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. Orders are: "Stand your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog," and "Exercise finished." On the judge's order, the handler will remove the leash and give it to a steward, who will place it on the judge's table or other designated place. The handler will take their dog to the place indicated by the judge and, on the judge's order, will stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler's choice, taking any reasonable time if they choose to pose the dog as in the show ring. The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position, give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet, and then turn and face the dog. The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch the dog's head, body and hindquarters. On the order "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished."

**Stand for Examination, Scoring.** 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. A dog must receive a score of zero (0) 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. Minor or substantial deductions, even to the point of a score of zero (0), 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.

**Heel Free, Performance and Scoring.** 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.

**Recall.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come. Orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish." On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward to the other end of the ring, turn to face the dog, and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot. On the judge's order, the handler will give a command or signal to finish. The dog must go smartly to heel position and sit. The manner in which the dog finishes will be optional, provided it is prompt and that the dog sits straight at heel.

**Recall, Scoring.** A dog must receive a score of zero (0) 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.

**Group Exercises.** The principal feature of these exercises is that the dog remain in the sitting or down position, whichever is required by the particular exercise. Orders are: "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs." All competing dogs in the class perform these exercises together. If, however, there are more dogs competing than can be spaced 4 feet per dog on one side of a ring, some must be judged in another group. The judge will divide the class into approximately equal sections, and the group exercise will be judged after each section. The dogs that are in the ring will be lined up in catalog order along one of the four sides of the ring. Each handler's armband, weighted as necessary, will be placed behind their dog.

Before starting the Long Sit, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. When the judge gives the order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit, if they are not already sitting. On further order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately will go to the opposite side of the ring, turn and face their dogs. The judge will promptly instruct the handler or a steward to remove any dog that interferes with another dog. Any dog that leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise must be excused from the remaining group exercise. After one minute from the time the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order to return. The handler must go back promptly, walking around and in back of their own dog to the heel position. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position.

Before starting the Long Down, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. On the judge's order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to down, without touching either the dogs or their collars, so that the dogs are facing the opposite side of the ring. The rest of this exercise is done in the same manner as the Long Sit, except that the judge will order the handlers to return after three minutes, and the dogs must not move from the down position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished." The dogs will not be required to sit at the end of this exercise.

**Group Exercises, Scoring.** A score of zero (0) is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, going over to any other dog, not remaining in the required position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining. A substantial deduction 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 a sit to a down or from a down to a sit after the handler has returned to the heel position and before the judge has given the order, "Exercise finished." Depending on the circumstance, a minor or substantial deduction will

be made for touching the dog or its collar while getting the dog into the down position. A dog that is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog must be repositioned by its handler and will be substantially penalized. In extreme cases the dog may be excused. A dog that interferes with another dog on the first group exercise must be excused from participating in the remaining group exercise.

During these exercises the judge will stand so that all the dogs are clearly visible and where the judge can see all the handlers in the ring without having to turn around. Scoring of the exercises will not start until after the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, except 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 or lie down. These will be penalized substantially; in extreme cases the dog may be excused. The judge will not give the "Exercise finished" order until the handlers have returned to heel position.

## ADVANCED NOVICE

This is a 4-H only class intended as an intermediary class between the Novice class and the Open class.

### Advanced Novice Exercises and Scoring

1.	Heel on Leash	30 points
2.	Stand for Examination	30 points
3.	Heel Free and Figure 8	40 points
4.	Modified Drop on Recall	40 points
5.	Long Sit	30 points
6.	Long Down	30 points

**Maximum Total Score**

**200 points**

**Heel On Leash and Figure Eight.** The exercise and scoring will be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, except that the Figure Eight will be done off leash.

**Stand for Examination.** The Stand for Examination shall be performed and scored as in the Novice with the exception of the actual exam. The judge shall examine the dog with 2 hands over the head, shoulders, back and hips as in dog show judging, except the exam will not include the teeth, testicles or tail.

**Heel Free and Figure 8.** These exercises shall be performed and scored as in the Novice class except that the Figure 8 is off lead.

**Modified Drop on Recall.** The principal features of this exercise is that the dog must remain in place until commanded by the handler to drop, The dog must come to the handler on first command or signal. Orders are "Sit (or Stand) your dog", "Leave your dog", "Drop your dog", "Call your dog" and "Finish your dog".

On beginning this exercise, the judge will inform the handler that they have a choice of leaving their dog on a sit or a stand and will ask the handler for their choice. The judge will then ask if the handler is ready. When the judge gives the order, the handler will sit or stand the dog. On further order to "Leave your dog" the handler will give a command or signal to "Stay" and then will immediately proceed away from the dog to a distance of approximately 15 feet, where the handler will turn and face the dog with the handler's arms hanging naturally at their side. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to down. On further order or signal from the judge, the handler will command or signal the dog to come, and then to finish.

**Modified Drop on Recall, Scoring.** A dog must receive a score of zero (0) if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if it fails to drop on the first command and/or signal, 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 drop or 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. A minor or substantial deduction will be made if the handler's arms are not hanging naturally at their side.

**Long Sit.** The Long Down exercise will be performed and scored as in the Novice group exercise, except that the judge will order the handlers to return after three minutes.

**Long Down.** The Long Down exercise will be performed and scored as in the Open group exercise, except that the judge will order the handlers to return after two minutes.

## GRADUATE NOVICE

### Graduate Novice Exercises and Scoring

- |    |  |           |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Heel on Leash and Figure Eight (off leash) | 40 points |
| 2. | Drop on Recall                             | 40 points |
| 3. | Dumbbell Recall                            | 30 points |
| 4. | Recall Over High Jump                      | 30 points |
| 5. | Recall Over Broad Jump                     | 30 points |
| 6. | Long Down                                  | 30 points |

**Maximum Total Score**

**200 points**

**Heel On Leash and Figure Eight.** The exercise and scoring will be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, except that the Figure Eight will be done off leash.

**Drop on Recall.** The exercise and scoring will be executed in the same manner as the Open Drop on Recall, except that the handler may give the command and/or signal to drop the dog.

**Dumbbell Recall.** This exercise will be performed like the Novice Recall but with the dog holding the dumbbell. In addition to the Novice Recall, the dog will promptly take, hold and deliver the dumbbell when commanded.

The judge's orders are: "Give your dog the dumbbell," "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," "Take it" and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. When the judge orders "Give your dog the dumbbell," the handler will present the dumbbell with one command. The dog must accept it readily and hold it. When the judge orders, the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward to the other end of the ring and turn to face the dog. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop. When the dog is sitting in front of the handler, the judge will order "Take it," and the handler will give a command and take the dumbbell. The finish will be done as in the Novice Recall. All appropriate penalties of the Novice Recall and Open Retrieve on Flat shall apply.

**Recall Over High Jump.** The principal features of the exercise are that the dog stay until directed to jump, clear the jump on a single command or signal, and immediately return to sit in front of the handler. Orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump. When the judge orders, "Leave your dog," the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay, go at least 8 feet beyond the other side of the high jump, and turn and face the dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. The dog must clear the high jump without touching it and, without any further command or signal, immediately sit in front of the handler and finish as in the Novice Recall. All penalties in the Novice Recall will apply. The height of the jump

will be required as it is for the Open Retrieve Over High Jump exercise as designated in these regulations.

**Recall Over Broad Jump.** The principal features of the exercise are the same as in the Recall Over High Jump exercise. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump, facing the lowest hurdle. When the judge orders, "Leave your dog," the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay, go at least 8 feet beyond the last hurdle, and turn and face the dog as in the Novice Recall. On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. The dog must clear the entire distance of the broad jump without touching it and, without any further command or signal, immediately sit in front of the handler and finish as in the Novice Recall. All penalties in the Novice Recall will apply. The distance of the jump will be the same as in the Open classes.

**Long Down.** The Long Down exercise will be performed and scored as in the Open group exercise, except that the judge will order the handlers to return after three minutes.

## PRE-OPEN

**Pre-Open Exercises and Scores.** The exercises and maximum score in the Pre-Open class:

1.	Heel Free & Figure Eight	40 points
2.	Drop on Recall	40 points
3.	Retrieve on Flat	40 points
4.	Retrieve over High Jump*	40 points
5.	Broad Jump	40 points
	<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	<b>200 points</b>

**NOTE: There are no Group (Long Sit/Long Down) exercises in the Pre-Open class.**

*\*The jump height is to be set at ½ the height of the dog at the withers, rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches (see Retrieve over High Jump section for additional information).*

All exercises will be performed as in the Open class except for the following:

**Retrieve Over High Jump.** The exercise will be executed in the same manner as the Open Retrieve Over High Jump, except that the jump height is to be set at ½ the height of the dog at the withers, rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches. The actual height of the dog shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to determine the minimum jump height, with the exception of dogs eligible for the 4- and 18- inch jump heights. Dogs eligible for the 4-inch jump height must be 12 inches or less at the withers and all dogs over 34 inches are eligible for the 18-inch jump height. Handlers who choose to have their dogs jump more than the minimum required height will neither be penalized nor receive extra consideration.

### Pre-Open Jump Height Table

Measured height of dog at withers	Minimum height to be jumped
12" or less	4"
Greater than 12" up to 18"	8"
Greater than 18" up to 22"	10"
Greater than 22" up to 26"	12"
Greater than 26" up to 30"	14"
Greater than 30" up to 34"	16"
Greater than 34"	18"

# OPEN

**Exercises and Scores.** The exercises and maximum score in the Open class:

- |                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Heel Free and Figure Eight | 40 points |
| 2. Drop on Recall             | 30 points |
| 3. Retrieve on Flat           | 20 points |
| 4. Retrieve over High Jump    | 30 points |
| 5. Broad Jump                 | 20 points |
| 6. Long Sit                   | 30 points |
| 7. Long Down                  | 30 points |

**Maximum Total Score**                      **200 points**

## **Heel Free and Figure Eight, Performance and Scoring.**

This exercise will be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog will be off leash. Orders and scoring are the same as in Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

**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. The judge will order "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," then give a clear signal to drop the dog, followed by "Call your dog" and "Finish." On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn, face the dog, and stand naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop. On the judge's arm or hand signal, the handler shall give the command or signal to drop, and the dog must drop immediately to a complete down position. The dog must remain down until the judge gives the order or signal for the handler to signal or command the dog to come. The dog completes the exercise as in the Novice Recall.

**Drop on Recall, Scoring.** A score of zero (0) 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 score of zero (0), shall 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.

**Retrieve on Flat.** The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog retrieve promptly. Orders are: "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it" and "Finish." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. On the judge's order "Throw it," the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay. If the handler does use a signal, that signal may not be given with the hand that is holding the dumbbell. After the dumbbell is thrown at least 20 feet, the judge will order the handler to "Send your dog." The retrieve should be executed at a brisk trot or gallop. The dog will go directly to the dumbbell and retrieve it, returning directly to the handler as in the Novice Recall without unnecessary mouthing or playing. On order from the judge to "Take it," the handler will

give command or signal and take the dumbbell. The finish will be executed as in the Novice Recall. The dumbbell, which must be approved by the judge, will be made of one or more solid pieces of wood or non-wooden material similar in size, shape and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted. Dumbbells will not be hollowed out. They may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish or may be any color. They may not have decorations or attachments but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell will be proportionate to the size of the 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.

**Retrieve on Flat, Scoring.** A dog must receive a score of zero (0) 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, 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.

**Retrieve Over High Jump.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog go out over the jump, pick up the dumbbell and promptly return with it over the jump. Orders are: "Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish." This exercise will be executed in the same manner as the Retrieve on Flat, except that the dog will clear the high jump both going and coming. The handler will stand at least 8 feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump, will remain in the same spot throughout the exercise, and will throw the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. (These 8-foot distances should be clearly marked.) Jump heights shall be set in multiples of 2 inches with no dog jumping less than 4 inches or more than 36 inches. A jump height is determined by the height of the dog at the withers (see table for standard jump heights). The actual height of the dog shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to determine the minimum jump height, with the exception of dogs eligible for the 4 inch jump height. Dogs eligible for the 4 inch jump height must be less than 7 1/2 inches at the withers. Handlers who choose to have their dogs jump more than the minimum required height will neither be penalized nor receive extra consideration. The minimum jump height for breeds listed in the Breed Jump Exception Table shall be set to three-quarters the dog's actual height at the withers. This jump height shall also be rounded to a multiple of 2 inches. The stewards, based on the jump height listed, will preset the jumps. The judge will make certain the jump is at least the minimum required height for each dog and must also be aware that the jump may be set at a higher height if requested by the handler. Judges may, at their discretion, verify the height of any dog at the withers. The high jump will be 5 feet wide and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and adjustable at 2-inch increments from 8 inches to 36 inches. The uprights of the high jump will be 4 feet high. In addition, four 8-inch boards, one 4-inch board and one 2-inch board should be available for use. The jump will be a flat white. The height of each board will be indicated in black 2-inch numbers.

**Retrieve Over High Jump, Scoring.** 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 score of zero (0). Depending on the specific circumstances, minor or substantial deductions shall be made for a dog that touches the jump when going over it or for a dog that displays any hesitation in jumping. All other penalties listed under the Retrieve on Flat apply.

**Broad Jump.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until directed to jump, that the dog clear the jump on a single command or signal, and that the dog return to its handler after it has jumped. Orders are "Leave your dog," "Send your dog," and "Finish." 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.) On order from the judge to "Leave your dog," the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay and 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 toes about 2 feet from the jump. On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler will execute a 90-degree pivot, but will remain in the same spot. The dog will clear the entire distance of the hurdles without touching them and, without further command or signal, immediately return to a sitting position in front of the handler, finishing as in the Novice Recall. The broad jump will consist of four white telescoping hurdles, all about 8 inches wide. The largest hurdle will measure about 5 feet long and about 6 inches at the highest point. In the ring, they will be arranged in order of size, evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump setting for each dog. Four hurdles will be used for a jump of 48 to 72 inches, three for 28 to 44 inches, two for a jump of 16 to 24 inches, and one for 8 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the distance jumped by each dog is in accordance with these regulations.

**Broad Jump, Scoring.** 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 score of zero (0). 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 in jumping, or that touches the jump. All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall shall apply.

**Open Group Exercises, Performance and Scoring.** During these exercises the judge will stand so that all the dogs are clearly visible. Without having to turn around, judges should be able to see all the handlers as they leave and return to the ring. These exercises are performed in the same manner as in the Novice classes, except that the handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring then leave in a single file and go completely out of the dogs' sight. Counting from the judge's order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers must remain in the place designated by the judge until three minutes have passed for the Long Sit and five minutes for the Long Down. On the judge's orders, the handlers will return to the ring in reverse order, line up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring, and return to their dogs. Orders and scoring are the same as in the Novice group exercises.

## GRADUATE OPEN

Suggested judging rate is seven dogs per hour.

### Graduate Open Exercises and Scoring.

- |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Signal Exercise              | 40 points |
| 2. Scent Discrimination         | 30 points |
| 3. Directed Retrieve            | 30 points |
| 4. Moving Stand and Examination | 30 points |
| 5. Go Out                       | 30 points |
| 6. Directed Jumping             | 40 points |

**Maximum Total Score**                      **200 points**

**Signal Exercise.** The exercise and scoring will be the same as in the Utility Signal exercise, except that leaving the dog will be from 10 to 20 feet and the handler may give the command and/or signal on the judge's order to stand and the judge's signals to stay, down, sit, come and finish.

**Scent Discrimination.** The exercise and scoring will be the same as in the Utility Scent Discrimination exercise except that there will only be four articles (two leather and two metal), the handler and dog will remain facing the articles, and only one article will be retrieved. It is the handler's discretion as to which article is retrieved.

**Directed Retrieve.** The exercise and scoring will be performed as the Utility Directed Retrieve exercise, except that no center glove is used.

**Moving Stand and Examination.** The exercise and scoring will be the same as in the Utility Moving Stand and Examination, except that the handler may pause or hesitate when giving the command and/or signal to stand.

**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 "Return to your dog." The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring between the jumps facing the unobstructed end of the ring. The judge will order "Send your dog," and 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. The judge will then order the handler, "Return to your dog," and the handler will return to the heel position.

**Directed Jumping.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left, jump as directed, and return to the handler as in the Novice Recall. The orders are: "Leave your dog," "Bar," "High" and "Finish." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at the unobstructed end and in the center of the ring. The judge will order "Leave your dog," and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay, then walk to the far end of the ring and turn to face the dog. The judge will order either "Bar" or "High" for the jump, and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the handler over that designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of

the handler, and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. The dog will be sent over only one jump, and the same jump will be used for all dogs as designated by the judge at the start of the class.

## PRE-UTILITY

### Pre-Utility Exercises and Scores. :

- |    |                                 |           |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Signal Exercise                 | 40 points |
| 2. | Scent Discrimination Article #1 | 30 points |
| 3. | Scent Discrimination Article #2 | 30 points |
| 4. | Directed Retrieve               | 30 points |
| 5. | Moving Stand and Exam           | 30 points |
| 6. | Directed Jumping*               | 40 points |

**Maximum Total Score**                      **200 points**

*\*The jump height is to be set at ½ the height of the dog at the withers, rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches see the Directed Jumping exercise for additional information).*

**Pre-Utility Exercises and Scoring.** All exercises will be performed and scored as in the Utility class except for the following:

**Signal Exercise.** The Signal Exercise will be the same as in the Utility class, except the handler will be permitted to use one single verbal command during the signal portion of this exercise.

**Scent Discrimination.** The Scent Discrimination exercise will be the same as in the Utility class, except the articles will consist of two sets, each comprised of four identical objects, which may be items of everyday use and the handler will present all eight articles to the judge, who will make a written note of the numbers on the two articles they have selected.

**Directed Jumping.** The Directed Jumping exercise will be the same as in the Utility class, except that the jump height is to be set at ½ the height of the dog at the withers, rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches. The actual height of the dog shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to determine the minimum jump height, with the exception of dogs eligible for the 4- and 18-inch jump heights. Dogs eligible for the 4-inch jump height must be 12 inches or less at the withers and all dogs over 34 inches are eligible for the 18-inch jump height. Handlers who choose to have their dogs jump more than the minimum required height will neither be penalized nor receive extra consideration.

### Pre-Utility Jump Height Table

Measured height of dog at withers	Minimum height to be jumped
12" or less	4"
Greater than 12" up to 18"	8"
Greater than 18" up to 22"	10"
Greater than 22" up to 26"	12"
Greater than 26" up to 30"	14"

Greater than 30" up to 34" 16"

Greater than 34" 18"

# UTILITY

**Utility Exercises and Scores.** The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging in the Utility class:

- |    |                                  |           |
|----|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Signal Exercise                  | 40 points |
| 2. | Scent Discrimination Article # 1 | 30 points |
| 3. | Scent Discrimination Article # 2 | 30 points |
| 4. | Directed Retrieve                | 30 points |
| 5. | Moving Stand and Examination     | 30 points |
| 6. | Directed Jumping                 | 40 points |

**Maximum Total Score**                      **200 points**

**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 signals to stand, stay, down, sit and come. 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 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 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 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.

**Signal Exercise, Scoring.** 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 score of zero (0). Depending on the specific 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. A substantial deduction will be made for any audible command during the heeling or finish portions of the exercise. All applicable penalties listed under the Heel on Leash and the Novice Recall (after the dog has been signaled to come) exercises will apply.

**Scent Discrimination.** The principal features of these exercises are the selection of the handler's article from among the other articles by scent alone and the prompt delivery of the correct article to the handler. The judge will ask, "What method will you be using to send your dog?" The handler must respond with either "After a sit" or "Send directly." The judge will then ask, "Are you ready?" immediately prior to taking the article from the handler. This taking of the article will be considered to be the first order, and scoring of the exercise will begin at that time. The remaining orders are: "Send your dog," "Take it," and "Finish." In each of these two exercises, the dog must select and retrieve an article that has been handled by its handler. The dog must make this selection based on scent alone. The articles will be provided by the handler and will consist of two sets, each comprised of five identical objects, which may be items of everyday use. The size of the articles will be proportionate to the size of the dog. One set must be made entirely of rigid metal and one of leather, designed so that only a minimum amount of thread or other material is visible. The articles in

each set will be legibly numbered with a different number and must be approved by the judge. The handler will present all ten articles to the judge, who will make a written note of the numbers on the two articles they have selected. These articles will be placed on a table or chair within the ring until the handler picks each up separately. The judge or steward will handle each of the remaining eight 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. Before the dog is sent, the judge must make sure that the articles are visible to both dog and handler and that they are far enough apart so that there will be no confusion of scent among articles. After the articles have been put out, the handler and dog will turn around and will remain facing away until the judge has given the order, "Send your dog." The handler may use either article first, but must hand it to the judge immediately when ordered. The judge will make certain handlers scent each article with their hands only. On the judge's order, the handler will place the article on the judge's book or worksheet. Without touching that article, the judge or steward will place it among the others. On order from the judge to "Send your dog," the handler may give the command to heel and will turn in place, either right or left, to face the articles. The handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. The handler will then give the command or signal to retrieve. Handlers may, on order from the judge to "Send your dog," do a right about-turn, simultaneously giving the command or signal to retrieve. In this case, the dog should not assume a sitting position but must go directly to the articles. Handlers have the option as to how the dog is sent. Handlers may give their scent by extending the palm of one hand in front of the dog's nose or gently touching the dog's nose, but the arm and hand must be returned to a natural position before they turn and face the articles. The dog should go directly to the articles at a brisk trot or gallop. It may take any reasonable time to select the correct article but must work continuously. After picking up the correct article, the dog will complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat. This procedure should be followed for both articles. If a dog retrieves the wrong first article, that article and the correct one must be removed. They will be placed on the table or chair, and the next exercise will be done with one less article.

**Scent Discrimination, Scoring.** A dog that retrieves a wrong article or that does not complete the retrieve of the right article must receive a score of zero (0). If the "After a sit" method is used, anticipating the command to retrieve must receive a score of zero (0). If the "Send directly" method is used, any additional command to retrieve must receive a score of zero (0). Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions should be made for a dog that is slow, that does not go directly to the articles, that does not work continuously, or for a handler who uses excessive motions when turning toward the articles. Similar deductions will be made for a dog that picks up the wrong article, even if it is immediately put down again, for any roughness by handlers in giving their scent to the dog, or for handlers not turning in place. 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 Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.

**Directed Retrieve.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay until directed to retrieve and that it go directly to the designated glove and retrieve it promptly. In this exercise the handler will provide three gloves that are predominately white. They must be open and must be approved by the judge. Handlers will stand with their backs to the unobstructed end of the ring midway between and in line with the jumps. The dog will be sitting in heel position. The judge or steward will drop the gloves across the end of the ring while the handler and dog are facing the opposite direction. One glove is dropped about 3 feet in from each corner, and the remaining glove is dropped in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring. The gloves will be designated "One," "Two," or "Three," reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The orders for the exercise are: "One," "Two," or "Three," "Take it," and "Finish." When the judge designates the glove by number, the handler will turn in place to face the glove, halting with the dog sitting in heel position. The handler may not touch the dog or reposition it. The handler will give the dog the direction to the

designated glove with a single motion of the left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. Either simultaneously with or immediately following giving the direction, the handler must give a verbal retrieve command. The dog must then go directly to the glove, completing the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat. Handlers may bend their bodies and knees as far as necessary to give the direction to the dogs but must then stand up in a natural position with their arms at their sides. The judge will designate the same glove number for each handler. For each judging assignment, the judge must alternate the number of the glove used.

**Directed Retrieve, Scoring.** A score of zero (0) is required for any commands or signals to position the dog after the handler turns to face the glove, for a dog that does not go directly to the designated glove, or for a dog that does not retrieve the correct glove. A handler who does not give a verbal command to retrieve simultaneously or immediately after giving the direction to retrieve must receive a score of zero (0). A substantial deduction, depending on the extent of the infraction, will be made for a handler who does not turn in place or does not face the designated glove. The substantial deduction may include a score of zero (0). All applicable penalties listed under the Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat will apply.

**Moving Stand and Examination.** The principal features of the exercise are that the dog heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away; accept the examination without shyness or resentment; and return to the handler on command. Orders for the exercise are: "Forward," "Stand your dog," and "Call your dog to heel." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position at a point indicated by the judge. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" and then will order "Forward." The handler will command or signal the dog to heel. After the handler has proceeded about 10 feet, the judge will order "Stand your dog." Without pausing, 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. The judge will approach the dog from the front to examine it as in dog show judging, except the exam will not include the teeth, testicles or tail. When the judge orders "Call your dog to heel," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the heel position. The dog should return to heel position in a brisk manner.

**Moving Stand and Examination, Scoring.** A score of zero (0) 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. Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions must 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. Depending on the extent of hesitation, minor or substantial deductions should be made for the handler who hesitates or pauses while giving the stand command and/or signal. All appropriate penalties of the Novice Heel Free, Stand for Examination and Recall exercises will apply.

**Directed Jumping.** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring, stop, jump as directed, and return as in the Novice Recall. The orders are: "Send your dog," "Bar," "High" and "Finish." The jumps will be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the longest sides of the ring about 18 to 20 feet apart. The judge must see that the jumps are set at the required height for each dog, as described in the Retrieve Over High Jump. The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring with the dog sitting in heel position, about 20 feet from the jumps and midway between them. Upon order from the judge, 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. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but

it need not sit squarely. The judge will order either “Bar” or “High” for the first jump, and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of the handler and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. After the dog has returned to heel position, the judge will say, “Exercise finished.” When the dog is set up for the second half of this exercise, the judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the order for the second part of the exercise. The same procedure will be followed for the second jump. It is optional which jump the judge first indicates, but both jumps must be included. The judge must not designate the jump until the dog has reached the far end of the ring. The height of the jumps and construction of the high jump will be the same as required in the Open classes. The bar jump will consist of a bar between 2 and 2 1/2 inches square with the edges rounded to remove any sharpness. The bar will be flat black and white in alternate sections each about 3 inches wide. The bar will have the weight of wood. It will be supported by two unconnected 4-foot upright posts about 5 feet apart and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and must be adjustable for each 2 inches of height from 8 inches to 36 inches. The jump must be built so that the bar may be knocked off without affecting the uprights.

**Directed Jumping, Scoring.** A dog will receive a score of zero (0) 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. 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. Depending on the extent of the violation, minor or substantial deductions will be made for slowness in going out, for touching the jumps, or for any hesitation in jumping. All applicable penalties of the Novice Recall exercises will apply.

# VETERANS/MODIFIED

This is a 4-H only class created to allow 4-H members with dogs who are elderly or in some way physically unable to meet the demands of upper level Obedience classes. To enter this class, the member has received permission from their club leader.

**Veterans/Modied Exercises and Scores.** The exercises, maximum scores and order of judging in the Utility class:

1.	Heel Free and Figure 8	40 points
2.	Drop on Recall	30 points
3.	Optional Exercise	50 points
4.	Long Stand	30 points
5.	Long Sit	25 points
6.	Long Down	25 points
	<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	<b>200 points</b>

**Heel Free and Figure 8.** These exercises are to be performed and scored as in the Open class.

**Drop on Recall.** This exercise is to be performed and scored as in the Open class.

**Optional Class.** Before the class begins, the handler must choose one exercise from this list:

1. **Signal Exercise.** This exercise is to be performed and scored as in the Utility class.
2. **Scent Discrimination.** This exercise is to be performed and scored as in the Utility class.
3. **Directed Retrieve.** This exercise is to be performed and scored as in the Utility class.
4. **Moving Stand and Exam.** This exercise is to be performed and scored as in the Utility class.
5. **Retrieve on Flat.** This exercise is to be performed and scored as in the Open class.

**Long Stand.** This is a group exercise performed in similar manner to the Stand for Examination in the Novice class. The judge will ask the handlers "Are you ready?" and then will order the handlers to stand their dogs. Once all handlers have stood their dogs, the judge will order "Leave your dogs" upon which the handlers will proceed away from their dogs 15 feet and face their dogs. The judge will then examine each dog in turn in a manner as in the Novice Stand for Examination. After one minute, or after all dogs have been examined (whichever is longer). The judge will order the handlers "Back to your dogs" and then "Exercise Finished". All applicable deductions for the Novice Stand for Examination and the Novice group exercises shall apply.

**Long Sit.** This exercise will be performed and scored as in the Novice Class.

**Long Down.** This exercise will be performed and scored as in the Novice Class except that the time will be for one minute.

## **Breed Jump Exception Table**

**These breeds will have the jump height set at  $\frac{3}{4}$  the height of the dog at the withers.**

AKITA  
ARGENTINE DOGO  
BASSET HOUND  
BERGAMASCO  
BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG  
BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER  
BLOODHOUND  
BOLOGNESE  
BORZOI  
BULLDOG  
BULLMASTIFF  
CARDIGAN WELSH CORGIS  
CAUCASIAN MOUNTAIN DOG  
CHINESE SHAR-PEI  
CHOW CHOW  
CLUMBER SPANIEL  
DACHSHUND  
DANDIE DINMONT TERRIER  
DOGUE DE BORDEAUX  
ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOG  
FRENCH BULLDOG  
GLEN OF IMAAL TERRIER  
GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN  
GREAT DANE  
GREAT PYRENEES  
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG  
IRISH WOLFHOUND  
KISHU KEN  
KOOIKERHONDJES  
KUVASZOK  
LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLI  
LEONBERGER  
MASTIFF  
NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF  
NEWFOUNDLAND  
NORWICH TERRIER  
OTTERHOUND  
PEKINGESE  
PEMBROKE WELSH CORGIS  
PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN  
PORTUGUESE PODENGO  
PUG  
SAINT BERNARD  
SCOTTISH TERRIER  
SEALYHAM TERRIER  
SHIH TZU  
SKYE TERRIER  
SUSSEX SPANIEL  
SWEDISH VALLHUND  
THAI RIDGEBACK  
WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER

## **Standard Jump Height Table**

**Measured height of dog at withers    Minimum height to be jumped**

Less than 7 ½"	4"
7 ½" to 9"	8"
Greater than 9" up to 11"	10"
Greater than 11" up to 13"	12"
Greater than 13" up to 15"	14"
Greater than 15" up to 17"	16"
Greater than 17" up to 19"	18"
Greater than 19" up to 21"	20"
Greater than 21" up to 23"	22"
Greater than 23" up to 25"	24"
Greater than 25" up to 27"	26"
Greater than 27" up to 29"	28"
Greater than 29" up to 31"	30"
Greater than 31" up to 33"	32"
Greater than 33" up to 35"	34"
Greater than 35" up to 37"	36"
Greater than 37"	36"

# OBEDIENCE JUDGES' GUIDELINES

Judges are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the guidelines in this booklet. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in removal of the judge from consideration to judge future 4-H events.

## PURPOSE

Obedience trials are a sport, and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and out of the ring. Obedience trials demonstrate the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the obedience ring and emphasize the usefulness of the dog as a companion to man. All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The basic objective of obedience trials, however, is to recognize dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect credit on the sport of obedience at all times and under all conditions. The performance of dog and handler in the ring must be accurate and correct according to these regulations. It is also essential that the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment while it is working and that a smooth and natural handler be given precedence over a handler moving with military precision and using harsh commands.

## THE OBEDIENCE JUDGE

**Remember, You Make it Work!** As an obedience judge, you are an essential part of the fancy. The obedience trial system needs your dedication and expertise in order to function properly. This booklet is designed as an easy-to-use guide for all 4-H judges. We believe it will make it easier for you to do your job and contribute to the sport of obedience. You should be thoroughly familiar with this guide, as well as all of the 4-H Dog Project rules if you have accepted a request to judge any 4-H Obedience class or classes.

This booklet cannot cover all situations; nor can it substitute for common sense. Whenever you have a question about judging procedure or conduct, please email [dogjudges@4h.wsu.edu](mailto:dogjudges@4h.wsu.edu). When at a trial, the dog project superintendent or trial chair is the first person to whom you should turn to discuss questions having to do with your judging.

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A JUDGE

Judges must understand their responsibilities to the sport.

**Responsibility to Exhibitors.** Each exhibitor has paid an entry fee for the purpose of competing and having their dog's performance evaluated. Judges are expected to be friendly and courteous to all who enter the ring. Without exhibitors, there would be no trials. For every experienced exhibitor there are many newcomers. The future of this sport is in the hands of the novice. After a judge completes an assignment and has turned in the judge's book, it is appropriate for the judge to discuss an individual dog's performance with the handler, if the handler requests this information. However, a judge should never continue a conversation with an angry or aggressive person.

**Responsibility to Spectators.** Spectators form their opinion of the sport through seeing the actions of the judge, the handler and the dog. Care must be taken to avoid any action that might reflect poorly on the sport. Judges should work to maintain spectator appeal in the sport while keeping foremost in mind the welfare and convenience of the exhibitor and the dog.

**Responsibility to the Sport.** Approval to judge carries with it the full endorsement of the Washington State 4-H Dog Project. Whether judging at a licensed trial or sanctioned match or engaging in any dog-related activity, judges must be cognizant of their responsibility to the sport. Judges must never

ignore or condone any type of abuse of a dog at any time. All judges are expected to take appropriate action when witnessing such conduct.

As a judge, you are required to meet these key criteria:

- **Knowledge.** Through experience and continuing study, you must demonstrate sound knowledge of the dogs you evaluate and score. Good judges never stop learning about the sport of obedience.
- **Procedure.** You must demonstrate sound judging procedure and ring control, plus a thorough knowledge of the WASHINGTON STATE 4-H DOG PROJECT *Rules* and the *Obedience Judges' Guidelines*. Good procedure is essential. With it, a judge will inspire the confidence of exhibitors and spectators.
- **Impartiality.** It is essential that exhibitors have full faith in the impartiality and competence of judges. There is no room for even the suggestion that anything other than the work of the dogs in the ring is involved in your decisions.

## **ETHICS: HONESTY PLUS COMMON SENSE**

You must possess and project an unwavering air of integrity and ethical behavior that maintains the reputation of WASHINGTON STATE 4-H DOG PROJECT Obedience trials as being fair and properly judged. With common sense, judges can easily avoid situations that might raise ethical questions. Judges are presumed to be honest, competent and dedicated. Nevertheless, it is all too easy to find yourself in uncomfortable or even inappropriate situations. These guidelines cannot cover every situation. They can, however, help you avoid improprieties or perceived improprieties.

Be aware that in 4-H you will be judging youth from ages 9 to 19. Most of these youth will be exhibiting their family dogs and many will have mentors who may have never trained a dog themselves nor even observed a “real” obedience trial. While the rules must be followed for scoring, kindness and patience should be the rule of the day. The youth member may not grasp your instructions right away and you may need to restate your instructions in simpler terms. Some very young members may even be confused which is “right:” and which is “left”.

Some ethical rules are clear. For example:

- Never accept any payments or presents for past or future placements.
- Advise potential exhibitors not to enter under you when their presence or the presence of their dogs might give the impression of unfair advantage, such as a person with whom you own dogs, wholly or in part, dogs that have been regularly trained or instructed by you, your employer, your employee, or a relative.

These are only examples. The key is to avoid situations that might give the impression of impropriety. The WASHINGTON STATE 4-H DOG PROJECT recognizes you cannot control who enters. This does not diminish the importance of appearances. Everything possible must be done to keep your reputation above reproach.

## **BEWARE OF THOSE GRAY AREAS**

Judges are often singled out for critical observation by exhibitors. Keep in mind that a perfectly innocent action or discussion can be misconstrued.

## **ACCEPTING ASSIGNMENTS**

Judges should understand that upon acceptance of an invitation, they are committing themselves to the trial-giving club for the entire day. Their travel plans should not be predicated on arriving late or on leaving early to get transportation home or to another show. Judges should not ask clubs or superintendents to arrange judging programs to accommodate their travel plans. Judges should not travel to or from trials or stay with anyone who is likely to be exhibiting or handling under them.

## **SICKNESS AND FITNESS TO JUDGE**

**Fitness to Judge.** An obedience judge must be capable of performing the functions necessary to properly evaluate the dogs. This means judges must have:

- The maneuverability to negotiate a ring, indoors and out, with or without mechanical assistance, i.e., a wheelchair, crutches, or a cane.
- The flexibility to examine and measure dogs and the retrieval of articles, where applicable.
- The dexterity to move at a sufficient speed to adhere to the schedule of the trial-giving group.
- Normal vision (correctable by eyeglasses or contact lenses), i.e., be able to judge dogs at a distance.
- The capability to complete all the necessary paperwork.

**Sickness.** Judges are expected to be physically fit. If you find you cannot fulfill an assignment because of illness or other serious occurrence, immediately notify the trial secretary and/or superintendent and the trial chairperson by telephone, overnight letter, telegram, e-mail or fax. If you are delayed en route to a show, make every effort to contact the trial secretary or superintendent's office immediately. When judges can no longer properly perform the duties of a judge because of physical difficulties, they do the position and the sport a disservice by continuing to accept assignments.

**Rules.** The rules are the basic guide to judging but do not contain explicit directions for every possible situation and only list the more common and serious faults.

They clearly define the exercises, their order and the standards by which they are to be judged. The rules set the standard of perfection by which the performance of each dog is scored and give the judge little choice in deciding how an exercise is to be performed. They require that judges fulfill their responsibility by making competent decisions based on a mental picture of the perfect performance. The knowledge gained from studying the rules, exhibiting and attending obedience seminars, and putting this knowledge into practice will permit a judge to make practical the principles of sound judging. Judges are given full discretionary authority within the framework of the rules. Judges must exercise this authority impartially. Judges are required to make their own decisions and to accept the responsibility this implies. If a decision depends on the exact wording of the rules, the judge is expected to look up the specific regulation prior to making the decision. A judge may not discard, modify or require anything not specified in the rules. Scores for each exercise must be amply justified by the performance of dog and handler. The owner of any dog that receives a deserved score of 190 points has reason to be very proud of the dog. A score of 170 points should indicate a very creditable performance and fully justify the awarding of the appropriate ribbon. A score of 200 points is possible, but it is extremely rare when the requirements of the rules are followed. It is a normal occurrence for a dog and handler to earn a perfect score on one or two of the exercises, but it is very rare for a judge to have the privilege of observing and scoring a dog and handler who perform perfectly all the exercises in a class.

## **PREPARATION PRIOR TO JUDGING**

**Be on Time.** Be at your ring at least 30 to 45 minutes before your judging time. Upon arrival, report immediately to the superintendent or trial secretary.

**Avoid Contacts.** Do not discuss the merits of the dogs to be judged, or talk at length with anyone who may be exhibiting under you. When you have completed all assignments for a trial, then such contact is permissible. But be prudent. Your friends, if they are considerate, should be discreet in making conversation with you prior to judging. It is your responsibility to remind them to do so.

**Proper Dress.** It is important for a judge to maintain a proper and professional appearance. The judge is in the ring to do a job, not to be the center of attention because of outlandish dress or bizarre behavior.

**Check the Ring.** Prior to the scheduled time for judging, the judge inspects the ring. Size shall be determined by the judge pacing the ring. If outdoors, the ring should be about 40 by 50 feet, and the grass should be cut short. Indoor rings should be about 40 by 50 feet. Indoor rings for Novice or Open may not be less than about 30 by 40 feet, and indoor Utility rings may not be less than about 35 by 50 feet. In Open and Utility classes, the jumps are measured by the judge to make sure they meet the requirements of the rules. A deviation of up to one-half inch is considered a minor change and is acceptable. If the jumps are made of a material other than wood, they must meet all the requirements of the rules, including weight and flat finish. Having checked the jumps, the judge will place the jumps in the ring, giving special attention to lighting and ring enclosures, and make an observation from a dog's line of sight. For Utility classes, the jumps shall be midway in the ring, at right angles to the longest sides of the ring and about 18 to 20 feet apart. If mats are placed under the jumps, they should be at least 4 feet in width. If there are ring or equipment deficiencies, the judge shall bring them to the attention of the trial secretary or superintendent so that they may be corrected in accordance with the provisions of the rules. If the deficiencies cannot be corrected quickly, the judge will proceed to judge the class, under the deficient conditions. In extreme cases, where the deficiencies, in the opinion of the judge, are of such major proportion as to seriously affect the dog's performance or safety, the judge will give each handler the option of not competing. Under no condition may a judge refuse to judge a class.

**Stewards.** The judge shall review with the stewards their duties and the manner in which they are to be performed. Stewards are to be instructed that they are in the ring only to assist the judge. Any request from an exhibitor for special consideration must be directed to the judge.

## **PROCEDURES IN THE RING**

**Judging the Dogs.** The judge has absolute control and unquestioned authority over all persons and dogs in the ring. With this authority comes the responsibility to be courteous and considerate. Be as systematic in your ring procedure from dog to dog as conditions permit. A judge's comments, other than orders to the handler of a dog, shall be limited to a brief greeting, instructions on positioning the dog, and instructions covering the group exercises. A judge will never ask handlers about club affiliations, their opinions or about their dogs' past performances. The actual judging procedure may vary from judge to judge, but performance requirements must remain the same. Position is important for two reasons: first, to establish consistency of judging in the minds of exhibitors and spectators and, second, to properly evaluate the dog and handler. Being in the right position to observe a dog's performance is essential. There is no perfect position, but this does not mean that some positions are not better than others. All dogs shall be viewed from the same relative position. When viewing the dog and handler from the side, try to observe from the dog's side without the handler between you and the dog. Handlers should expect and train for a reasonable amount of movement by the judge while the dog is working. Judges must not move quickly toward a dog as it is moving, stand closely behind a dog, or follow a heeling dog too closely. Judges shall always be in a position to see both the dog and handler at the same time without having to turn their heads. Judges shall stand with their attention on the dogs and handlers during group exercises. During the Open group exercises, judges shall be in a position to see both the dogs and the handlers as they leave and enter the ring. Fronts and finishes are to be judged from a position in front of the handler. The judging of an exercise normally begins when the judge gives the first order, except for the unusual circumstances as stated in the *Rules*. Corrections, loud repeated directions, a harsh tone of voice toward the dog to get it into position, and handling the dog at any time in the ring between exercises (other than gently guiding a

dog by the collar in the Novice classes) is to be substantially penalized under Miscellaneous Penalties.

## **Philosophy of Scoring.**

**Natural Manner.** The rules place emphasis on handling that appears natural. 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. It is up to each judge to decide when, and to what extent, the performance of any particular handler is lacking in naturalness and when the hands of the handler are not in a natural position. A judge is expected to penalize a handler if, in the judge's opinion, the handler's manner or handling is unnatural. 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. Any motion that the judge considers to aid the dog's performance should be penalized.

**Collars.** Dogs in the obedience ring must wear a properly fitted collar approved by the judge. No special training collars, such as electronic collars or prong collars will be permitted. Nothing may be hanging from the collars. No dog may enter the ring, either for judging or for awards, with unacceptable equipment. Handlers are not permitted to wear such things as waist packs/pouches or any item that, in the judge's opinion, appears to be a training device or aid.

**Excusal.** The rules cover excusal of a dog and its handler. A dog must be immediately excused if it attacks or attempts to attack a person or another dog in the ring or while waiting in line up for group exercised. The superintendent or person in charge of the event must be immediately notified if the dog is excused for aggressive behavior.

A dog that is lame in the ring may not compete in that class and shall not be judged, if in the opinion of the judge the lameness is a result of an injury and that the dog is in pain or may suffer further injury if it continues in the class. It is the sole responsibility of the judge to determine whether the dog is lame.

The judge must excuse from the class as "unfit to compete" any dog that demonstrates sickness, such as vomiting, in the ring.

A dog that relieves itself in the ring may be excused at the judge's option. In any case the judge must give a zero score for that exercise. A judge may permit a handler to remove the dog from the ring and then return and resume the exercise if it appears that the dog might foul the ring, but in that case the judge must consider that if such permission had not been given the ring would have probably been fouled. Therefore, the dog shall be considered as having relieved itself and the exercise scored accordingly.

**Measuring.** In the Open and Utility classes judges may, at their discretion, verify the height of the dog at the withers as it is brought into the ring. Withers, as defined in the glossary of the rules, are the highest point of the dog's shoulder. The measurement is made using an ordinary folding ruler or steel tape that may be calibrated to show the correct jump height. Nothing may be attached to determine level position. No other measuring device is required or acceptable in the ring. The ruler or tape is held by the judge. Measurements made by the judge are final and are not subject to verification.

**Misbehavior.** A dog that demonstrates uncontrolled behavior must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior. There is no reference in the rules to leaving the ring. Nor is it mandatory to award a score of zero (0) to a dog that leaves the ring. If a dog is working smartly and

continuously but goes outside a ring boundary while completing an exercise (as opposed to a dog that bolts out of the ring or leaves the ring between exercises), the penalty, if any, is left to the discretion of the judge.

**Heeling Pattern.** Having set up the ring, the judge must determine the exact heeling pattern to be used. The pattern should be shown to the first handler in the class. The same pattern should be maintained as far as practicable for each competing dog. This is a foundation exercise, and it determines the standards for all exercises in which the dog is heeling. In scoring this exercise, judges shall accompany the handler at a discreet distance so that they can observe any signals or commands given by the handler to the dog. The judge must do so without interfering with either dog or handler. The judge should attempt to be in a position during the course of the exercise so that the dog and the handler may be observed from the rear, front, and side. The minimum heeling requirements for any class are normal heeling, a fast, a slow, a left turn, a right turn, an about turn, a halt, and a sit. Dogs receiving an extra command during heeling will receive a substantial deduction for the extra command. Subsequent additional commands could indicate the dog is not under control and is not working with the handler as a team. The judge must determine whether the dog should receive a score of zero (0) for heeling based on the overall performance of the dog and handler during the entire exercise. 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 should 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 shall be of significant length, not just several steps. No pattern shall have more than one fast and one slow. If possible, have one leg of the heeling pattern with no element on it. The “L” pattern is a minimal pattern. Other patterns are acceptable, but excessive complexity should be avoided.

**Heel Free.** This is to be judged using the same standards and procedures as the Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, except that it is off leash. Another exception requires a substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not as follows:

- “When the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the side.”
  - “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.”
- In either of the above situations, the hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of an exercise in order to maintain balance.

**Stand for Examination.** The handler will leave the dog and walk straight forward about 6 feet, turn and face the dog. The judge must be alert to keep handlers from going more or less than about 6 feet and must penalize the dog whose handler backs away when leaving. The examination by the judge shall consist of touching only the dog’s head, body, and hindquarters with the fingers and palm of one hand and must not include running the hand down the dog’s back unless otherwise specified in the class descriptions. The judge should also note in scoring that the exercise does not start until the handler has given the command and/or signal to stay, except for such things as rough treatment of the dog by its handler or active resistance by the dog to its handler’s attempts to make it stand, which must be penalized substantially. When positioning the dog for this exercise, a handler may stand the dog on command and may then also pose it as in the breed ring. Or the handler may simply stand the dog and not pose it. The option is left to the handler, and the judge may not penalize a handler for both standing and posing the dog. The dog need not be sitting at the start of this exercise. The rules require different penalties for faults that occur before and after the examination is complete. The examination is complete when the judge lifts their fingers and palm from the dog’s hindquarters and steps back. Judges should not expose themselves needlessly to the danger of being bitten. Should a dog in the ring give warning that it may bite if you proceed with the examination, you should excuse the dog from the ring. If a dog attempts to attack or bites any person in the ring, the judge must excuse the dog.

**Recall Exercises.** To have both dog and handler under constant observation in these exercises, a judge should take a position in line and slightly to the rear of the dog, facing the handler but at an adequate distance to one side. This is a foundation exercise and governs the faults and behavior of a dog in all exercises where the dog is moving toward the handler. The dog is required to move at a brisk trot or gallop and must be penalized for failure to do so. In exercises where the dog is required to sit in front, the handler's hands and arms should hang naturally at the sides; except in the Beginner Novice Class Recall Exercise. During this exercise, when the handler removes the leash they may hold it in any manner using one or both hands, or draped around the neck. A substantial deduction is required for failure to do so or for any hand movement not permitted by the rules. It does not apply to the Moving Stand and Examination as the dog does not sit in front. Finishes are required to be executed promptly, smartly, and straight. This applies to faults in all exercises where the dog sits in front and finishes. The finish is not a principal part of any exercise. Therefore, failure to finish or extra commands or signals to finish do not require a score of zero for any exercise. The judge should never ask the handler to touch the dog or otherwise assist the judge in making a decision. A dog must come in sufficiently close so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending or stretching or the need to move either foot. If, in the judge's opinion, the dog is not close enough to the handler, it must receive a score of zero (0) for that exercise.

**Drop on Recall.** Faults and penalties in judging this exercise are the same as the Novice Recall, except for the drop. A perfect drop has three characteristics:

- The dog's prompt response to the handler's command or signal to drop
- No delay or slowness to down
- The dog must drop completely to a down position

The dog should be considered as having met the requirement if, in the judge's opinion, a similar down position would be acceptable for the Long Down.

**Broad Jump.** In setting up the broad jump, the judge should make every effort to avoid having the dog jump toward the gate or table. The judge should make every effort to ensure that adequate room is allowed in front of the jump for the take-off and on the far side for landing and turning. The hurdles are to be positioned so the dog will be turning away from the ring barrier after landing. The dog and handler must be at least 8 feet in front of the first edge of the jump. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the handler complies before the exercise begins. In all jumping exercises, a handler standing too close or too far from the side of the jump shall be required to move to the proper position. The minor penalties listed under the Recall also apply to this exercise. Dogs that do not return close enough, as in the Recall, must be considered as not having returned to the handler and must a score of zero (0) for that exercise. During the exercise, the judge must stand clear of the handler and the dog in order to prevent any interference with the dog's performance. The judge must be positioned so that both the dog and the handler are under continuous observation during the entire exercise. This exercise is a Novice Recall, except for the jump and the position of the handler. The same faults are associated with the broad jump as with the high jump. A dog touching a hurdle must receive a deduction similar to the deduction for the dog that touches the high jump. All jumps are to be judged the same way.

**Retrieving Exercises – Open Classes.** As a foundation exercise, the Retrieve exercise defines the ability of a dog to work away from the handler and retrieve an object. The dumbbell, which must be approved

by the judge, should be made of one or more solid pieces of wood or non-toxic material other than wood, similar in size, shape, and weight to a wooden dumbbell. The dumbbell must not be hollowed out. It may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish, or may be any color. It must have no decoration or attachments but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell

should be proportionate to the size of the dog. By strictly enforcing these requirements, a judge will eliminate any problems with dumbbells that do not meet the requirements. Once a dog picks up the dumbbell, the exercise is judged as a Novice Recall, except for faults associated with handling the dumbbell such as: not going directly to the dumbbell, mouthing or playing with the dumbbell, or dropping, reluctance or refusal to release the dumbbell. The retrieve, including the pickup, must be brisk and without hesitation. The judge shall require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if, in the judge's opinion, it is thrown a distance of less than 20 feet, too far to one side, or too close to the ringside. A judge should not place a dumbbell that is improperly thrown but should require the handler to throw the dumbbell again. A judge will not ask the handler's opinion when deciding whether a dumbbell is to be thrown again or not; it is the judge's sole responsibility to make this decision. Once the decision is made, the judge or steward will retrieve the dumbbell. Under no circumstances should the handler be penalized for a bad throw. Requiring the handler to re-throw the dumbbell signifies that the exercise is being restarted; therefore, the handler may pet, praise, and reposition the dog without penalty before the exercise is begun again.

**High Jump.** In the Retrieve Over High Jump exercise, a dog that climbs the jump or uses the jump for aid in going over must receive a score of zero (0) for that exercise. This is in contrast to a dog that merely hits or touches the jump when going over. In the Retrieve Over High Jump exercise, the handler with the dog in heel position must be at least 8 feet in front of the jump or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the handler complies before the exercise begins. The judge must make certain that the handler throws the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. During this exercise a judge must stand clear of both the handler and the dog in order to prevent any interference with the dog's performance. The judge should be positioned so that both the dog and handler are under continuous observation during the entire exercise. Other than the faults associated with the jump, this is a Retrieve on Flat. Once the exercise begins, the handler may not adjust their feet or position. There are four faults associated with jumps:

- Failure to clear the jump or the height of the jump
- Using the jump for aid in going over
- Touching the jump
- Hesitation or reluctance to jump

**Signal Exercise.** Judges should note that heeling is considered a principal part of this exercise; all penalties listed under the heeling exercises apply. A judge should bear in mind that only during the stand, drop, sit, and come parts of this exercise is it required to give a score of zero (0) for that exercise for receiving a command or audible signal. It is possible for the dog, although penalized substantially for receiving a command or audible signal during other parts of the exercise, to receive a non-zero score for the exercise. The rules requires the judge to have the handler leave the dog at one end of the ring on the stand and then proceed on the judge's order to the other end of the ring. This should place the handler about 3 to 4 feet from the opposite end of the ring. All deductions listed under the Recall exercises also apply to this exercise. A dog moving even a minor distance during the performance of the stand, drop, or sit portions of the exercise shall be penalized. In the recall portion of the Signal Exercise, a dog that does not come in close enough has not performed a recall. Once the signal has been given for the dog to come, the same faults and penalties apply as in the Novice Recall. An excellent position for judging the stand, drop, sit, and come parts of this exercise is at an adequate distance to the side and slightly to the rear of the dog when the dog is in the stand-stay position. This exercise is composed of three principal parts: a heeling portion, the signal portion, and a recall portion.

**Scent Discrimination.** The judge should be certain that the handler and dog are in position to observe the placement of the eight ring articles, that these articles are handled by the judge or steward, that the articles are about 6 inches apart, and that the closest article is placed about 20 feet from the handler. The judge must take the necessary precautions to ensure the two articles to be

used by the handler are not fouled by the judge or any other scent. The judge must approve the articles before the exercise begins. At this time, the judge shall designate the articles to be used, make note of the number, and place them on the chair in the ring or on the judge's table so that they will be ready at the beginning of the Scent Discrimination exercise.

This exercise consists of four parts:

- Either the turn-and-sit or send-direct method
- Going out
- Searching for the correct article
- Return of the correct article

There are two methods for sending the dog, and the method to be used must be announced to the judge. If the turn-and-sit method is designated, the handler may give the command to heel and will turn in place, either right or left, to face the articles. The handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting in the heel position and will then give a command or signal to retrieve. The other method to send directly will be done with the handler executing a right about-turn while simultaneously giving the command or signal to retrieve. In this method, the dog should not assume a sitting position but will go directly to the articles. Any excessive movements must be penalized. The go out and return must be judged as in the Novice Recall and the Retrieve on Flat.

**Directed Retrieve.** Although this exercise is basically judged as a Retrieve on Flat, it has an important difference that must be considered when judging. The difference is that the dog is directed to retrieve. The turn and sit are to be judged as in the Scent Discrimination exercise. A dog that finds a glove without being directed to it by the handler must be given a score of zero (0) for that exercise. A dog whose handler misdirects the dog (under turns or over turns) must be penalized. The judge should be certain the gloves are visible to the smallest and largest dogs. Prior to the start of judging, the judge shall make the decision as to which glove will be used for the class that day. The same glove number will be used for each handler. For each judging assignment, the judge must alternate the number of the glove used. The gloves will be designated "One," "Two," or "Three," reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The judge will give the order "One" or "Two" or "Three" and at the same time may, with the handler's back to the gloves, point to the designated glove. The direction the handler turns is at the option of the handler, no matter which glove is designated, but the dog should maintain heel position throughout the turn and sit at heel when the turn is completed. The retrieve portion of the exercise is then completed without any further order from the judge. Giving the direction must be done with a single motion. When the motion stops, the direction is completed. If the handler does not give the command simultaneously with or immediately following the direction but delays between the motion and the command, the dog must receive a score of zero (0) for that exercise.

**Moving Stand and Examination.** This exercise may be judged from the side while the dog and handler are heeling and until the dog is to be examined. For the examination part of the exercise, the dog should be approached from the front and then given a thorough examination as in conformation judging, except that the dog's mouth, testicles and tail are not examined.

**Directed Jumping.** At the start of this exercise, the judge should be certain the handler and dog are on the center line of the ring and about 20 feet from the line of the jumps. A dog that does not go out or does not remain at least 10 feet beyond the jumps must receive a score of zero (0) for that exercise. The judge should determine the 10-foot distance before beginning the class. In the Directed Jumping exercise, the dog is not required to go to the other end of the ring, only to a point about 20 feet beyond the jumps and in the approximate center. If the dog stops on command and remains at this point, it should not be penalized for not having gone out far enough. A dog using the top of the jump for aid while going over must receive a score of zero (0) for that exercise. The same penalty applies to a dog that knocks the bar off the uprights. All the penalties listed under the Recall exercise also apply. An excellent position for judging this exercise is on the side of the ring opposite the

designated jump, parallel to and slightly to the rear of the handler and dog. This is only a recommendation and is not mandated. There are several key points that require your attention:

- The dog must move at a brisk trot or gallop until commanded to sit.
- The dog must go out about 20 feet beyond the jumps.
- The handler should give the command to sit when the dog is about 20 feet beyond the jumps.
- The dog must stop and sit promptly on command.

When one or more of these conditions is not met, deductions must be made. Deductions must also be made for slowness or stopping prior to the command to sit. The judge should not place a mark 20 feet beyond the jumps. The reference to 20 feet beyond the jumps is to require the sit command be given prior to the dog reaching the ring barrier so that the dog may be evaluated on its ability to stop and sit on command. The jumps should be set up on the longest two sides of the ring, and the same sequence of jumps should be used for each dog.

**Grid for Scoring Directed Jumping.** When scoring the Directed Jumping exercise, large variations in performance may occur, and there is not a great deal of time to consider how far from perfect each variation is. As an aid to maintaining some consistency in the manner in which all dogs in the class are scored, there should be no question that some type of system needs to be adopted in advance of the class. Although the following suggestion may not fit your particular method of scoring, it may serve as an aid in developing your own individual style. A grid is based on the premise that the closer to perfection, the smaller the deduction. Should the dog go out about 20 feet beyond the jumps, stop on command by the handler and sit in the approximate center of the ring, there is no deduction. (This is represented by an imaginary circle of about 3 feet in the center of the ring at about a distance of 20 feet beyond the jumps.) Keep in mind that the handler should stop and sit the dog about 20 feet beyond the jump, not precisely 20 feet beyond the jump. If the dog stops and sits on the handler's command at 21 feet or 19 feet beyond the jumps (this is about 20 feet beyond the jumps), no points should be deducted. The key is that the dog stops and sits on command. The dog should not stop and sit without a command from the handler or stop and/or sit when it arrives at the ring barrier simply because it can go no further. If the dog does either of these, points are deducted because the handler's command did not cause the dog to stop and sit. If the dog stops and sits on the handler's command but the handler has stopped the dog at about the 12-foot distance, a deduction is in order as the handler did not stop and sit the dog at about 20 feet beyond the jumps. Again, the requirement is to stop and sit the dog at about 20 feet beyond the jumps, not precisely 20 feet beyond the jumps. If the dog goes out about 20 feet beyond the jumps, stops and sits on the handler's command but its final position is in one of the corners of the ring, a three point deduction should be made. If the dog goes out only 10 feet beyond the jumps, stops and sits on command but the final position is in the center of the ring, a three point deduction should be made. If the dog goes out about 10 feet, stops and sits on command but the final position is next to the side of the ring, a five or six point deduction is in order. Once the handler has commanded the dog to sit at a point about 20 feet beyond the jumps and the dog stops, the go-out part of the exercise is complete. A dog must a score of zero (0) for that exercise for not staying without an additional command or signal to sit. The penalties for the Recall will apply.

**Group Exercises.** Judges should make every effort to equally divide a class for the group exercises and not have fewer than six dogs in the exercise. In the Long Down exercise, the dog should lie down on command and/or signal without being touched. In the down position, the dog should be lying straight beside the handler, facing the opposite side of the ring. Should the dog lie down facing the dog on either side or in a manner that could interfere with an adjacent competing dog, the handler should be instructed to straighten or reposition the dog, and a substantial penalty should be applied. When positioning dogs in the ring for the group exercises in the Open classes, judges should ensure that such positioning will permit the competing dogs to keep the handlers in their direct line of vision as the handlers leave and return to the ring. In Open classes, when signaling the steward to

bring the handlers back to the ring, do not use a signal (like waving of an arm) that might cause the dogs in the ring to react. If a dog gets up and starts to roam or follows its handler and disturbs the other dogs or if a dog moves so as to interfere with another dog, the judge should promptly instruct the handler or one of the stewards to take the dog out of the ring or to keep it away from the other dogs. Any handlers who physically correct their dogs before or after any group exercise or while leaving the ring must be penalized under Miscellaneous Penalties.

## **PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED HANDLERS**

**Physically Challenged Handlers.** It is perfectly permissible for physically challenged handlers to compete, provided they can do so under their own power with or without mechanical assistance, i.e., a wheelchair (self-propelled, electric, etc.), crutches, or a cane. Blind handlers may also compete, and, subject to the judge's instructions, anyone may position a blind handler before, between, and after each exercise. Directions by radio are not permitted. Handlers on crutches should not be penalized for any crutch motions considered normal for their disability. However, if, in the opinion of the judge, the handler uses the crutches in a manner unnecessary for their movement and as guidance or control of the dog, a scoring penalty must be imposed. The dog is required to perform all parts of the exercises as described in the rules, and shall be penalized for failure to perform any part of an exercise. The rules require all dogs to work from the handler's left side. It is proper for a judge to establish in advance a position on the disabled handler's left side that corresponds to the normal heel position for all exercises. With respect to speed of the handler in the heeling exercises, a physically challenged handler is expected to do the regular heeling at the equivalent of a brisk pace with significant changes in speed for the slow and fast. Judges must penalize a handler, as they would any other handler disabled or not, who does not perform the regular heeling at the equivalent of a brisk pace or with a true slow and fast. In the case of a blind handler, the judge may permit the stewards to utter softly a verbal aid so that the handler may determine the position of the stewards as they perform the Figure Eight. After the judge or another person positions a blind handler for a jump, the judge may permit the handler to leave the dog, walk up to the jump to feel it in order to determine its exact location, and then proceed to perform the exercises as required.

**Physically Incapacitated.** Handlers whose disabilities prevent them from throwing the dumbbell the required distance may be permitted to line the dog up in the desired starting position and, after giving the command to stay, leave the dog and proceed away from the dog to throw the dumbbell. The handler should then return alongside the dog to continue the exercise. The same procedure should be followed for the Retrieve Over High Jump.

**Hearing Deficiency.** When faced with the situation where a handler is hard of hearing, judges should position themselves so that the handler may continuously observe them during the performance of the individual exercises. If such a handler desires, judges may use prearranged signals to the handler in lieu of verbal commands.

**Group Exercises.** It is permissible for a judge to allow additional space on each side of a disabled handler to permit the handler to work the dog without touching it or without touching the dog on either side. All dogs, however, must be judged in catalog order. If you have questions as to what reasonable accommodations can be made to allow a physically challenged handler to compete, please consult with the superintendent or person responsible for the event.