**2025 NOTC MTG – ATTACHMENT 6d – DOGS NSW**

GENERAL RULES INCLUDING GLOSSARY

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8. EXHIBITORS AND HANDLERS

COMMANDS PARAGRAPH 6:

Where the word ’command’ appears in specific exercises, it will mean ‘command and/or signal’ unless otherwise specified.

All verbal commands must be in the English Language unless approved otherwise by the Judge.

One command only is given to the dog for a specific action on the part of the dog. The verbal command must be a single word.

The command may be given by the use of the Handler’s voice and/or specific action of the Handler in the form of a signal.

A voice command and a signal may be given, but must be used simultaneously. A signal should be a single gesture of the arms and hands only. Signals must be inaudible and must not touch the dog. The arms and hands may be returned to a different position but, once there may not be moved again during that portion of the exercise.

Any unusual noise, prolonged or extended signal or movement of the Handler may be considered by the Judges as a ‘Signal’, or extra command.

Where the dog’s name is used to attract its attention, a distinct pause between the name of the dog and the command is required.

When giving the command to stay before throwing the dumbbell or the command to finish in every exercise that requires a retrieve, the hand holding the dumbbell or the retrieved article must not be used to give the signal to stay or finish. Failure to comply will result in a deduction for failing the lesser points of the exercise.

**CHANGE:**

**COMMANDS Paragraph 6:**

**Any unusual noise, prolonged or extended signal, movement of the Handler may be considered by the Judges as a ‘Signal’, or extra command, a minor or substantial deduction be given.**

**Any Handlers left arm & hand is swinging on the outside of the dogs head & body, giving continued guidance be considered by the Judges as a ‘Signal’, or extra command a non-qualifying score should be given.**

**Rationale – Each discipline has rules, obedience has rules of continual guidance, although there is no specification on where or how the arm and hand are placed and used**

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 **Exhibitors and Handlers.**

**Commands:**

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Proposed changes :

Commands:

Where the word “command” appears in specific exercise, it will mean “command and/or signal” unless otherwise specified.

**All verbal commands must be in the English Language. Failure to comply will result in a non-qualifying score.**

One command only is given to the dog for a specific action on the part of the dog. The verbal command must be a single word.

The command may be given by the use of the Handler’s voice and/or specific action of the Handler in the form of a signal.

A voice command and a signal may be given, but must be used simultaneously. A signal should be a single gesture of the arms and hands only. Signals must be inaudible and must not touch the dog. The arms and hands may be returned to a different position but, one there may not be moved again during that portion of the exercise.

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Rationalle:

A verbal command is to be a single word. A judge is not to know if a single word is being used if the English Language is not used.

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**Exhibitors and Handlers.**

**Disqualification**:

No points awarded. The dog is disqualified from all Trial Competition on the day and the Judge must provide a written report to the Member body within 14 days – the only exception being in instances where the disqualification was incurred for continual barking, a correction penalty, fouling the ring or for handlers bringing training aids into the ring.

Proposed changes:

**Disqualification:**

**No points awarded. The dog is disqualified from all Trial Competition on the day and the Judge must provide a written report to the Member body within 14 days – the only exception being in instances where the disqualification was incurred for continual barking, a correction penalty, fouling the ring , for handlers bringing training aids into the ring , for the handler leaving training aids within 5 metres from the competition ring and the dog leaving the competition ring off lead;**

**Rationale**

**To clarify the penalty for leaving training aids within 5 metres**

# 8. EXHIBITORS AND HANDLERS

# Page 5

**Dog Sitting in front of Handler in the Recalls, Retrieves, or Jumping Exercises**

 Except in the C.C.D. Class and Novice Retrieve, if a dog fails to sit in front of its Handler in any of the above exercises, the penalty for this error must be a Substantial deduction. Unless specified in the individual exercises, when a dog goes directly to heel without sitting in front of the Handler it shall incur two substantial deductions.

**CHANGE**

**If a dog goes directly to heel without sitting in front of the handler, it shall incur one substantial deduction. The handler shall then be requested to "finish the dog": If the dog then finishes to the heel position, no further points are to be deducted but, if the dog does not finish to the heel position, then another substantial deduction will be incurred.**

# RATIONALE

**It is not right to incur two substantial deductions when the dog has, basically, just failed to sit in front. The handler must at least be given the opportunity to finish the dog to the heel position If the dog fails to complete the finish, on command, then it is fair to incur a second substantial deduction (but not before).**

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**. Exhibitors and Handlers.**

**Handler returning to the Dog:**

When the handler returns to the dog, they must walk around the back of the dog to the heel position.

Proposed Changes:

Handler Returning to the Dog:

When the handler returns to the dog, they must walk around the back of the dog to the heel position. Failure to comply with this Rule must incur a zero score for that exercise or part exercise, whichever is applicable.

Rationale:

Current wording does not clarify a penalty.

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**9. JUDGING PROCEDURES**

**CURRENT RULE:**

**Certificates:** An Obedience Trial Certificate, signed by the Judge, showing the total number of points awarded, must be available to each qualifying dog in each Class.

**PROPOSED RULE:**

**Certificates:** An Obedience Trial Certificate, **bearing the name of** the Judge, showing the total number of points awarded, must be available to each qualifying dog in each Class.

**RATIONALE:There has been a marked increase in the use of technololgy by both exhibitors and club officials in the running of not only Clubs but the events they hold. Schedules, entries, catalogues, exhibit cards and results are now commonly available on a number of increasingly sophisticated online sites. This has greatly reduced the workload which has been falling on a dwindling number of organisers within club affiliates.**

**Where it is possible for certificates to be produced and/or issued electronically Member Bodies should be able to take advantage of time and cost savings to their affiliates conducting trials.**

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Group Exercises:

Current rule - Group Exercises must consist of a minimum of three (3) dogs and a maximum of ten (10) dogs and must be judged by the same person who officiated in the individual exercises segment of the Trial. Each dog must have a separate Handler for the Group Exercises. If there are insufficient entrants the Judge will ask the Steward to furnish stand-in dogs to make up a Group. These dogs must be left on lead and the Handler must stay next to the dog in the heel position. Unless an exhibitor has multiple entries, an exhibit must be handled by the one competitor for all exercises. In extreme weather conditions the Judge shall consider using areas of shade where practical to conduct the group stay exercises. The distance between dogs for all group exercises must be approximately two and a half (2.5) metre

Change - Group Exercises must consist of a minimum of three (3) dogs and a maximum of ten (10) dogs and must be judged by the same person who officiated in the individual exercises segment of the Trial. Each dog must have a separate Handler for the Group Exercises. If there are insufficient entrants the Judge will ask the Steward to furnish stand-in dogs to make up a Group. These dogs must be left on lead and the Handler must stay next to the dog in the heel position. An exhibit must be handled by the same competitor for all exercises. In extreme weather conditions the Judge shall consider using areas of shade where practical to conduct the group stay exercises. The distance between dogs for all group exercises must be approximately two and a half (2.5) metre

**Rationale If a handler has multiple entries on a qualifying score, an extra stay exercise should be held to allow a handler to handle their own dog.**

**It can be very stressful to both dog and owner, and the strange handler to have a stranger taking over when their owner is in the ring commanding another dog.**

**Every dog and handler should be on the same field, that can’t happen when a dog is given to another person to finish his run through. The dog and handler should have the same right as every other competitor on the day.**

**In the introduction of the Obedience rule book it even says “**Obedience Trials demonstrate the dog and handler’s ability to work together”

**They are not working together if given over to another hander to finish.**

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Judging:

If multiple classes are judged in the one ring, the U.D. and U.D.X. Classes must be judged before other Classes.

Change - If multiple classes are judged in the one ring, the U.D. and U.D.X. Classes must be judged before other Classes, and U.D.X. before U.D. in the same ring.

**Rationale – The U.D.X. class is the higher level class and has the more involved seek back exercise.**

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**Judging Procedures.**

**Starting and Finishing:**

Prior to the start of the exercise or part exercise, the judge will ask the Handler “Are you ready?” The Handler must clearly acknowledge the Judge’s request. All judging must finish when the Judge orders” Exercise Finished”

**Proposed Changes:**

***Starting and Finishing:***

***Prior to the start of the exercise or part exercise, the judge will ask the Handler “Are you ready?” Judging will commence once the Handler has clearly acknowledged the Judge’s request. All judging must finish when the Judge orders” Exercise Finished”.***

**Rationale:**

**Clarification of existing Rule.**

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11.EQUIPMENT

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Prescribed Area (UD):

The Prescribed Area shall form a square with one and a half (1.5) metre long sides. It should be white in colour and be within the range of 25mm to 50mm high and 25mm to 50mm wide. The frame may be of a lightweight timber, PVC piping or metal hinged at the corners, a pegged down hose, rope, or similar material. The Prescribed Area must be visible to the dog from the starting point. At the Judge’s discretion, the equipment forming the ‘Prescribed Area’ may remain on the ground for the duration of judging, or it may be removed from the ring and only set in place specially for the judging of the Directed Jumping exercise.

Change - The Prescribed Area shall form a square with one and a half (1.5) metre long sides. It should be white in colour and be within the range of 25mm to 50mm high and 25mm to 50mm wide. The frame may be of a lightweight timber, painted white or PVC piping. The Prescribed Area must be visible to the dog from the starting point. At the Judge’s discretion, the equipment forming the ‘Prescribed Area’ may remain on the ground for the duration of judging, or it may be removed from the ring and only set in place specially for the judging of the Directed Jumping exercise.

Rationale – This makes the Prescribed Area a more consistent area for Judges, Handlers and Dogs. Pieces of rope, hose and anything else is unprofessional.

Obedience book 2021

OBEDIENCE TRIAL EXERCISES COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS

1. RECALL

Description of Exercise:

 The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a sitting position and walk at least twelve (12) metres away from the dog. On further order from the Judge, the Handler will about turn and halt. On order from the Judge, the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name once and then give a command to come. The dog must come straight to its Handler at a brisk pace and sit directly in front without further command. The dog must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge has ordered ‘Exercise Finished.

Change - The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’, Remove your lead. On further order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a sitting position and walk at least twelve (12) metres away from the dog. On further order from the Judge, the Handler will about turn and halt. On order from the Judge, the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name once and then give a command to come. The dog must come straight to its Handler at a brisk pace and sit directly in front without further command. The dog must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge has ordered ‘Exercise Finished.

Orders from Judge:

 ‘Take up position’, Leave (Leave your Dog)’, 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Call (Call your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished'.

Change - Orders from Judge: ‘Take up position’, Remove your lead 'Leave (Leave your Dog)’, 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Call (Call your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished'.

Rationale – This will bring in more consistency for when the lead is removed for this exercise.