**2025 NOTC MTG - Attachment 6f - DOGS TAS - A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE GROUP STAYS AND ADD A NEW EXERCISE - CCD**

**CCD - REMOVE STAYS AND REPLACE WITH NEW EXCERCISE**

**4. ~~1 Min. SIT STAY Maximum Points: 15~~**

**~~Principal Feature:~~**

~~The dog to stay off the lead in a sit position until the completion of the exercise.~~

**~~Description of Exercise:~~**

~~This is a Group exercise. The Handlers will take up their positions with their right foot next to a Stay Peg which shall be placed in a line approximately one and a half (1.5) metres apart, and with their dogs sitting in the heel position. On order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handlers may give their dogs a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres. On order from the Judge or Steward the Handlers will turn to face their dogs and halt.~~

~~After one minute from the time the Judge has ordered the Handlers to leave, he will give the order 'Return (Return to Your Dog)'. The Handlers must return to their dogs together. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished'.~~

~~If a dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge may instruct a Steward, or Handler, to take the dog away from the other dogs.~~

**~~Orders from Judge:~~**

~~'Leave (Leave Your Dog)’, ‘About turn’, ‘Halt', 'Return (Return to Your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished'. Judges may delegate a Steward to give the orders ‘About Turn', 'Halt', 'Return'. (Return to your Dog)’~~

**~~Deductions:~~**

**~~Zero Score:~~** ~~For a dog which fails to remain in the sitting position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left.~~

**~~Minor:~~** ~~For minor movements, eg. fidgeting, or if Handlers do not leave or return with other Handlers.~~

**~~5. 2 Min. DOWN STAY Maximum Points: 15~~**

**~~Principal Feature:~~**

~~The dog to stay off the lead in the down position until the completion of the exercise.~~

**~~Description of Exercise:~~**

~~This is a Group exercise. The Handlers will take up their positions with their right foot next to a Stay Peg which shall be placed in a line approximately one and a half (1.5) metres apart and with their dogs in the Down position. On order from the Judge to 'Leave (Leave Your Dogs)', the Handlers may give their dogs a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres. On order from the Judge or Steward the Handlers will turn to face their dogs and halt.~~

~~After two minutes from the time the Judge has ordered the Handlers to leave, he will give the order 'Return (Return to Your Dogs)’. The Handlers must return to their dogs together. The dogs must not move from the down position until after the Judge orders ‘Exercise Finished'.~~

~~If a dog gets up and starts to roam, the judge may instruct a Steward, or Handler, to take the dog away from the other dogs.~~

**~~Orders from Judge:~~**

~~‘Leave (Leave Your Dog)’, ‘About Turn'. 'Halt', ‘Return (Return to Your Dog)', 'Exercise Finished’. Judges may delegate a Steward to give the orders 'About Turn’, 'Halt', ‘Return (Return to Your Dog)’.~~

**~~Deductions:~~**

**~~Zero Score:~~** ~~For a dog which fails to remain in the down position or which moves more than half its body length from where it was left.~~

**~~Minor:~~** ~~For minor movements, eg. fidgeting, or for a dog that lies down in a position which is commonly known as the ‘Dead Dog' position, or if Handlers do not leave or return with other Handlers.~~

**PROPOSAL**

* REMOVE THE GROUP STAYS FROM CCD COMPLETELY
* REALLOCATE THE STAY POINTS TO WAIT AND RETURN

NEW RULE WAIT AND RETURN

**4. Wait and return Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stay off the lead in a sit or down position until the completion of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Handler will take up their position as directed by the judge with the dog in the position of the judges choosing of a sit or down. On order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handler may give their dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres as directed by the judge after which the judge will immediately order ‘About turn and return to your dog’. The dog must not move until the judge orders exercise finished.

The exercise shall consist of a single stay. The same position will be used for every dog in the class in the trial.

If the dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge will order the Handler, to collect the dog

**Orders from Judge:**

'Leave (Leave Your Dog)’, ’About turn and Return (to your dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which fails to remain in the position or which moves more than half of its body length from where it was left.

**Minor:** For minor movements, e.g. fidgeting,

**Delete Down Stay**

Rationale

**GENERAL RULES INCLUDING GLOSSARY**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Obedience trials are a sport, and it is expected that all participants will be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both inside and outside of the ring.

Obedience Trials demonstrate the dog and handler’s ability to work together with precision and publicly showcase the training that has been undertaken to achieve this. Classes are designed to be progressive, allowing the dog and handler to grow in skill and experience as titles are earned. The performance of the dog and handler in the ring must be accurate and correct according to these rules and regulations. It is also essential that the dog demonstrates willingness and enjoyment while it is working and that the handler demonstrates smooth and natural handling without using harsh commands.

As listed above the sport of Obedience is to test the dog and handlers ability to work together, removing stays does not affect the intention of obedience trialling in fact it enhances the harmony of which the teams will compete, and brings it more, not less, in line with the mission statement above

The issue with group dog stays is not primarily driven by under prepared dogs the issue is that it is a source of tension and unnecessary stress not just for handlers but also the stewards and judges who need to be vigilant in case dogs do unpredictable things. it is the unpredictability in the plethora of ways that dogs can and do break stays that makes it risky. They're dogs and that will happen prepared or not, and unlike nearly every other exercise in obedience the handler is not within arm’s reach and able to intervene so that fallout does not occur or potential disturbance of other dogs does not occur.

A stay (impulse control) is currently tested in the class from the stand for exam and sit stay for recall in CCD. We have a duty of care to dogs, handlers, judges and stewards, the time has come to re-examine in all classes the need for dogs being left in a group of unfamiliar dogs. Something that would never happen in today’s society

CCD is a class for dogs first introduction to the ring. So, allowing the teams just to show their ring work will reduce stress on both dog and handler and be very confidence building.

With dogs in a close ring environment there is a greater propensity for an altercation to arise.

New dogs to the sport are often placed in a position of vulnerability, so showing their skills in this first class staying with their handler is a step in the right direction.