**2025 NOTC MTG – ATTACHMENT 6f - DOGS TAS - A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE GROUP STAYS AND ADD A NEW EXERCISE – OPEN**

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| **OPEN - REMOVE STAY AND REPLACE WITH NEW EXCERCISE****~~7. 3 Min. DOWN STAY-~~** | **~~Maximum Points:~~** | **~~30~~** |
| **~~HANDLER OUT OF SIGHT~~** |  |  |

**~~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 position with their right foot next to a Stay Peg which shall be placed in a line approximately two and a half (2.5) metres apart and with their dogs In the Down position. On order from the Judge to 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handlers may give their dogs a command to stay and will immediately leave and, accompanied by a Steward, go out of sight of the dogs to a point previously designated by the Judge.~~

~~After three (3) minutes from the time the Judge has ordered the Handlers to leave their dogs, the Steward will 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 the Steward to take the dog away from the other dogs.~~

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

~~'Leave (Leave Your Dogs)', 'Return (Return to Your Dogs)' (may be given by a Steward), 'Exercise Finished'.~~

**~~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, e.g. 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.~~

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| **OPEN- NEW EXERCISE****7. Send and Stay** | **Maximum Points:** | **30** |
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**Principal Feature:**

The dog on command to leave the handler and go substantially in the right direction to the prescribed area and sit

**Description of Exercise:**

The judge shall prescribe an area which will be marked by a frame, positioned no closer than 3 (three) metres from the unobstructed end of the ring and on either side (not the middle of the ring, nor behind the solid jump) of the ring 10 (ten) metres from the point from which the dog is sent.

The Handler shall stand the dog in the position indicated by the Judge. On order from the Judge, the Handler shall command the dog to go to the prescribed area. The dog must go substantially in the right direction and at a brisk pace. Once the dog is in the prescribed area, the handler may give a sit command the dog should sit on one command

The Handler may attract the dog's attention by using its name before giving the command.

On judge’s order the handler will return to the dog.

The dog must remain in the sit position until the judge orders exercise finished

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up your position', 'Send (Send your dog)', ‘Return (Return to your dog’, 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which requires more thanone command to leave the Handler or to sit in the prescribed area, anticipates any part of the Principal Feature, does not go substantially in the right direction or fails to sit substantially within the prescribed area (see Section 9).

**Substantial:** For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going or respondsslowly to commands;

**Minor:** For that particular part of the exercise, where the dog is substantially but not entirely within theprescribed area. Or for any lesser points of the exercise.

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. If the rule review insists on keeping stays it should at least modify them so the stay is an individual exercise with no out of sight component and the times reduced for the upper classes. If group stays remain, obedience is likely to lose entries because of it.

 Leaving dog in an out of sight group stay no longer fits into modern day society. Our rules are based on the American and UK exercises, both these countries have taken group stays out of competition for the welfare of dogs, judges and stewards. We live in a litigious world and the threat of a civil complaint if a person is injured is something we should take seriously. It is also unfair with modern day training of building a bond that the bond can be easily broken if a dog is interfered with in the stays. In this exercise the dog is demonstrating further skills by being sent to an area and then performing a stay until released.

This will take less time for the current stays being performed in the ring work as there is no gathering of competitors and waiting for them to have their dogs ready.

A stay (impulse control) is currently tested in all classes from the sit stay in the recall in CCD and Novice through to Drop on Recall and both retrieves in Open, Directed Jumping and retrieving exercises in Utility. Group stays should be something we remove.