REMOVE GROUP EXAMINATION REPLACE WITH STAND FREE FOR EXAMINATION

6. ~~GROUP EXAMINATION: Maximum Points: 10~~

~~Principal Feature:~~

~~The dog to stand steadily off the lead until the completion of the exercise and not show undue resentment or shyness.~~

~~Description of Exercise:~~

~~This is a Group exercise. The Handlers will take up their positions with their right foot next to the Stay Markers, which are to be placed in a line approximately two and a half (2.5) metres apart, and with their dogs in the stand 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 their dogs and move forward approximately five (5) metres. On further order from the Judge to 'About Turn', the Handlers will about turn and halt on command.~~

~~The Judge must approach each dog from the right or left front, but not direct front. The Judge will physically examine the dog’s head, body, legs and hindquarters only. The mouth and tail must not be examined. This exercise should take no more than three minutes to complete.~~

~~The Judge will give the order 'Return (Return to your Dog)' whereupon the Handlers will return to their dogs. The dogs must remain in the stand position until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished' and must not show undue resentment or shyness to the Judge, to other dogs or to the Handlers.~~

~~The Judge may instruct a Steward to watch the other dogs while they conduct the individual examinations and to inform them of any incidents.~~

~~If there are insufficient competitors, the Judge will ask the Steward to furnish stand-in dogs to make up a Group. These dogs will not be examined and may be left on lead with their Handlers.~~

~~If a dog starts to roam, the Judge may instruct a Steward or the 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'.~~

~~Deductions: Disqualification: For a dog that attacks.~~

~~Zero Score: For a dog which shows an obvious tendency to attack, breaks from position.~~

~~Minor: For a dog that moves its feet, for poor stands, or if Handlers do not leave and return with other Handlers.~~

6 STAND FREE FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: 10

Principal Feature:

The dog to stand steadily off the lead until the completion of the exercise and not show undue resentment or shyness.

Description of Exercise: On order from the Judge, the Handler will move forward and stand the dog. On further order, the Handler may give a command to stay and must move forward approximately ten (10) metres. The Judge will order the Handler to about turn and halt.

The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge will physically examine the dog’s head, body, legs and hindquarters only. The mouth and tail must not be examined.

The Judge will then give the Order 'Return (Return to your Dog)', whereupon the Handler will return to the dog. The dog must stand steadily and not move until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished' and must not show undue resentment or shyness.

Orders from Judge: 'Forward', 'Stand (Stand your Dog)', 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Return (Return to your Dog)', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Disqualification:** For a dog which attacks.

**Zero Score:** For a dog which shows an obvious tendency to attack or breaks from position.

**Minor:** For a dog that requires a second command to stand, moves its feet or for poor stands or for failing to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

REMOVE DOWN STAY AND REPLACE WITH NEW EXCERCISE

7. ~~5 Min. DOWN STAY Maximum Points: 25 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 positions with their right foot next to the Stay Markers which are to 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 five (5) minutes from the time the Judge has ordered the Handlers to leave their dogs, the Steward will order 'Return (Return to your Dog)'. 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 to take the dog away from the other dogs.~~

~~Orders from Judge: 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', 'Return (Return to your Dog)' (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~~

**NEW EXERCISE**

**7 Advanced recall 25 points**

**Principal feature:** The dog to sit where left off lead and promptly obey the Handler's command to heel. Simultaneous command and signal are permitted to call the dog to heel.

**Description of Exercise:** The Judge will order the Handler to move forward and halt, on further order from the judge the handler may give the dog a command to stay and will leave the dog in a sit and walk approximately ten (10) metres. On Judge’s order the dog is commanded and recalled to heel and continue heeling with the Handler as ordered by the Judge. Including one right or left turn with a final sit.

**Orders from Judge:**

‘Forward’, ‘Halt’, ‘Leave ( leave your Dog)’, ‘Call (Call your Dog)’, ‘Left turn ‘or ‘ Right Turn’, ‘Halt’, ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** A dog that anticipates the command to heel, fails to remain in the sit position, does not come on the first command.

**Substantial:** For a dog failing to sit automatically when the Handler halts. For slow response to commands and for failure to come at a brisk pace; or fails to heel with the Handler after being recalled.

**Minor:** For poor sits, for imperfections in heeling and for failure to carry out any of the 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

Leaving dogs in an out of sight group stay no longer fits into modern day society. Neither does leaving a group of dogs in a stand. Our rules are based on the American and UK exercises, both these countries have taken groups 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 within the stays:

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

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.