**2025 NOTC MTG - Attachment 6f - DOGS TAS - A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE GROUP STAYS AND REALLOCATE PTS - NOVICE**

**NOVICE CLASS**

The exercise for each dog and the maximum points shall be:

 1. Heel Free ~~40~~ **60**

2. Stand Free for Examination ~~30~~ **45**

3. Recall ~~40~~ **50**

4 (a) Retrieve on the Flat or

(b) Change of Position ~~30~~ **45**

~~5 1-min Sit Stay 30~~

~~6 3-min Down Stay 30~~

TOTAL 200

Less penalties for misbehaviour.

**1. HEEL FREE Maximum Points: ~~40~~ 60**

**2. STAND FREE FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: ~~30~~ 45**

**3. RECALL Maximum Points: ~~40~~ 50**

**4. (a) RETRIEVE ON THE FLAT (Optional) Maximum Points: ~~30~~ 45**

**4. (b) CHANGE OF POSITION (Optional) Maximum Points ~~30~~ 45**

**~~5. 1 Min. SIT STAY Maximum Points: 30~~**

**~~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 Marker, which shall be placed in a line approximately two and a half (2.5) 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 (1) minute from the time the Judge has ordered the Handlers to leave, they 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’.~~

**~~Deductions:~~**

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

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

**~~6. 3 Min. DOWN STAY Maximum Points: 30~~**

**~~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 Marker 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 Dogs)', the Handlers may give their dogs a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk as directed approximately ten (10) metres. On order from the Judge or Steward the Handlers will turn to face their dogs and halt.~~

~~After three (3) 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 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, 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.~~

**Reallocate points from group stays**

**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.

With dogs in a close ring environment there is a greater propensity for an altercation to arise. There may be a small amount of extra time needed than the current stays, however not enough to be unreasonable as time saved on the 4-minute groups and no need to gather competitors or stand ins with time spent waiting for them to have their dogs ready. Plus, the positive benefits far outweigh the negatives.

A stay (impulse control) is currently tested in the Novice class from the Stand for exam, , Recall , Retrieve or Change of position and as we have a duty of care to dogs, handlers, judges and stewards we should not be testing dogs stability by leaving them in a group of unfamiliar dogs