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

**A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE STAYS AND REALLOCATE POINTS**

**OPEN CLASS**

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

1. Heel Free ~~40~~ **45**

2. Stand Free For Examination ~~20~~ **25**

3. Drop on Recall ~~30~~ **35**

4. Retrieve Dumbbell on Flat ~~30~~ **35**

 5a. Retrieve Dumbbell over Solid Jump or

5b. Directed Retrieve ~~30~~ **35**

6a. Broad Jump or

6b. Distance Control ~~20~~ **25**

~~7. 3-min. Down Stay-Handler Out of Sight~~ ~~30~~

TOTAL 200

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**~~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 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 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.~~

REALLOCATE POINTS FROM GROUP STAYS TO RING EXERCISES

**1. HEEL FREE Maximum Points: 45**

**2. STAND FREE FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: 25**

**3. DROP ON RECALL Maximum Points:35**

 **4. RETRIEVE DUMBBELL ON FLAT Maximum Points: 35**

 **5. (a)RETRIEVE DUMBBELL OVER SOLID JUMP (Optional) Maximum Points:**

 **5. (b) DIRECTED RETRIEVE (Optional) Maximum Points:35**

 **6. (a) BROAD JUMP (Optional) Maximum Points:**

 **6. (b) DISTANCE CONTROL (Optional) Maximum Points:25**

TOTAL 200

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

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 and Drop on recall in Open.

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.

It is time we took the welfare of judges, stewards and dogs seriously from an emotional and physical perspective