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

**PROPOSAL TO REMOVE GROUP STAYS AND REALLOCATE POINTS - UD**

**UTILITY CLASS**

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

1. Seek Back ~~30~~

2. Directed jumping 40

3. Scent Discrimination 45

4. Signal Exercise ~~30~~

5. (a) Speak on Command-or

(b) Food Refusal-or

(c) Directed Retrieve ~~20~~

6. ~~Group Examination 10~~

~~7. 5 Min Down Stay-Handler Out of Sight 25~~

TOTAL 200 Less penalty for misbehaviour.

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 known as dead dog position.~~

**PROPOSAL**

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

1. Seek Back 35

2. Directed jumping 40

3. Scent Discrimination 45

4. Signal Exercise 40

5. (a) Speak on Command-or

(b) Food Refusal-or

(c) Directed Retrieve 30

6. Stand Free for Examination 10

TOTAL 200 Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**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 five (5) 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.

**Substantial:** For a dog that requires a second command to stand.

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

**Reallocate all down stay points to ring exercises**

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, and or Drop on recall. In UD we add the Directed Jumping and the Signal exercise. All exercises designed to show the dogs increased impulse control

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