**DOGS Victoria Submission of Proposed Rule Changes for 1.01.2026**

**OBEDIENCE**

**GLOSSARY**

**Page 1 Introduction, Paragraph 2**,

Currently reads:-

**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.

These Rules are binding on Member Bodies of the ANKC Ltd.

Interpretation of these Rules should not be necessary; however should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification; application must be made by the Member Body to the appropriate Committee of the ANKC Ltd, whose decision shall be binding.

Change to read:

1. INTRODUCTION

Obedience Trials demonstrate the dog and handler’s ability to work together with precision and publicly showcased the training that has been undertaken to achieve this. **With the exception of the non-jumping class, 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.

**The non-jumping path, exists after a dog completes its Companion Dog Excellent Title (CDX) where a handler may choose to enter Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) without first completing a Utility Dog title (UD).**

**Note: Any dog that gains its Obedience Champion title through the non-jumping path will be ineligible to gain a Grand Champion Obedience Title.**

**Page 1 Titles, Class Titles, Champion Title, After Paragraph 2**

Champion Title:

The Member Body will receive applications for the title of OBEDIENCE CHAMPION O.CH. in connection with each dog which, having gained its Utility Dog (U.D.) title, thereafter gains a further five scores in the Utility ring of 185 points or better (qualifying score) under at least three different judges.

Or

The Member Body will receive applications for the title of OBEDIENCE CHAMPION O.CH. in connection with each dog which, having gained its Utility Dog Excellent (U.D.X.) Title, gains an additional two (2) qualifications in U.D.X. of 185 points or better (qualifying score) under two (2) different judges.

**Change to, add the following**

Or

The Member Body will receive applications for the title of OBEDIENCE CHAMPION O.CH. in connection with each dog which, having gained its Utility Dog Excellent (U.D.X.) Title, through the non-jumping path, without its Utility Dog (UD) title, thereafter gains an additional five (5) qualifications in U.D.X. of 185 points or better (qualifying score) under two (3) different judges.

***Rationale:*** *Currently a dog must achieve its UD title before it can compete in UDX. Often dogs may not attain their UD title due to age and/or injury that prevents them from being able to jump cleanly and safely. Hence, a non-jumping pathway is desirable for these dogs to precede and remain in obedience. A simple way to achieve a non-jumping path to Obedience Champion is to allow a dog that has its Companion Dog Excellent title to proceed to its Obedience Champion title through either UD or UDX. In doing so the dog must get exactly the same number of passes:*

*A UD dog must gain 3 UD passes to gain its UD title plus 5 more UD passes over 185 points to gain its OC title*

*A UDX dog must gain 3 UDX passes to gain its UDX title plus 5 more UDX passes over 185 points to gain its OC title.*

*Now non-jumping dogs doing the UDX pathway cannot gain its Grand Champion Title.*

*The non-jumping dog has potentially a far more difficult path to OC than the jumping UD path, so we are not certainly not making it easier to get an OC title, we are also not discouraging people from obedience.*

*Another big advantage is that, judges do not have any new rules to learn and no new optional exercises to setup.*

*Victoria believes this is a good solution for a non- jumping path to OC.*

**Page 3 Rings**

Insert an additional line on ring entry and exits after the last paragraph.

**Change to read:** ***Where possible*** *ring will have an entry and an exit gate.*

***Rationale:*** *Most rings are already set up with a separate entry and exit point in mind. By changing the rules, it will become an expected part of th trial culture an hlp prevent bottlenecking an congestion at these two locations. The wording used is the same as the wording in the Rally rules, for consistency between the sports.*

**Page 5 Glossary**

Currently reads:

Heeling: During heeling exercises, the Judge's orders - 'Halt', 'Stand (Stand your Dog)' and 'Down (Down your Dog)' - must be followed by the order 'Forward' or 'Exercise Finished'. Failure to perform at least one sit, one down and one stand in the heeling exercise must incur a non-qualifying score.

Change to read:

Heeling: During the heeling exercises, the Judge's will order - 'Halt', 'Stand (Stand your Dog)' and 'Down (Down your Dog)' - and must be followed by the order 'Forward' or 'Exercise Finished'.

***Rationale:*** *The “Failure to perform at least one sit, one down and one stand in the heeling exercise must incur a non-qualifying score: was introduced to ensure judges have all 3 positions during the heeling. Currently it is being taken out of context where a dog can be asked to do 5 drops and only complete 1 and it is passed because of the currently wording. Rewording to the suggested wording requires the judge to give all three positions and mark the dog on its competency*

**Page 9 Glossary**

New point (could be place elsewhere if deemed a better position)

**Unacceptable dog behaviour**

It is the obligation of the judge at a fixture who observes a dog behaving in an unruly, disruptive or aggressive manner to report the incident either orally or in writing to a member of the fixture Committee as soon as possible after the incident where the incident will be investigated under the state/territory member body rules.

***Rationale:***  *There has been a number of incident where dogs had impacted the performance of a dogs in another ring e.g. entered the other ring during the drop on recall or stays and has disturbed the performing dog to be rejudged. If the dog was reported it may have received a level 2 under dogs Vic’s rule. Other states may have different rules hence the reference back to the states controlling body*

**Page 11 Gloves**

Currently reads:

Gloves: The Handler will provide three predominantly white, wrist length, cotton gloves which must be open and must be approved by the Judge. The size of the gloves may be in proportion to the size of the dog.

Change to read:

Gloves: **Utility class** the Handler will provide three predominantly white, wrist length, cotton gloves which must be open and must be approved by the Judge.

**Open class the Handler will provide two predominantly white, wrist length, cotton gloves which must be open and must be approved by the Judge.**

The size of the gloves may be in proportion to the size of the dog.

***Rationale:*** *The current description is contradictory requiring to supply 3 gloves when in open only 2 are required. The change reflect the requirements for the respective classes*

**Exhibitors and Handlers**

**PAGE 9**

Currently reads:

**Entering and Leaving the Ring:** On the Steward's call of the dog's catalogue number, the Handler will enter the Ring and take up position at the "Start Station”. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead. In Exercises that require a dog to be off lead, the lead will be taken off upon instruction from the judge, and handed to the Steward.

**Change to:**

Entering and Leaving the Ring: On the Steward's call of the dog's catalogue number, the Handler will enter the Ring and take up position at the "Start Station”. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on lead. **On direction from the Judge, the Handler shall remove the lead, where required. The lead will be retained by the Handler. It can be placed in a pocket or around their body, so it does not impede the dog’s performance.**

***Rationale:*** *To retain the change taken up during COVID and continues on until the next rule review. This now needs to be including in the rule book.*

**COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS**

**Community Companion Dog class:** (Page 13)

**\*\*This exercise replaces the 1-min sit stay.**

1. Introduction of a new exercise

**Stand Stay:** Maximum Points 15 (page 14)

**Principal Feature:** The dog to remain in the stand position until the end of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

This is an individual exercise. The handler will take up their position, as indicated by the judge with their dog standing at heel. On order from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres to a marker where they will perform an about turn and return their dog, without pause or hesitation. The Judge will then order ‘Exercise Finished’.

The dog must not move from the stand position until after the Judge has ordered ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Orders from Judge:** 'Take up position', 'Leave (Leave your dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog that fails to remain in the stand position, or breaks from position when left, or when the Handler returns.

**Minor:** For a dog which moves its feet of failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise. For a handler that pauses on the about turn.

***Rationale:*** *This new exercise reinforces the need for a dog to complete a stand stay across all exercises in higher levels that require a dog to complete a stand stay (distance control (Open, UDX), stand for exam at longer lengths, signal exercise (UD)).*

**\*\*This exercise replaces the 2-min sit stay.**

1. Introduction of a new exercise

**Down Stay:** Maximum Points 15 (page 15)

**Principal Feature:** The dog to remain in the down position until the end of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

This is an individual exercise. The handler will take up their position, as indicated by the judge with their dog in a down position at heel. On order from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres to a marker where they will perform an about turn and return their dog, without pause or hesitation. The Judge will then order ‘Exercise Finished’.

The dog must not move from the down position until after the Judge has ordered ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Orders from Judge:** 'Take up position', 'Leave (Leave your dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog that fails to remain in the down position, or breaks from position when left, or when the Handler returns.

**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 failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise. For a handler that pauses on the about turn.

***Rationale:*** *This exercise commits the same style of exercise as the traditional down stay but without the need for a group exercise. The distance is longer for the down stay however there is no pause time between the handler leaving and returning to the dog.*

**COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS**

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

1. Heel on lead 30

2. Stand for Examination on lead 20

3. Recall 20

**4. Stand Stay (individual) 15**

**5. Down Stay (individual) 15**

TOTAL 100

***This is the result of support the two new individual exercises, and removing group stays.***

**NOVICE CLASS**

**\*\* Replaces Group Sit Stay**

1. Introduction of a new exercise

 **Stay Stay**

**Description of Exercise**

This is an individual exercise. The Handler will take up their position, as indicated by the Judge with their dog in the stand position at heel. On order from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately 5 metres to a marker where they will perform an about turn and halt. Once the Handler is stationery the Judge will circle the dog approximately 1 metre away, before the Handler is order to return to the dog. The Judge will then order “Exercise Finished”.

 **Orders from Judge**: Take up position, Leave, About Turn, Halt, Return, Exercise Finished

**Zero Score**: For a dog that fails to remain in the stand position, or breaks from position when left, or when the Handler returns.

**Minor**: For minor movements or failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

***Rational****: to remove group stays and replace with another individual exercise.*

**4A Retrieve on the Flat (optional)**

Or

**4B Change of Position - Stand/Drop/Sit - (optional)**

***Rationale*** *– to have the optional exercises of a similar difficulty to each other.*

**Page 19 1 Minute Sit Stay**

**Change to** remove the exercise

**Rationale** – as per the rationale for Community Companion Dogs

**Page 20 3 Minute Down Stay**

**Change to** 1 Minute Down Stay (individual) 5 metres

***Rationale*** *– to change to an individual exercise and reduce the time of the stay.*

This then makes the scoring for Companion Dog still at 200 points, the exercises being:

Heel Free 40points

Stand for Examination 30 points

Recall 40 Points

Stay Stay 5 metres- Judge to circle 1 metre around dog 30 Points

Change of Position (Stand/Drop/Sit)

OR 30 Points

Retrieve on the Flat

Down Stay (individual) 5 metres for 1 minute. 30 Points

 200 Points

**OPEN CLASS**

**\*\*This exercise replaces the 3-min down stay, handler out of sight.**

1. Introduction of a new exercise (page 27)

**DIRECTED SENDAWAY:** Maximum Points 30

**Principal Feature:** This is an individual exercise. 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 in the ring, at least 1m from each side the ring and approximately ten (10) 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. It must not go past the Prescribed Area or enter from behind. Once the dog is in the Prescribed Area, it should sit automatically. The dog is not required to sit squarely on to the Handler. Where the Handler chooses to command the dog to sit, they may attract the dog's attention by using its name before giving the command. If this is done a penalty will be incurred.

The Judge will order “exercise finished, return to your dog”. The handler may give a command their dog to stay before returning to the dog.

**Orders from Judge:** 'Take up your position', 'Send (Send your Dog)', ‘Exercise Finished, Return to your dog'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which requires more than one 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 8). Goes past the back edge of the Prescribed Area or enters from behind.

**Substantial:** If a dog is slow going out or responds slowly to commands.

**Minor:** Where the dog is substantially but not entirely within the Prescribed Area. For a dog that requires a command to sit in the Prescribed Area.

***Rationale:*** *This new exercise leads dogs into the Directed Jumping exercise in UD at a shorter distance without jumping. The exercise will support new handlers with training for UD whilst still competing at the Open level.*

**OPEN CLASS**

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

1. Heel Free 40

2. Stand Free for Examination 20

3. Drop on Recall 30

4. Retrieve on the Flat 30

5. A) Retrieve dumbbell over solid

or
 B) Directed Retrieve 30

6 A) Broad Jump or

B) Distance Control 20

**7. Directed Send Away 30**

TOTAL 200

**UTILITY CLASS**

1. Alteration of deduction in Directed Jumping exercise (page 30)
* **Existing wording:** “for a dog that requires a command to sit in the Prescribed Area”

This deduction is a substantial.

**Proposed alteration:** move this deduction to a minor deduction

***Rationale:*** *In UDX, there is no deduction for giving a command to sit in the Nominated area. Moving the deduction from a substantial to a minor will still enable dogs to qualify and have room for other deductions.*

1. Introduction of new exercise. (page 35)

**This exercise will replace the 5 min group down stay.**

**MOVING POSITIONS:** Maximum Points 25

**Principal Feature:** The dog and Handler are to work as a team without the use of a lead. The dog to promptly perform the Sit, Stand and Down on the first command, whilst the Handler is still in motion.

**Description of Exercise:**

The dog will work off-lead.

On order from the Judge 'Forward', the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name and then give a command to heel and, at the same time, commence walking briskly at normal pace.

During normal pace the dog shall be required to be left in the Sit, Stand and Down positions whilst the Handler keeps moving forward. Whilst heeling and without pausing or stopping, the Handler will command the dog to “sit”, “stand” or “drop” in the order as directed by the Judge **and walk approximately one metre forward then about turn and return round the dog to the left** at normal pace, returning to heel position. Once the Handler has reached the dog’s front left shoulder, the dog should be in prescribed position. The Handler must then continue heeling forward after returning to the heel position, without pause or hesitation.

**He heeling will be given in a straight line with no turns. Commands may be a single verbal and/or physical hand signal. A command and/or signal for the Moving Sit position is allowable.**

Orders for the positions will be the same for each dog and will be selected by the Judge. The judge will then order the position naming the position with the orders “Moving Sit”, “Moving stand”, “Moving Down”, “About Turn, collect your dog”, “Halt”, “ . ‘Exercise Finished”.

**Orders from the Judge:** ’Forward’, followed by the orders in any sequence, ‘Moving Sit, ‘Moving Stand, ‘Moving Down’, ‘Halt’, ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Deductions Zero Score:** For a dog which is unmanageable, or for a dog that fails to either sit, down, stand or remain in position. If a Handler commands the dog to take up an incorrect position for any of the moving positions.

**Substantial:** For a Handler who hesitates when leaving the dog. Prolonged commands or slow response to commands or for the handler failing to maintain normal pace when walking around the dog.

**Minor:** For imperfections in heeling, poor sits, stands, downs and for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

***Rationale:*** *This new exercise leads dogs into the Positions in Motion exercise in UDX. There is no need for the Position Coming-Up command as there are no other positions other than the three moving positions.*

1. Reorder of exercises (page 29)

***Rationale:*** *The following order moves the signal exercise which can be quite long and tiring closer to the start of judging which is in line with all other levels where heeling is completed first. The order of judging would then be:*

**UTILITY CLASS**

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

1. Seek Back 30

**2. Signal Exercise 30**

**3. Directed Jumping 40**

**4. Scent Discrimination 45**

5.SpeakonCommand
 orFoodRefusal
 or Directed Retrieve 20

**6. Moving Positions 25**

7. Group Examination 10

TOTAL 200