**2025 NOTC MTG – ATTACHMENT 6h – All Obedence submissions combined**

**ANKC OBEDIENCE AGENDA 2025**

**DOGS VIC**

**GLOSSARY**

**1. INTRODUCTION - Paragraph 2,**

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.

**Proposal:**

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.

**DOGS QLD**

**4. CLASSES**

1. COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS: For dogs, six months of age or over, and of either sex which are not eligible for the title of ‘Community Companion Dog’ (C.C.D.). Under no circumstances except where an application for a C.C.D. Title has been rejected on a technicality, shall a dog, which has gained a qualifying score in a Novice Class, be eligible to compete in the Community Companion Dog Class. A dog is not permitted to compete in the Community Companion Dog Class and a Novice Class at the same trial.
2. NOVICE CLASS: For dogs, six months of age or over, and of either sex which are not eligible for the title of ‘Companion Dog' (C.D.). Under no circumstances except where an application for a C.D. Title has been rejected on a technicality, shall a dog which has competed in an Open Class be eligible to compete in the Novice Class.

**Proposal:**

1. COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS: For dogs, ~~six~~ twelve months of age or over, and of either sex which are not eligible for the title of ‘Community Companion Dog’ (C.C.D.). Under no circumstances except where an application for a C.C.D. Title has been rejected on a technicality, shall a dog, which has gained a qualifying score in a Novice Class, be eligible to compete in the Community Companion Dog Class. A dog is not permitted to compete in the Community Companion Dog Class and a Novice Class at the same trial.
2. NOVICE CLASS: For dogs, ~~six~~ twelve months of age or over, and of either sex which are not eligible for the title of ‘Companion Dog' (C.D.). Under no circumstances except where an application for a C.D. Title has been rejected on a technicality, shall a dog which has competed in an Open Class be eligible to compete in the Novice Class.

**Rationale:** A dog must be a minimum of twelve (12) months of age to enter in an Obedience Trial.

The education of dog breeding, psychology, growth and behaviour is more available to consumers today.

Education on the welfare of dogs, including their growth patterns, their mental abilities, and their physicality, gives proof that we should not put stress on the dog’s mental ability or physical structure until the growth plates have occurred.

Dogs Australia should be promoting the welfare and care of our dogs so that they have a long and healthy life.

**DOGS WEST**

#### Notes:

* 1. A dog which has gained sufficient awards to qualify for the title of C.D., C.D.X. or U.D. shall NOT be eligible to compete in a higher class at an Obedience Trial until such time as the owner/s have lodged an application for recognition of the title with the Member Body in the State or Territory in which the registered owner/s reside.
  2. Qualifications up to, and including, the date of closing of entry shall count as eligibility to compete in any Class.

#### ~~Each dog must have a separate Handler for all Group exercises~~. – Consequential

**RINGS**

**DOGS VIC**

**Rings**

Proposal: 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.

**EXHIBITS**

**DOGS WEST**

#### **Withdrawal of Dog**: - Consequential

A dog may be withdrawn during judging of the individual exercises with the consent of the Judge, but must not take any further part in that class, **~~except where required as a stand in dog in a group exercise.~~ ~~Should a competitor choose to withdraw after the individual exercises, they must inform the Judge~~ ~~or Steward prior to the commencement of the Group exercises~~**~~.~~

**EXHIBITORS AND HANDLERS**

**DOGS WEST**

#### **Change of Pace:**

The dog will show three distinct paces. During the heeling routine the dog will show a slow, normal and fast pace. The pace will be in proportion to the size and build of the dog.

#### Change of Pace:

~~The dog will show three distinct paces. During the heeling routine the dog will show a slow, normal and~~  ~~fast pace. The pace will be in proportion to the size and build of the dog.~~

**Proposal:** The dog and handler team will show three distinct paces. During the heeling routine the Judge will order slow, normal and fast pace. The dog will maintain heel position when the handler changes pace. The pace will be in proportion to the size and build of the dog

**Rationale: The dog should not change pace on its own but more correctly maintain heel while the handler changes pace. The additional wording is in keeping with the wording in the Guide to Judges which emphasizes teamwork. The additional wording also clarifies any confusion with gait and**

**DOGS NSW**

**Commands**

**Paragraph 6** - Where the word ’command’ appears in specific exercises, it will mean ‘command and/or signal’ unless otherwise specified.

All verbal commands must be in the English Language unless approved otherwise by the Judge.

One command only is given to the dog for a specific action on the part of the dog. The verbal command must be a single word.

The command may be given by the use of the Handler’s voice and/or specific action of the Handler in the form of a signal.

A voice command and a signal may be given, but must be used simultaneously. A signal should be a single gesture of the arms and hands only. Signals must be inaudible and must not touch the dog. The arms and hands may be returned to a different position but, once there may not be moved again during that portion of the exercise.

Any unusual noise, prolonged or extended signal or movement of the Handler may be considered by the Judges as a ‘Signal’, or extra command.

Where the dog’s name is used to attract its attention, a distinct pause between the name of the dog and the command is required.

When giving the command to stay before throwing the dumbbell or the command to finish in every exercise that requires a retrieve, the hand holding the dumbbell or the retrieved article must not be used to give the signal to stay or finish. Failure to comply will result in a deduction for failing the lesser points of the exercise.

Proposal: Paragraph 6:

Any unusual noise, prolonged or extended signal, movement of the Handler may be considered by the Judges as a ‘Signal’, or extra command, a minor or substantial deduction be given.

Any Handlers left arm & hand is swinging on the outside of the dogs head & body, giving continued guidance be considered by the Judges as a ‘Signal’, or extra command a non-qualifying score should be given.

Rationale: Each discipline has rules, obedience has rules of continual guidance, although there is no specification on where or how the arm and hand are placed and used

**DOGS NSW**

Proposal: Commands – Paragraph 2:

Where the word “command” appears in specific exercise, it will mean “command and/or signal” unless otherwise specified.

**All verbal commands must be in the English Language. Failure to comply will result in a non-qualifying score.**

One command only is given to the dog for a specific action on the part of the dog. The verbal command must be a single word.

The command may be given by the use of the Handler’s voice and/or specific action of the Handler in the form of a signal.

A voice command and a signal may be given, but must be used simultaneously. A signal should be a single gesture of the arms and hands only. Signals must be inaudible and must not touch the dog. The arms and hands may be returned to a different position but, one there may not be moved again during that portion of the exercise.

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When giving the command to stay before throwing the dumbbell or the command to finish in every exercise that requires a retrieve, the hand holding the dumbbell or the retrieved article must not be used to give the signal to stay or finish. Failure to comply will result in a deduction for failing the lesser points of the exercise.

Rationale: A verbal command is to be a single word. A judge is not to know if a single word is being used if the English Language is not used.

**DOGS SA**

*By way of introduction to this submission it is premised on the broad view that there is little reason to change the fundamentals of the Obedience and Rally rules.*

*With regard to the CCD and Novice classes there was a view among competitors and judges that CCD has not achieved its purpose of attracting competitors with an “easier” introduction to trialling. Nor, has the removal of heel on lead in Novice led to an improvement in the standard of competition in that class.*

**Proposal: Commands: Add**

During heeling exercises the Handler’s left arm should be held as near as practical to the left hand side of the Handler’s body when not giving a physical signal.

**Rationale**: There is a move towards the left arm being used as a constant guide (normal position) with hand outside of the dog’s head. This revision should avoid the IPO style of guiding the dog while heeling.

**DOGS WEST**

**Dead Dog Position**

**~~A dog lying completely on its side, whether its eyes are open or not, is called a ‘dead dog'.~~**

**Proposal: Remove this definition and the subsequent**

**Rationale: If group stays are removed then this is redundant**

**DOGS ACT**

**Disqualification:**

No points awarded. The dog is disqualified from all Trial Competition on the day and the Judge must provide a written report to the Member Body within 14 days ‑ the only exception being in instances where the disqualification was incurred for continual barking, a correction penalty, fouling the ring or for handlers bringing training aids into the ring.

**Proposal:** No points awarded. The dog is disqualified from all Trial Competition on the day and the Judge must provide a written report to the Member Body within 14 days - the only exception being in instances where the disqualification was incurred for continual barking, a correction penalty, fouling the ring or for handlers bringing training aids, other than rewards allowed at the CCD Reward Station, into the ring.

**Rationale:** Consequential amendment if the proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD succeeds. This proposal would allow the handler to leave food or toy rewards at the Reward Station.

The proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD is detailed under the proposed new section Rewards and Reward Stations.

**DOGS NSW**

**Proposal: Disqualification:**

No points awarded. The dog is disqualified from all Trial Competition on the day and the Judge must provide a written report to the Member body within 14 days – the only exception being in instances where the disqualification was incurred for continual barking, a correction penalty, fouling the ring , for handlers bringing training aids into the ring , for the handler leaving training aids within 5 metres from the competition ring and the dog leaving the competition ring off lead;

**Rationale:** To clarify the penalty for leaving training aids within 5 metres

**DOGS NSW**

**Dog Sitting in front of Handler in the Recalls, Retrieves, or Jumping Exercises**

Except in the C.C.D. Class and Novice Retrieve, if a dog fails to sit in front of its Handler in any of the above exercises, the penalty for this error must be a Substantial deduction. Unless specified in the individual exercises, when a dog goes directly to heel without sitting in front of the Handler it shall incur two substantial deductions.

**Proposal:** If a dog goes directly to heel without sitting in front of the handler, it shall incur one substantial deduction. The handler shall then be requested to "finish the dog": If the dog then finishes to the heel position, no further points are to be deducted but, if the dog does not finish to the heel position, then another substantial deduction will be incurred.

# **Rationale:** It is not right to incur two substantial deductions when the dog has, basically, just failed to sit in front. The handler must at least be given the opportunity to finish the dog to the heel position If the dog fails to complete the finish, on command, then it is fair to incur a second substantial deduction (but not before).

**DOGS VIC**

**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.

**Proposal:** 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.

**DOGS QLD**

**Entering the Ring**

**Proposal:** On the steward’s call of the dog’s catalogue number, the Handler will enter the ring with the dog on lead and stand near the ‘starting marker’ on whichever side preferred, and sit the dog in the heel position. The exception is for Group exercises when the Handlers will take up position with their right foot next to the stay marker. Unless otherwise stated in the description of the exercise, the dog must be sitting in the heel position before the exercise commences. For those classes where all the exercises are done with the dog off lead the dog may, when entering and exiting the ring, wear a collar and lead or a collar and separate slip lead.

**Rationale:** Most of the other dog sports, where the dog works off lead, as well as a collar have incorporated the use of a slip lead when a dog is entering or exiting the ring. These choices are used quite successfully. This gives Handlers a more suitable choice of control for their particular breeds or temperament types while still ensuring the dog is under control.

**DOGS WEST**

**Entering the Ring:**

On the Steward's call of the dog's catalogue number, the Handler will enter the ring with the dog on lead and stand near the 'starting marker' on whichever side preferred, and sit the dog in the heel position. **~~The~~ ~~exception is for Group exercises when the Handlers will take up position with their right foot next~~ ~~to the stay marker.~~** Unless otherwise stated in the description of an exercise, the dog must be sitting in the heel position before the exercise commences.

**Rationale:** If Group Stays are changed to the proposed individual exercise this is now redundant

**DOGS NSW**

**Handler returning to the Dog:**

When the handler returns to the dog, they must walk around the back of the dog to the heel position.

Proposal: Handler Returning to the Dog:

When the handler returns to the dog, they must walk around the back of the dog to the heel position. Failure to comply with this Rule must incur a zero score for that exercise or part exercise, whichever is applicable.

**Rationale**: Current wording does not clarify a penalty.

**DOGS VIC**

**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.

Proposal: 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.

**DOGS QLD**

**Heel Position:**

The dog is at the Handler's left side as close as practicable to the Handler.

**Proposal - New Rule**

**Heel Position:**

The dog may be either on the Handler’s left or right side and as close as practicable to the Handler.

**Rationale**: To ensure the future viability of our sport it is vital that the sport evolves and develops to suit the needs of our participants. There is really no reason why the dog cannot heel on either the left or right side of the handler. It does not affect, in any way, the manner in which the exercises are performed. While there was an historic reason for using the left side that is not applicable to the dog sport world as it stands today. We need to modernise or slowly perish. Many of the other current dog sport disciplines already include the dog working on either side.

**Consequential Changes – See Guide to Judges**

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposal: NEW Dogs Going to the Reward Station in CCD:**

A dog going to the Reward Station other than with and under control of their handler, and/or a handler rewarding the dog further than 1 m from the Reward Station must be penalised. Penalty – up to 5 points.

**Rationale:** Consequential amendment if the proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD succeeds. If a Reward Station is used in CCD, then a dog must only go to the Reward Station in a controlled manner and rewards must only be given to the dog at the Reward Station.

The proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD is detailed under the proposed new section Rewards and Reward Stations.

**REWARDS**

**DOGS ACT**

No rewards for the dog are to be left within five (5) metres of the competition rings.

**Proposal:** Apart from rewards allowed at the CCD Reward Station, no rewards for the dog are to be left within five (5) metres of the competition rings

**Rationale:** Consequential amendment if the proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD succeeds. This proposal would allow the handler to leave food or toy rewards at the Reward Station.

The proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD is detailed under the proposed new section Rewards and Reward Stations.

**TRAINING AIDS IN THE RING:**

**DOGS ACT**

No food or visible or audible aids carried or worn by the Handler, or Training Aids (ball, ‘bumbags’, toys, dummies, tug leads etc.) will be taken into the Ring by the Handler.

Penalty – Disqualification

**Proposal**: With the exception of items to be used at the Reward Station in CCD Class, no food or visible or audible aids carried or worn by the Handler, or Training Aids (ball, ‘bumbags’, toys, dummies, tug leads etc.) will be taken into the Ring by the Handler.

Penalty – Disqualification

**Rationale:** Consequential amendment if the proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD succeeds. This proposal would allow the handler to leave food or toy rewards at the Reward Station.

The proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD is detailed under the proposed new section Rewards and Reward Stations below.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposal: REWARDS and REWARD STATIONS: Use a Reward Station in CCD**

Rewards in the form of food or a silent training toy may be used at the Reward Station in the CCD class only, following completion of an individual exercise. The Reward Station is not to be used for group exercises. Any food rewards must be stored in a sealed container excluding a plastic bag. Any food or toy must remain at the Reward Station, and the food container must remain sealed, when not in use. The handler will bring their own rewards.

There must be one (1) Reward Station located in the CCD ring. The Affiliate will provide a separate table to be used as the Reward Station. Prior to entering the ring, the handler must place any rewards on this table, which will be positioned in a location determined by the Judge. The Judge may inspect a handler’s rewards before commencement of the Test and may issue such direction to the handler in relation to the rewards as the Judge deems appropriate, in accordance with this Rule.

The handler may reward the dog up to a maximum of (3) visits to the Reward Station in CCD class. Delivery of the reward must be undertaken briskly and quietly. A handler must use one type of reward only following an exercise but may use a food reward for some exercises and a toy reward for other exercises. Any reward must be delivered within one (1) metre of the Reward Station. Food rewards must be delivered by hand and not placed on the ground. Toys and/or food must not be thrown or used to make a noise in the process of reward delivery.

The Judge may direct the handler to leave the Reward Station and move on to the next exercise. When use is made of a Reward Station, the dog must move to the Reward Station with and under the control of the handler.

**Rationale:** Obedience is a challenging sport. Being able to provide reinforcement in the entry level obedience class provides opportunities for the handler to provide a positive ring experience for their young or inexperienced dog. ANKC Tricks trials have proven that Reward Stations can successfully be used in trials.

**JUDGING PROCEDURES**

**DOGS WEST**

**Breaking from Position**: When a dog sits or moves all four (4) feet after the command 'Stay ' in the Stand for Examination, Stand Free for Examination, Group Examination, and the Stand position for the Speak on Command, Food Refusal, Signal Exercises and Distance Control or rolls onto its back during the Down Stay, it is deemed to have broken from position.

If a dog lifts to settle itself or to roll onto a hip and ‘shows air’ in the process during the Down Stay, as long as the dog does not move off the position where it was left there shall be no deduction. If the dog continually lifts or rolls from hip to hip, it shall be deemed as fidgeting.

**Proposal; Breaking from Position:**

**When a dog sits or moves all four (4) feet after the command 'Stay ' in the Stand for Examination, Stand Free for Examination, ~~Group Examination~~, and the Stand position for the Speak on Command, Food Refusal, Signal Exercises and Distance Control ~~or rolls onto its back during the Down Stay,~~ it is deemed to have broken from position.**

**~~If a dog lifts to settle itself or to roll onto a hip and ‘shows air’ in the process during the Down Stay,~~ ~~as long as the dog does not move off the position where it was left there shall be no deduction. If~~ ~~the dog continually lifts or rolls from hip to hip, it shall be deemed as fidgeting.~~**

**Rationale: If group stays are removed as per WA’s proposals, these are now redundant**

**DOGS ACT**

**Certificates:**

An Obedience Trial Certificate, signed by the Judge, showing the total number of points awarded, must be available to each qualifying dog in each Class.

**Proposal:** An Obedience Trial Certificate, ~~signed by the Judge,~~ showing the printed name of the judge and the total number of points awarded, must be available to each qualifying dog in each Class**.** The Judge must be given the opportunity to check Certificates before they are given to handlers.

**Rationale:** Reflects recent decisions by Dogs Australia and Dogs ACT that the judge is no longer required to sign certificates.

**DOGS NSW**

**Proposal: Certificates:** An Obedience Trial Certificate, **bearing the name of** the Judge, showing the total number of points awarded, must be available to each qualifying dog in each Class.

**Rationale:** There has been a marked increase in the use of technololgy by both exhibitors and club officials in the running of not only Clubs but the events they hold. Schedules, entries, catalogues, exhibit cards and results are now commonly available on a number of increasingly sophisticated online sites. This has greatly reduced the workload which has been falling on a dwindling number of organisers within club affiliates.

Where it is possible for certificates to be produced and/or issued electronically Member Bodies should be able to take advantage of time and cost savings to their affiliates conducting trials.

**DOGS WEST**

**Certificates:**

~~An Obedience Trial Certificate, signed by the Judge, showing the total number of points awarded must~~  ~~be available to each qualifying dog in each Class.~~

An Obedience Trial Certificate, ~~signed by the Judge~~, showing the total number of points awarded **and the Judges name**, must be available to each qualifying dog in each Class. **This may be in the form of an e-certificate issued by email**

**Rationale**:New regulations by Dogs Australia dictates that Judges no longer need to sign the certificates.

**DOGS SA**

**Change of Position**

**Proposal: Add** - Except when making provision for a handler who has a dispensation due to a disability, including an approved mobility aid, will be placed on the end of the stay group.

**Rationale:** Competitor requiring aids (such as wheelchairs or other mobility devices) should be assisted in order not to reduce their ability to compete in a safe and appropriate manner for them and their dog. To ensure there is no impediment to the handler and dog nor a risk to any adjacent dog and holder during the execution of the exercise, particularly when returning around the dog.

**DOGS WEST**

#### **Change of Position**:

No request for a change of position in Group exercises will be allowed.

**Proposal: Change of Position:** No request for a change of position in Group exercises will be allowed**, however, the Judge may, at their discretion, choose to change the position**

**Rationale: This keeps the intent that the order for group exercises is random and therefore fair and specifically there will be *no request allowed*. The additional wording allows the Judge to change the position for safety reasons. Example a handler with a disability may need more time or space to set up or the disparagement in size for dogs next to each other could be intimidating to a tiny breed**

**Note that if group stays are removed this is now redundant**

**DOGS WEST**

**Examinations:**

For all examinations the Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. In

examining the dog, the Judge will touch those parts of the dog’s body detailed in the exercise description for each class. This is a temperament test so undue pressure must not be exerted on the dog’s shoulders, back or hips to test for ‘stability’.

Where stand-in dog/s are required for the Utility and Utility Dog Excellent ‘Group Examination’, the stand- in dog/s must not be examined.

Proposal:

Where stand-in dog/s are required for the Utility and Utility Dog Excellent ‘Group Examination’, the stand- ~~in dog/s must not be examined~~

**Rationale: If Group Stays are removed as per WA’s proposals this is now redundant**

**DOGS NSW**

**Group Exercises:** Group Exercises must consist of a minimum of three (3) dogs and a maximum of ten (10) dogs and must be judged by the same person who officiated in the individual exercises segment of the Trial. Each dog must have a separate Handler for the Group Exercises. If there are insufficient entrants the Judge will ask the Steward to furnish stand-in dogs to make up a Group. These dogs must be left on lead and the Handler must stay next to the dog in the heel position. Unless an exhibitor has multiple entries, an exhibit must be handled by the one competitor for all exercises. In extreme weather conditions the Judge shall consider using areas of shade where practical to conduct the group stay exercises. The distance between dogs for all group exercises must be approximately two and a half (2.5) metre

**Proposal**: Group Exercises must consist of a minimum of three (3) dogs and a maximum of ten (10) dogs and must be judged by the same person who officiated in the individual exercises segment of the Trial. Each dog must have a separate Handler for the Group Exercises. If there are insufficient entrants the Judge will ask the Steward to furnish stand-in dogs to make up a Group. These dogs must be left on lead and the Handler must stay next to the dog in the heel position. An exhibit must be handled by the same competitor for all exercises. In extreme weather conditions the Judge shall consider using areas of shade where practical to conduct the group stay exercises. The distance between dogs for all group exercises must be approximately two and a half (2.5) metre

**Rationale:** If a handler has multiple entries on a qualifying score, an extra stay exercise should be held to allow a handler to handle their own dog.

It can be very stressful to both dog and owner, and the strange handler to have a stranger taking over when their owner is in the ring commanding another dog.

Every dog and handler should be on the same field, that can’t happen when a dog is given to another person to finish his run through. The dog and handler should have the same right as every other competitor on the day.

In the introduction of the Obedience rule book it even says “Obedience Trials demonstrate the dog and handler’s ability to work together”

They are not working together if given over to another handler to finish.

**DOGS SA**

**Group Exercises:**

**Proposal: Add** - A judge may separate entries in to multiple stay exercises where a handler has two or more dogs which have passed all individual exercises.

**Rationale:** This should provide for an alternative a handler where a handler has multiple dogs in the same class and stay group otherwise requiring a replacement handler for stays.

**DOGS WEST**

**Group Exercises:**

**Proposal: Delete**

**Rationale:** If Group Stays are rem oved as per WA’s proposal this is now redundant.

**DOGS WEST**

**Excluding dogs from Group Exercises:**

**Proposal:** ~~Excluding dogs from Group Exercises:~~

Where a Judge considers that it would be unsafe for a dog or dogs to take part in, or continue to take part in, a group exercise, the Judge shall advise the handler or handlers that the dog or dogs is / are disqualified ~~and is / are not permitted to take part in or continue to take part in the exercise.~~

In considering whether it would be unsafe for a dog or dog to take part in or continue to take part in an ~~exercise, a Judge may consider any relevant matter including, but not limited to, the following:-~~

1. The conduct of the dog or dogs leading up to or during the exercise, including conduct that occurs ~~anywhere in the precincts of the trial rings.~~
2. ~~The effect or likely effect of that conduct on other dogs taking part in the exercise.~~
3. ~~The conduct of the handler or handlers of the dog or dogs leading up to or during the exercise.~~
4. ~~The likelihood of harm being caused to dogs, handlers or trial officials.~~

**Rationale:** If Group Stays are rem oved as per WA’s proposal this is now redundant.

**DOGS ACT**

**Judging:**

If multiple classes are judged in the one ring, the U.D. and U.D.X. Classes must be judged before other Classes.

**Proposal:** If multiple classes are judged in the one ring, the U.D. and U.D.X. Classes must be judged before other Classes and the CCD Class must be judged after other classes.

**Rationale:** Consequential amendment if the proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD succeeds. Judging CCD last would allow other classes to be completed before any food is brought into the ring.

The proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD is detailed under the proposed new section Rewards and Reward Stations.

**DOGS NSW**

**Proposal**: If multiple classes are judged in the one ring, the U.D. and U.D.X. Classes must be judged before other Classes, and U.D.X. before U.D. in the same ring.

**Rationale:The U.D.X. class is the higher level class and has the more involved seek back exercise.**

###### **DOGS ACT**

###### **Non‑Qualifying Score:**

###### Unless specifically approved by the Member Body, a non-qualifying score shall not in itself necessarily constitute grounds to order removal, and dogs will generally be given the opportunity to complete the class exercises. A Judge may not be permitted to dismiss a competitor from the ring based solely on an NQ score. Should the competitor choose to continue they must not use it as a training session.

###### Proposal: Unless specifically approved by the Member Body, a non-qualifying score shall not in itself necessarily constitute grounds to order removal, and dogs will generally be given the opportunity to complete the class exercises. A Judge may not be permitted to dismiss a competitor from the ring based solely on an NQ score. However, a dog shall not compete in an individual stay exercise if the Judge exercises their discretion, given in the description of an individual stay exercise, to only allow qualifying dogs to attempt the stay exercise. Should the competitor choose or be allowed to continue they must not use it as a training session.

###### Rationale: Consequential Amendment if any of the proposals to make stays individual exercises and allow participation to be restricted to qualifying dogs succeed.

###### 

**DOGS WEST**

#### **Re-judging**

If a dog has failed a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged nor given a second chance. However, if the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar or unusual conditions the Judge may, at their own discretion, re-judge the dog on the entire exercise except in the case of Food Refusal, Speak on Command, Scent Discrimination, Directed Jumping and the Multiple Retrieve exercises, where only that particular part may be re-judged.

**Proposal:** ~~In a group exercise, any dog which has not been affected by the peculiar or unusual circumstances~~  ~~should be allowed to complete the exercise before re-judging commences.~~

**Rationale: If Group Stays are removed as per WA’s proposals this is now redundant**

**DOGS SA**

**Scoring:**

**Proposal: Add** - When determining a score for any exercise the Judge must only score using whole points and may not make assessments based on part of a point.

**Rationale:** This should ensure greater consistency across judges in different member bodies. There are reports of judge in other States using half point scoring.

**DOGS NSW**

**Starting and Finishing:**

Prior to the start of the exercise or part exercise, the judge will ask the Handler “Are you ready?” The Handler must clearly acknowledge the Judge’s request. All judging must finish when the Judge orders” Exercise Finished”

**Proposal:** Starting and Finishing:

Prior to the start of the exercise or part exercise, the judge will ask the Handler “Are you ready?” Judging will commence once the Handler has clearly acknowledged the Judge’s request. All judging must finish when the Judge orders” Exercise Finished”.

**Rationale:** Clarification of existing Rule.

**DOGS ACT**

**Substantially Right Direction:**

In the Directed Jumping exercise, 'Substantially Right Direction' means the dog is to remain within the inside lines of the inside jump uprights.

Proposal: In the Directed Jumping exercise and the Sendaway and Directed Retrieves exercise, 'Substantially Right Direction' means the dog is to remain within the inside lines of the inside jump uprights.

**Rationale:** Consequential amendment if the proposal for the new, optional Sendaway and Directed Retrieves exercise in UD succeeds. The proposed new exercise requires the dog to go to the Prescribed Area with the same precision as the Directed Jumping exercise.

**GUIDE TO JUDGES**

**DOGS QLD**

**Consequential Change**: (f) during the heel routines, the Handler must walk briskly with the dog at their left or right side. In the 'Heel on Lead' exercise the lead must be completely loose. Guiding the dog by means of the lead shall be penalised;

**Current Rule:** (f) during the heel routines, the Handler must walk briskly with the dog at their left side. In the 'Heel on Lead' exercise the lead must be completely loose. Guiding the dog by means of the lead shall be penalised;

**Proposal: New Rule**

(f) during the heel routines, the Handler must walk briskly with the dog at their left side. Dog and Handler should walk in a natural manner. In the 'Heel on Lead' exercise the lead must be completely loose. Guiding the dog by means of the lead shall be penalised;

**Rationale**: There has been instances now occurring in the ring where either or both the handler and the dog have been moving in a way that is exaggerated and, in the case of the dog, potentially harmful to the dog’s body structure. It is beholden upon the administrators of our sport to ensure that we do not accept anything which could possibly cause long term harm to either the handler or the dog. With the ever increasing critical eye of the public upon us we need to be seen to do be doing everything within our power to ensure the safety and welfare of both humans and dogs.

**DOGS VIC**

**Proposal: (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

**EQUIPMENT**

**DOGS QLD**

**Jumps:** It is the Judge’s responsibility to see that jumps are set for each dog in accordance with these rules. All jumps must be white, except for the bar used in the Bar Jump.

**Proposal: New Rule**

It is the Judge’s responsibility to see that jumps are set for each dog in accordance with these rules. All jumps must be white, except for the bar used in the Bar Jump. All jumps must be collapsable.

**Rationale:** All jumps must be displaceable, both bar and solid, to reduce risk of injury. Safety issues concerning our dogs need to be first and foremost.

**DOGS QLD**

**Calculation of the Height and Width of Jumps:**

The dog's height shall be measured at the withers to the nearest 10mm. The dog’s jump height shall be stated on the entry form by the exhibitor.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Height of Dog at Withers** | **Height to be jumped** | **Broad Jump** | **Number of Broad Jump Hurdles** |
| Under 250mm | 150mm | 300mm | 2 |
| 250mm and under 380mm | 200mm | 400mm | 2 |
| 380mm and under 450mm | 300mm | 600mm | 3 |
| 450mm and under 550mm | 400mm | 800mm | 3 |
| 550mm and over | 500mm | 1000mm | 3 |

**DOGS SA**

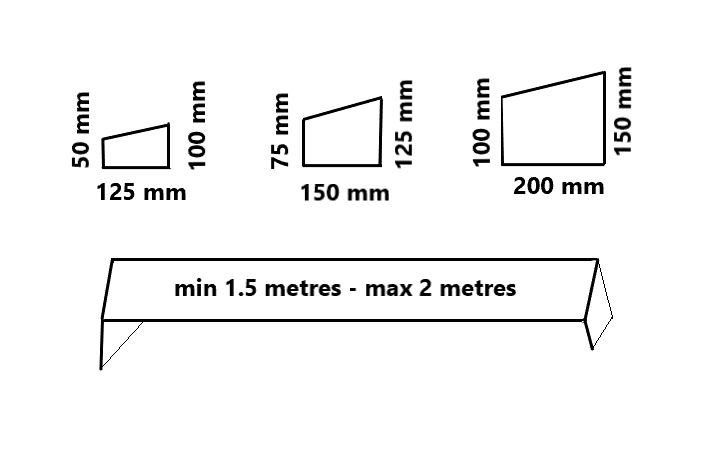
**Calculation of the Height and width of Jumps:**

**Proposal: Add** - **After the first sentence** – The height of the dog shall be determined by the Affiliate issuing a height card to verify the measuring of the dog by judges under the provisions of their Member Body. Where are dog is under 2 years of age when measured it must be re-measured on reaching 2 years of age.

**Rationale**: There is some confusion with regard to thew height required when using different “on-line” entry systems. This clarifies what height the competitor must place on their entry form.

**Broad Jump:**

The Broad Jump must consist of three separate hurdles a minimum of one and a half (1.5) metres and a maximum of two (2) metres wide. All other dimensions are as per the diagram below. For convenience, the three jumps may be built to nest together.

When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first

**Proposal: - to Eliminate the Broad Jump exercise and replace with Scent Discrimination**

**Calculation of the Height ~~and Width~~ of Jumps:**

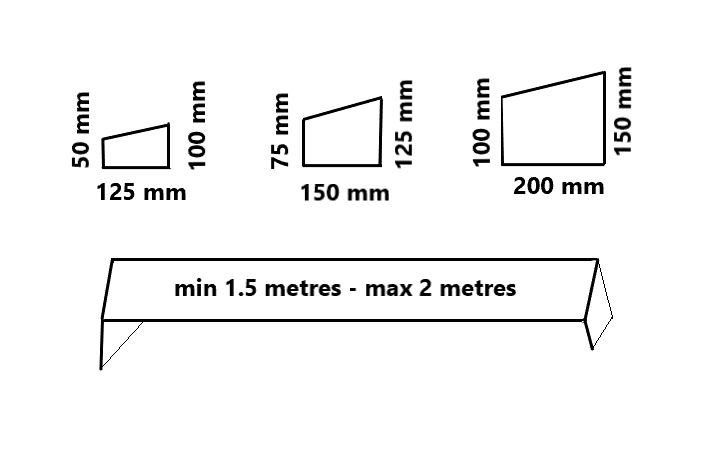
The dog's height shall be measured at the withers to the nearest 10mm. The dog’s jump height shall be stated on the entry form by the exhibitor.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Height of Dog at Withers** | **Height to be jumped** | **~~Broad Jump~~** | **~~Number of Broad Jump Hurdles~~** |
| Under 250mm | 150mm | ~~300mm~~ | ~~2~~ |
| 250mm and under 380mm | 200mm | ~~400mm~~ | ~~2~~ |
| 380mm and under 450mm | 300mm | ~~600mm~~ | ~~3~~ |
| 450mm and under 550mm | 400mm | ~~800mm~~ | ~~3~~ |
| 550mm and over | 500mm | ~~1000mm~~ | ~~3~~ |

~~Broad Jump:~~

~~The Broad Jump must consist of three separate hurdles a minimum of one and a half (1.5) metres and a maximum of two (2) metres wide. All other dimensions are as per the diagram below. For convenience, the three jumps may be built to nest together.~~

~~When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first.~~

**~~~~**

(Delete above drawings of broad jump.)

**Rationale: for Deleting and Replacing the Broad Jump exercise**

If the Broad Jump is deleted as proposed, the description of it must be removed from the front part of the Rulebook.

The Broad Jump exercise is not progressive in any way – nothing at levels below lead up to it and no exercises at higher levels rely on the skills developed in this exercise.

Broad jump is not a useful exercise in everyday life. Very few handlers choose to do this exercise.

Handlers with older or less sound dogs prefer to avoid jumping exercises. Jumping a spread from a near standstill then abruptly turning right is physically demanding.

The broad jump is a cumbersome piece of equipment for Clubs to obtain and store given its low frequency of use.

The broad jump clutters up the ring and makes it more difficult to find a place for Directed Retrieve. In at least one known case, a judge tripped over the broad jump while walking backwards for the Drop on Recall and broke her wrist.

The space freed up in the Open test by deleting the broad jump can be better used to lay a progressive foundation for the advanced scent discrimination exercises required in UD and UDX. It is proposed replacing the optional Broad Jump exercise with an optional introductory Scent Discrimination exercise modelled on the UK Kennel Club Test A (handler scent vs no human scent, 6 articles in a line), to give handlers the opportunity and impetus to begin teaching this skill before suddenly confronting the highly complex scent discrimination exercise in UD (15 articles of three types, handler vs other scent).

**DOGS ACT**

**Collars and Leads:**

All dogs must have a slip or fixed collar which fits loosely around only the dog's neck and which must remain on the dog at all times. No spiked collars, electronic collars or collars which give additional head control shall be permitted.

The minimum length of lead will be 750mm and it will be fitted with a quick release fastener. All dogs must enter and leave the Ring on a lead. In exercises that require a dog to be off‑lead, the lead will be taken off and handed to the Steward at the start marker.

All exercises with the exception of ‘Heel on Lead’ and ‘Stand for Examination’ in the Community Companion Dog Class must be executed off‑lead.

**Proposal: Collars and Leads:** All dogs must have a slip or fixed collar which fits loosely around only the dog's neck and which must remain on the dog at all times. No spiked collars, electronic collars or collars which give additional head control shall be permitted.

The minimum length of lead will be 750mm and it will be fitted with a quick release fastener. All dogs must enter and leave the Ring on a lead. In exercises that require a dog to be off‑lead, the lead will be taken off ~~and handed to the Steward~~ at the start marker and retained by the handler.

All exercises with the exception of ‘Heel on Lead’ and ‘Stand for Examination’ in the Community Companion Dog Class must be executed off‑lead.

**Rationale:** Handler to keep lead on their person. Handlers are more efficient moving in and out of the ring when they retain their lead. This reduces the risk of spreading communicable diseases especially to the more vulnerable triallers and their families. Stewards are often busy organising the next competitors, thus there could be a delay in returning the lead to the handler. Also, if there is an incident, the handler has their lead on hand and can promptly and safely leash their dog.

**DOGS SA**

**Collars and Leads:**

In exercises that require a dog to be off-lead, the lead will be taken off and **handed to the Steward** at the start peg.

**Proposal**: In exercises that require a dog to be off-lead, the lead will be taken off and **retained out of sight by** **the handler** at the start peg.

**Rationale**: Retain the current Covid Rule re handler retaining the lead.

**DOGS WEST**

**Collars and Leads:**

### Proposal: All dogs must have a slip or fixed collar which fits loosely around only the dog's neck and which must remain on the dog at all times. No spiked collars, electronic collars or collars which give additional head control shall be permitted.

The minimum length of lead will be 750mm and it will be fitted with a quick release fastener. All dogs must enter and leave the Ring on a lead. In exercises that require a dog to be off-lead, the lead will be taken off and ~~handed to the Steward at the start marker.~~ **retained on the handlers person either in a pocket or around the neck, shoulders or waist.**

All exercises with the exception of ‘Heel on Lead’ and ‘Stand for Examination’ in the Community Companion Dog Class must be executed off-lead.

Rationale: This has been current practice since the Covid pandemic and has proven to be a successful addition to the ring procedure with no downside. In the event of a loss of control the handler is able to secure their dog easily on the Judges orders and not have to wait on the steward to bring the lead in. It allows the steward to attend to other duties and not be required to wait on the handler at the start post. Time is also saved in the stay exercises and in the event of a dog breaking stays the correct lead is immediately available and can be secured by the handler. In the CCD recall exercise the lead can be secured to the dog in the ring and not have to wait for the steward to bring it in to the ring thus allowing more control at the end of the round. In the UD and UDX classes there is no transfer of handlers scent via the lead to the steward which is important for the Seekback exercises.

**Consequential change**… Judges orders, “Remove your lead and secure it to your person”

**DOGS QLD**

**Collars and Leads:**

Proposal: **Collars and Leads:**

All dogs must have a slip or fixed collar which fits loosely around only the dog's neck and which must remain on the dog at all times. No spiked collars, electronic collars or collars which give additional head control shall be permitted.

The minimum length of lead will be 750mm and it will be fitted with a quick release fastener. All dogs must enter and leave the Ring on a lead. In Classes where the lead is removed before commencement of the exercises a collar, harness or slip lead may be used to enter and exit the ring. In exercises that require a dog to be off‑lead, the lead will be taken off and ~~handed to the Steward at the start marker~~ secured by the Handler.

All exercises with the exception of ‘Heel on Lead’ and ‘Stand for Examination’ in the Community Companion Dog Class must be executed off‑lead.

**Rationale:**

The use of a slip lead for the dog entering and exiting the ring is already being used successfully in other dog sports. A slip lead can be removed and replaced quickly and without fuss. This is particular useful for dog breeds with long coats or with Handlers who no longer have the physical dexterity in their hands to quickly and calmly clip on or off the fastener on a lead. The dog will still have a collar on during the runout and will still be under effectual control entering and leaving the ring.

The lead being managed by the Handler rather than the Steward came into use during Covid and has proved to be a very positive change with Judges, Handlers and Stewards. The dog obedience fraternity have expressed its desire to keep this action. The safety aspect is also improved as the Handler can replace the lead at the end of the runout much faster than having to wait for a Steward to return the lead to them.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposal: (NEW): Reward Station (CCD)**

The Affiliate will provide a table to be used as a Reward Station in CCD. It must be a separate table that is not to be used for any other purpose. Each handler will supply their own rewards.

**Rationale:** Consequential amendment if the proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD succeeds. If a Reward Station is used, then the Affiliate will need to supply a separate table for the rewards to be kept on while they’re not in use. The rewards will be supplied by the handler.

The proposal to introduce a Reward Station in CCD is detailed under the proposed new section Rewards and Reward Stations.

**DOGS VIC**

**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.

Proposal: **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

**DOGS SA**

**Gloves:**

**Proposal**: The Handler will provide three **single,** 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:** Some Handlers are presenting ”gloves” which consist of two gloves with one inside the other, sometimes sown together. Presumably this is an attempt to make the gloves larger in profile so they are easier for the dogs to see.

**DOGS QLD:**

**Hoops:**

**Proposal: New Rule (see proposed new exercise in UD)**

**Hoops:** Side posts and Top bar must be white and consist of plastic conduit material 25 – 40mm in diameter. Hoops must be 1000mm high and 600mm wide and have sufficient bottom bars to be stable.

(Drawing of hoop can be provided. Description in consequential changes)

**Rationale**: Eliminating the jumping exercise in UD will allow handlers to compete with dogs that are older and/or no longer physically able to negotiate jumps safely. The majority of dogs competing in this Class are usually older by the time they achieve this title and they can continue competing in this class safely.

**Consequential Change to UD - Directed Jumping**

**New Rule (see proposed new exercise in UD)**

Hoops:

**DOGS WEST**

**Markers:**

Each judging Ring must contain a marker to show where a competitor must stand before the start of individual exercises. ~~Stay markers are numbered markers which must be used in marking the dog’s~~ ~~positions in the Group exercises~~.

**Rationale: If Group Stays are removed as per WA’s proposals this is now redundant**

**DOGS NSW**

**Prescribed Area (UD):**

The Prescribed Area shall form a square with one and a half (1.5) metre long sides. It should be white in colour and be within the range of 25mm to 50mm high and 25mm to 50mm wide. The frame may be of a lightweight timber, PVC piping or metal hinged at the corners, a pegged down hose, rope, or similar material. The Prescribed Area must be visible to the dog from the starting point. At the Judge’s discretion, the equipment forming the ‘Prescribed Area’ may remain on the ground for the duration of judging, or it may be removed from the ring and only set in place specially for the judging of the Directed Jumping exercise.

**Proposal:** The Prescribed Area shall form a square with one and a half (1.5) metre long sides. It should be white in colour and be within the range of 25mm to 50mm high and 25mm to 50mm wide. The frame may be of a lightweight timber, painted white or PVC piping. The Prescribed Area must be visible to the dog from the starting point. At the Judge’s discretion, the equipment forming the ‘Prescribed Area’ may remain on the ground for the duration of judging, or it may be removed from the ring and only set in place specially for the judging of the Directed Jumping exercise.

**Rationale:** This makes the Prescribed Area a more consistent area for Judges, Handlers and Dogs. Pieces of rope, hose and anything else is unprofessional.

**DOGS QLD**

**Consequential Change if the new Scent Discrimination exercise in CDX is passed.**

Scent Discrimination (CDX):

**Proposal:** Scent Discrimination articles must consist of three sets of articles comprising three wooden, three metal and three leather. The articles must be a minimum of 100mm and a maximum of 200mm long. The other dimensions must not exceed: wood 18mm square; leather 25mm wide and 6mm thick; and metal a maximum external diameter of 18mm. The metal articles may be knurled but no articles are to be coated or covered with any material. The size of the articles may be proportional to the size of the dog.

Articles may be painted white on one end to a width of 25mm. The number or letter will be superimposed in the painted area with a contrasting colour.

Each set of articles must be legibly numbered 1-3 or alphabetically marked A-C and the articles in each set must be identical.

The Scent Discrimination articles shall not be set out until the completion of the previous exercise.

The Handler will supply a full set of Scent Discrimination Articles.

**DOGS QLD**

**Consequential Change if submission 2to CDX – Scent Discrimination is accepted**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**Scent Discrimination (CDX)**

The scent cloths will be the same colour, made of towelling or similar material (e.g. face washcloths) and shall be approximately 300 mm square. The cloths will be folded in half, rolled firmly and secured at each end with a matching coloured elasticised band or similar. The cloths shall be supplied by the Handler.

**DOGS ACT**

**Scent Discrimination (UD):**

Scent Discrimination articles must consist of three sets of articles comprising five wooden, five metal and five leather. The articles must be a minimum of 100mm and maximum of 200mm long. The other dimensions must not exceed: wood 18mm square; leather 25mm wide and 6mm thick; and metal a maximum external diameter of 18mm. The metal articles may be knurled but no articles are to be coated or covered with any material. The size of the articles may be in proportion to the size of the dog.

**Proposal: Change Scent Discrimination (UD): Allow use of square metal articles**

Scent Discrimination articles must consist of three sets of articles comprising five wooden, five metal and five leather. The articles must be a minimum of 100mm and maximum of 200mm long. The other dimensions must not exceed: wood 18mm square; leather 25mm wide and 6mm thick; and metal a maximum external diameter of 18mm or 18mm square. The metal articles may be knurled but no articles are to be coated or covered with any material. The size of the articles may be in proportion to the size of the dog.

**Rationale: C**urrent rules imply that the metal article must be circular. Square articles do not roll. Every time the dog searches for an article on the mat, the round metal articles roll around and often end up touching other articles, imparting scent to them and confusing the dog. The woods and leathers do not roll. Also, a choice of round or square means it’s easier for competitors to source suitable materials for articles.

**DOGS QLD**

**Scent Discrimination (UD)**

Articles may be painted white on one end to a width of 25mm. The number or letter will be superimposed in the painted area with a contrasting colour.

Each set of articles must be legibly numbered 1-5 or alphabetically marked A-E and the articles in each set must be identical.

The Scent Discrimination articles shall not be set out until the completion of the previous exercise.

The Handler will supply a full set of Scent Discrimination Articles.

A mat of canvas or similar material (excluding vinyl plastic) for the Scent Discrimination exercise for each U.D. ring and a spare mat will be provided by the Affiliate and must measure 1.5 metres by 1.5 metres and be pegged at the corners. The mat is to remain on the ground for the duration of judging of the individual exercises and only removed or replaced if fouled. The mat may be removed before the commencement of the Group Exercises.

**Proposal:** Scent Discrimination (UD):

Scent Discrimination articles must consist of three sets of articles comprising five wooden, five metal and five leather.

Each set of articles must be legibly numbered 1-5 or alphabetically marked A-E and the articles in each set must be identical.

The Scent Discrimination articles shall not be set out until the completion of the previous exercise.

The Handler will supply a full set of Scent Discrimination Articles.

The articles may be of one of the following options, at the handler’s choice:  
  
**Option A:**  
The length of the articles should suit the size of the dog, starting at 100mm long for small dogs up to 250mm for giant breed dogs. The other dimensions must not exceed: wood 10mm up to 50mm square; leather 10mm up to 25mm wide and 6mm to 20mm thick; and metal a 10mm up to 20mm external diameter. The metal articles may be knurled, leather articles stitched but no articles are to be coated or covered with any material.

**Option B:**  
All articles must comprise two square ends and a single bite bar (forming a dumbbell shape). The size of the square ends may range from 45mm to 65mm square and the length of the bite bar from 75mm to 150mm. The bite bar may be round with a diameter from 10mm up to 20mm or square from 10mm up to 20mm squared.  
  
The metal and wood articles may comprise any metal or wood for both ends and bars. The leather articles extra-thick leather ends, and the bite bar may be made solely of leather or be wood or metal and covered with a soft, durable leather. The leather may be stitched.   
  
All articles must be from the same option and may not be mixed.

A mat of canvas or similar material (excluding vinyl plastic) for the Scent Discrimination exercise for each U.D. ring and a spare mat will be provided by the Affiliate and must measure 1.5 metres by 1.5 metres and be pegged at the corners. The mat is to remain on the ground for the duration of judging of the individual exercises and only removed or replaced if fouled. The mat may be removed before the commencement of the Group Exercises.  
  
**Rationale:** There are dogs who correctly identify the scented articles but have trouble picking them up.

The principal feature of the UD scent exercise is for “The dog, on command, to select the correct articles by scent and promptly retrieve.” Therefore, there is no reason for handlers to not have the option of using articles that make it easier for a dog to pick up.

Recently the USA and Canadian rules have been changed from dumbbell shaped articles to “items of everyday use” while the current UK rules require that articles “must be easily picked up by any breed entered in that class”.   
The articles in Option A are those used at present, so handlers do not need to make any change if they chose this option.

The articles proposed in Option B are shown in Appendix A.

Appendix A. Proposed articles for option B. The photograph also shows extra un-numbered articles suitable for UDX directed retrieves.

**DOGS QLD**

**Seek Back Article/s (UD and UDX):**

The Seek Back article/s must not be white or conspicuous in colour and must be the same shape as, and the dimensions are not to exceed those of a Scent Discrimination article. It may be comprised of any material.

**Proposal: Seek Back Article/s (UD and UDX):** The Seek Back article/s must not be white or conspicuous in colour and must be the same shape as, and the dimensions are not to exceed those of a UD Scent **Discrimination article. It may be comprised of any material.**

**Rationale:** This change will ensure that the article is of the same definition as the UD Scent Discrimination and not as the UDX cloth articles.

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL EXERCISES**

**COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS**

**DOGS QLD**

**HEEL ON LEAD**

Principal Feature:

The dog on the lead and the Handler to work as a team.

Description of Exercise:

On order from the Judge 'Forward' the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name then give a command to heel and, at the same time, commence walking briskly or at the directed pace. The dog must work on a loose lead. Any tightening or tugging of the lead, any unusual or additional act, signal or command which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalised.

At each order from the Judge to 'Halt', the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command and not move until ordered to do so.

The Handler and dog must execute a 'Figure Eight' at normal pace in which they must heel at least twice around two Stewards standing approximately three (3) metres apart. There must be at least one 'Halt' during this portion of the exercise. The Judge may replace a Steward in the 'Figure Eight' or may take the place of a Steward himself.

Orders from Judge:

'Forward', 'Right Turn', ‘Left Turn', ‘Right About Turn’, 'Left About Turn’, ‘Fast Pace’, ‘Slow Pace’, ‘Normal Pace’, ‘Halt’, ‘Down (Down Your Dog)’, ‘Stand (Stand Your Dog)', 'Figure Eight, ‘Lead Out', ‘Exercise Finished’. These orders may be given in any sequence and repeated.

Deductions:

Zero Score: For a dog which is unmanageable.

Over 50%: If the Handler continually tugs on the lead, or adapts his pace to the dog, or continually guides the dog with the lead, or if the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise.

Minor: For failing to sit, stand or down; for poor sits, downs, stands; for occasional guidance with the lead; for the use of more than one command; for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Proposal: 1. HEEL ON LEAD**

Principal Feature:

The dog, on the lead, and the Handler to work as a team.

Description of Exercise:

On order from the Judge 'Forward' the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name then give a command to heel and, at the same time, commence walking briskly or at the directed pace. The dog must work on a loose lead. Any tightening or tugging of the lead, ~~any unusual or~~ ~~additional act, signal or command~~ which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalised. The handler may speak quietly to the dog for encouragement during the heeling exercise.

At each order from the Judge to 'Halt', the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command and not move until ordered to do so.

The Handler and dog must execute a 'Figure Eight' at normal pace in which they must heel at least twice around two Stewards standing approximately three (3) metres apart. There must be at least one 'Halt' during this portion of the exercise. The Judge may replace a Steward in the 'Figure Eight' or may take the place of a Steward himself.

Orders from Judge:

'Forward', 'Right Turn', ‘Left Turn', ‘Right About Turn’, 'Left About Turn’, ‘Fast Pace’, ‘Slow Pace’, ‘Normal Pace’, ‘Halt’, ‘Down (Down Your Dog)’, ‘Stand (Stand Your Dog)', 'Figure Eight, ‘Lead Out', ‘Exercise Finished’. These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated.

Deductions:

Zero Score: For a dog which is unmanageable.

Over 50%: If the Handler continually tugs on the lead, or adapts his pace to the dog, or continually guides the dog with the lead, or if the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise.

Minor: For failing to sit, stand or down; for poor sits, downs, stands; for occasional guidance with the lead; for the use of more than one command (where the dog demonstrates resistance); for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**DOGS QLD**

**Consequential Changes**

**COMMANDS:**

Where the word “command” appears in specific exercises, it will mean “command and/or signal” unless otherwise specified. All verbal commands must be in the English Language unless approved otherwise by the Judge. One command only is given to the dog for a specific action on the part of the dog. The verbal command must be a single word. The command may be given by the use of the Handler’s voice and/or specific action of the Handler in the form of a signal. A voice command and a signal may be given, but must be used simultaneously. A signal should be a single gesture of the arms and/or hands only, which must be promptly returned to their pre-command position. Signals must be inaudible and must not touch the dog. Any unusual noise, prolonged or extended signal or movement of the Handler may be considered by the Judge as a 'signal', or extra command.

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Except in the CCD Class, any unusual noise, prolonged or extended signal or movement of the Handler may be considered by the Judge as a 'signal', or extra command. In the CCD Class, communication from the Handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalised and Handlers may speak quietly to the dog for encouragement during the heeling exercise.

**DOGS QLD**

**Consequential Change**

**Dog's Name:**

Unless otherwise stated under Description of Exercise, the dog's name may be used only at the commencement of any exercise enjoyment and willingness to work is to be desired; fear and dislike of work shall be penalised;

**Dog's Name:** Unless otherwise stated under Description of Exercise, except in the CCD Class, the dog's name may be used only at the commencement of any exercise.

**DOGS QLD**

**Consequential Change**

**10. GUIDE TO JUDGES**

The responsibility for making the test interesting to the public and worthwhile to the Exhibitor is left to the Judge who must not permit the judging to be prolonged so that Handlers and those watching become bored and to cause competing dogs to tire. Judges must remember that they are judging the dogs on their ability to perform the tests set for them and not on their show points or conformation. Judges must not be too lenient in their marking of dogs, as dogs should not attain their Titles upon work of poor quality.

Orders from Judges should be those listed in the Rules. The single word or phrase orders listed are optional at the discretion of the judge. The listed executive word must be used. The Member Body may modify these Rules to the extent necessary to permit disabled persons to compete, provided that they can negotiate the exercises unassisted.

The Judge must look for the following in testing a dog and penalise accordingly –

(a) enjoyment and willingness to work is to be desired; fear and dislike of work shall be penalised;

(b) gentleness and smoothness of handling is to be greatly desired;

(c) a Handler shall give a command once only except in the case of the command to 'Heel' which

may be repeated to the dog each time the Judge tells the Handler to go forward;

(d) signalling correction to a dog from a distance is not permitted;

(e) talking to the dog by the Handler, snapping of fingers, slapping of sides and stamping of feet,

etc., must be penalised;

(f) during the heel routines, the Handler must walk briskly with the dog at his left side. In the 'Heel

on Lead' exercise the lead must be completely loose. Guiding the dog by means of the lead

shall be penalised;

(g) the dog must never anticipate the Handler's commands but must wait for commands;

(h) at the Judge's order for the Handler to halt, the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at

heel without command and not move until commanded to do so.

**Consequential change**10.GUIDE TO JUDGES

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command to 'Heel' which may be repeated to the dog each time the Judge tells the Handler to go

forward;

(d) signalling correction to a dog from a distance is not permitted;

(e) except in the CCD Class, talking to the dog by the Handler, snapping of fingers, slapping of sides

and stamping of feet, etc. must be penalised;

(f) during the heel routines, the Handler must walk briskly with the dog at his left side. In the 'Heel

on Lead' exercise the lead must be completely loose. Guiding the dog by means of the lead

shall be penalised;

(g) the dog must never anticipate the Handler's commands but must wait for commands;

(h) at the Judge's order for the Handler to halt, the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at

heel without command and not move until commanded to do so.

In the CCD Class, a Handler may speak quietly to the dog for encouragement or use extra signals and not be penalised unless the dog is demonstrating resistance.

**Rationale:** The CCD (Community Companion Dog) Class is a class which members may enter but is not a mandatory class for progression to the higher classes. This class consists of the very basic obedience skills from both the handler and the dog. Therefore, experienced members do not enter this class, although many do enter to give their dog competition experience. It is noted that the CCD class is an entry obedience competition level for new handlers and when successful the team can gain a title.

As there are now so many different disciplines available to our members and the obedience entry numbers are generally declining, allowing Handlers to communicate with their dogs in a positive manner will have more appeal to new members wishing to compete. This attitude and behaviour was demonstrated at Crufts this year, where the handler and dog team completed a series of basic skills with the handler talking to their dog and giving extra subtle hand signals. This event is shown around the world displaying happy teams competing at the basic skill level of obedience.

Australia should not get left behind with this initiative.

These changes will not, and its proven that it does not, diminish the standard expected from the team in the higher classes. It will hopefully encourage more Handlers and their dogs to compete.

There are many other countries outside the UK which have successfully taken this approach with their first level Obedience Classes.

As this class is not a mandatory class and stands alone there should be no need to drop the title when the team achieves other titles

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal:**

1. **HEEL ON LEAD Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog on the lead, and the Handler to work as a team.

**Description of Exercise:**

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

The dog must work on a loose lead. Any tightening or tugging of the lead, any unusual or additional act, signal or command which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalised.

At each order from the Judge to 'Halt', the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command and not move until ordered to do so.

~~The Handler and dog must execute a 'Figure Eight' at normal pace in which they must heel at least twice around two Stewards standing approximately three (3) metres apart. There must be at least one 'Halt'~~

~~during this portion of the exercise. The Judge may replace a Steward in the 'Figure Eight' or may take the place of a Steward themselves.~~

**Orders from Judge:**

'Forward', 'Right Turn', ‘Left Turn', ‘Right About Turn’, 'Left About Turn’, ‘Fast Pace’, ‘Slow Pace’, ‘Normal Pace’, ‘Halt’, ‘Down (Down your Dog)’, ‘Stand (Stand your Dog)', ‘Exercise Finished’. These orders may be given in any sequence and repeated.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which is unmanageable.

**Over 50%:** If the Handler continually tugs on the lead, or adapts their pace to the dog, or continually guides the dog with the lead, or if the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise.

**Minor:** For failing to sit, stand or down; for poor sits, downs, stands; for occasional guidance with the lead; for the use of more than one command; for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale:** Proposal to separate the Figure Eight exercise into a separate exercise.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

1. **FIGURE EIGHT Maximum Points: 15**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog on the lead, and the Handler to work as a team in a Figure Eight pattern.

**Description of Exercise:**

On order from the Judge 'Forward' the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name then give a command to heel and, at the same time, commence walking briskly and execute a ‘Figure Eight’ at normal pace in which they must heel at least twice around two Stewards standing approximately three (3) metres apart. There must be at least one 'Halt' during this portion of the exercise. The Judge may replace a Steward in the 'Figure Eight' or may take the place of a Steward themselves.

The dog must work on a loose lead. Any tightening or tugging of the lead, any unusual or additional act, signal or command which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalised.

At each order from the Judge to 'Halt', the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command and not move until ordered to do so.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Into Figure Eight Forward', ‘Halt’, Forward', ‘Lead Out', ‘Halt’, ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which is unmanageable.

**Over 50%:** If the Handler continually tugs on the lead, or adapts their pace to the dog, or continually guides the dog with the lead, or if the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise.

**Minor:** For failing to sit, for occasional guidance with the lead; for the use of more than one command; for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale:** Separating the Figure Eight exercise will allow novice dogs in this class to have a break after an already long heel pattern and give the handler the opportunity to praise the dog. Then recommence a new exercise. It also eliminates the situation where the Figure Eight should be at the beginning or the end of the heel pattern.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – Class exercise list, Exercise list at beginning of Community Companion Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS ACT**

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. 1 min Sit Stay 15

5. 2 min Down Stay 15

TOTAL 100

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposal: CCD list of exercises**

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

1. Heel on Lead 30

2. Stand ~~for Examination~~ Stay on lead 20

3. Recall 20

4. ~~1 min~~ 30 sec Sit Stay 15

5. ~~2~~ 1 min Down Stay 15

TOTAL 100

**Less penalty for misbehaviour.**

**Rationale**: Consequential amendments if the proposal to change the Stand for Examination exercise to a Stand Stay exercise or the proposals to amend the stays to individual exercises and reduce their durations are successful.

The detailed rationale for each of the above proposals is set out after the details of each change set out below.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposal: Consequential Amendment to order of CCD exercises:**

If the proposal to make the down stay an individual exercise succeeds, but the proposal to make the sit stay an individual exercise does not succeed, re-order the exercises so that all individual exercises are completed before the group exercise.

**Rationale:** Finish all individual exercises before doing the group exercise.

**STAND FOR EXAMINATION**

**DOGS ACT Maximum Points: 20**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stand steadily on the lead until 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 from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will walk forward to the front of the dog, turn around and stand facing the dog. The dog should be held at the end of a loose lead with the Handler directly in front of the dog.

The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge will examine the dog by touch from the withers and along the back only. The head, mouth, tail and legs 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 remain in a standing position 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)’, ‘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, 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.

**Proposal: Change Stand for Examination exercise to a Stand Stay on Lead exercise:**

**2 . Stand ~~for Examination~~ Stay on Lead Maximum Points: 20**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stand steadily on the lead until 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 from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will walk forward to the front of the dog, turn around and stand facing the dog. The dog should be held at the end of a loose lead with the Handler directly in front of the dog.

The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge will ~~touch the dog's head and body only. The mouth, tail and legs must not be examined.~~ walk completely around the dog and handler, but not closer than one (1) metre to the dog.

The Judge will then give the order ‘Return (Return to Your Dog)’ whereupon the Handler will return to the dog. The dog must remain in a standing position 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)’, ‘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, 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.

**Rationale:** The CCD class is where many newbies start Obedience and the examination is a particularly difficult exercise for many new dogs. Having the judge walk around but not examine the dog gives a useful progression to the Stand for Examination in the CD class.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: STAND FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: 20**

**Principal Feature:**

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

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge ‘Leave (Leave your Dog)’, the Handler may give a command to stay and will walk forward to the front of the dog, turn around and stand facing the dog. The dog should be held at the end of a loose lead with the Handler directly in front of the dog.

The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge will examine the dog by touch from the withers and along the back only. The head, mouth, tail and legs 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 remain in a standing position until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished' and must not show undue resentment or shyness.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up position’, 'Leave (Leave your Dog)’, ‘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, 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.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: ~~STAND FOR EXAMINATION~~ Maximum Points: 20**

**STAND STAY WALKAROUND**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stand steadily on the lead until 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 from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will walk forward to the front of the dog, turn around and stand facing the dog. The dog should be held at the end of a loose lead with the Handler directly in front of the dog.

~~The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge will examine the dog by touch from the withers and along the back only. The head, mouth, tail and legs must not be examined.~~

The Judge will walk a loop around dog-handler team, going behind the Handler first then proceeding around the dog and returning to level with the Handler. The Judge shall maintain a distance of approximately 1.5m from dog and Handler as they pass by each.

The Judge will then give the order ‘Return (Return to your Dog)’ whereupon the Handler will return to the dog. The dog must remain in a standing position 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)’, ‘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, 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.

**Rationale for replacing Stand for Examination with** **Stand Stay Walkaround**

Asking a dog to stand still for a stranger to approach and touch it is inconsistent with our increased understanding of what helps dogs feel psychologically safe (agency and control); provides an inappropriate role model to spectators about approaching dogs they do not know (on the one hand seeing judges approach and touch dogs while often being told to “let the dog decide if it wants to interact with you”); and may jeopardize the safety of judges – attacks have been known to occur.

The purpose of the existing Stand for Examination exercise relates to the way dogs interact with unknown persons who may be encountered in everyday life. First, a safe dog should be reasonably comfortable (no undue resentment or shyness) in the vicinity of an unknown person. Second, a friendly dog should be able demonstrate enough self-control to resist approaching or jumping on an unknown person when asked not to. To demonstrate both of these, it is not necessary for the person to come close enough to actually physically touch/examine the dog.

The proposed Stand Stay Walkaround exercise assesses skills similar to those in the existing Stand for Examination exercise with less risk to dogs and judges while setting a better example for spectators. The proposed exercise requires the demonstration of skills equally essential to pet dogs in society – tolerating a reasonably close approach by an unknown person and refraining from approaching or jumping on the person when asked not to.

The Principle Feature, Judge’s Orders and Deductions do not change from the current Stand for Examination exercise.

The Stand for Examination does not appear in any level of the UK Kennel Club Obedience Tests.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – JUDGING PROCEDURES – Examinations, Class exercise list, Exercise list at beginning of Community Companion Dog Class, Score Sheet

General Rules – 9. Judging Procedures – Breaking from Position and Examinations.

11. Equipment – Collars and Leads

**DOGS WEST**

**Proposal: Stand Stay on Lead** Maximum points [20]

**Principle Feature:**

The dog to stand steadily on the lead until 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 from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will walk forward to the front of the dog, turn around and stand facing the dog. The dog should be held at the end of a loose lead with the Handler directly in front of the dog.

The Judge will walk ~~The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge~~  ~~will examine the dog by touch from the withers and along the back only. The head, mouth,~~  ~~tail and legs must not be examined~~ a loop around dog-handler team, going behind the Handler first then proceeding around the dog and returning to near the Handler. The Judge shall maintain an approximate 1 metre distance from dog and Handler as they pass by .

Upon arriving back near the Handler, the Judge will then give the order ‘Return (Return to your Dog)’ whereupon the Handler will return to the dog. The dog must remain in a standing position until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished' and must not show undue resentment or shyness.

### **Orders from Judge:**

‘Take up position’, '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. For a dog that 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.

**COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS**

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

1. Heel on Lead 30
2. Stand Stay on Lead 20
3. Recall 15
4. Wait and Return 30

Less penalty for misbehaviour

**Rationale:** CCD is an optional, entry level into Obedience trialling. The Stand for Examination is asking a lot for a beginner and is more appropriate for the Novice class. The proposed Stand Stay on Lead still requires the dog to maintain stability in the presence of an unknown stranger without the added pressure of a hands on examination. It makes for a logical progression to the Novice class

**DOGS NSW**

**RECALL**

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a sitting position and walk at least twelve (12) metres away from the dog. On further order from the Judge, the Handler will about turn and halt. On order from the Judge, the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name once and then give a command to come. The dog must come straight to its Handler at a brisk pace and sit directly in front without further command. The dog must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge has ordered ‘Exercise Finished.

**Proposal**: The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’, Remove your lead. On further order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a sitting position and walk at least twelve (12) metres away from the dog. On further order from the Judge, the Handler will about turn and halt. On order from the Judge, the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name once and then give a command to come. The dog must come straight to its Handler at a brisk pace and sit directly in front without further command. The dog must not move from the sitting position until after the Judge has ordered ‘Exercise Finished.

Orders from Judge:

‘Take up position’, Leave (Leave your Dog)’, 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Call (Call your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished'.

Change - Orders from Judge: ‘Take up position’, Remove your lead 'Leave (Leave your Dog)’, 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Call (Call your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished'.

**Rationale:** This will bring in more consistency for when the lead is removed for this exercise.

**DOGS ACT**

**4. 1 Min. SIT STAY Maximum Points: 15**

**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 five (5) 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, he 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 (Return to your Dog)’.

**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.

**Proposal: Make the Sit Stay an individual exercise and decrease its duration**

**4. ~~1 Min.~~ 30 sec SIT STAY Maximum Points: 15**

**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~~ an individual exercise. The ~~Handlers~~ Handler will take up their position ~~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,~~ as directed by the judge and with their ~~dogs~~ dog sitting in the heel position. On order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the ~~Handlers~~ Handler may give their ~~dogs~~ dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately five (5) metres. On order from the Judge or Steward the ~~Handlers~~ Handler will turn to face their ~~dogs~~ dog and halt.

After ~~one (1) minute~~ 30 seconds from the time the Judge has ordered the ~~Handlers~~ Handler to leave, ~~he~~ they will give the order 'Return (Return to your Dog)'. ~~The Handlers must return to their dogs together.~~ The ~~dogs~~ dog 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~~.

At the discretion of the judge, only dogs who are qualifying may be allowed to attempt this exercise. This decision will be made before judging commences for the class.

**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 (Return to your Dog)’.

**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~~.

**Rationale:** **Sit Stay** Amending the stay to an individual exercise removes the safety and potential public liability issues related to group exercises. The amended version of the stay still provides a meaningful test of the dog’s stability in the presence of a reasonable level of background distraction. It allows all dogs to attempt the exercise under the same conditions, rather than some dogs being unduly affected by the actions of other dogs in the group. It also gives the judge more flexibility to position each dog in a shaded or sheltered part of the ring during extreme weather conditions.

The stay is more difficult if done immediately after all the other individual exercises. The dog must remain in the ring and concentrate for longer and demonstrate more self-control as it doesn't have an opportunity to leave the ring, settle and refocus before being asked to complete the stay. This is balanced by the shorter duration and by any reduction in difficulty from removing the "group" requirement.

Shortening the duration of the stay also has the incidental benefit of allowing the stay to be done as an individual exercise while keeping the judging time manageable. The discretion for the judge to only let dogs who are qualifying attempt the stay provides an additional mechanism to manage the judging time if a trial has a large entry or other time constraints.

Each dog is only required to be in the ring once. This reduces clashes between rings, as well as avoiding delays while stewards look for handlers for group exercises. It also makes it easier for affiliates to run multiple events concurrently.

**DOGS VIC**

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

Proposal: Introduction of a new exercise

**Stand Stay:** Maximum Points 15

**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)).

**DOGS TAS**

**Proposal:** REMOVE THE GROUP STAYS FROM CCD COMPLETELY

REALLOCATE THE STAY POINTS TO WAIT AND RETURN

**NEW RULE WAIT AND RETURN**

**Wait and return Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stay off the lead in a sit or down position until the completion of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Handler will take up their position as directed by the judge with the dog in the position of the judges choosing of a sit or down. On order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handler may give their dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres as directed by the judge after which the judge will immediately order ‘About turn and return to your dog’. The dog must not move until the judge orders exercise finished.

The exercise shall consist of a single stay. The same position will be used for every dog in the class in the trial.

If the dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge will order the Handler, to collect the dog

**Orders from Judge:**

'Leave (Leave Your Dog)’, ’About turn and Return (to your dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

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

**Minor:** For minor movements, e.g. fidgeting,

**Delete Down Stay**

CCD - REMOVE STAYS AND REALLOCATE POINTS

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

1. Heel on Lead ~~30~~ **40**

2. Stand for Examination on lead ~~20~~ **30**

3. Recall ~~20~~ **30**

~~4. 1 min Sit Stay 15~~

~~5. 2 min Down Stay 15~~

TOTAL 100

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**1. HEEL ON LEAD Maximum Points: ~~30~~ 40**

**2. STAND FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: ~~20~~ 30**

**3. RECALL Maximum Points: ~~20~~ 30**

**~~4. 1 Min. SIT STAY Maximum Points: 15~~**

**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.

A stay (impulse control) is currently tested in the class from the stand for exam and sit stay for recall in CCD. We have a duty of care to dogs, handlers, judges and stewards, the time has come to re-examine in all classes the need for dogs being left in a group of unfamiliar dogs. Something that would never happen in today’s society

CCD is a class for dogs first introduction to the ring. So, allowing the teams just to show their ring work will reduce stress on both dog and handler and be very confidence building.

With dogs in a close ring environment there is a greater propensity for an altercation to arise.

New dogs to the sport are often placed in a position of vulnerability, so showing their skills in this first class staying with their handler is a step in the right direction.

**DOGS WEST**

**Proposal:** Remove the Group Stays from CCD completely and reallocate the points to the new exercise.

**Wait and Return Maximum points 30**

### **Principle Feature**: The dog to stay off the lead in a Sit or a Down position until the completion of the exercise

### Description of Exercise: The Handler will take up their position as directed by the Judge with the dog in the position of the Judges choosing of a Sit or Down. On order from the Judge “Leave” (Leave your dog)”, the handler may give a command to Stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres as directed by the Judge after which the Judge will immediately order “About turn and return to your dog”. The dog must not move until the Judge orders “Exercise Finished”.

The exercise shall consist of a single stay. The same position shall be used for every dog in the class in the trial. If the dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge will order the handler to collect the dog.

### **Orders from the Judge**

“Leave (Leave your dog)”, “About turn and return to your dog”, “Exercise Finished”

### **Deductions:**

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

**Minor:** For a dog that requires a second command to return, minor movements, eg fidgeting, For a dog who

### Rationale: A Stay exercise (Impulse control) is currently tested in the class from the SFE (or Stand Stay) and for the Recall in CCD. The time has come to re-examine in all classes the need for dogs being left in a group of unfamiliar dogs. Something that wouldn’t happen in today’s society. We have a duty of care to dogs, handlers, Judges and stewards.

**DOGS WEST**

**Proposal: Delete Down Stay**

### **Rationale:** CCD is a class for dogs first introduction to the ring and is an optional class. CCD should be about building confidence in the ring…allowing the dogs show their ring work will reduce stress on both dog and hander and entice more people to the sport

The issue with group 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 the handlers but also the stewards and Judges who need to be vigilant in case dogs break stays. It is the unpredictability in the plethora of ways that dogs can and do break stays that makes it risky. They are dogs, and incidents will happen prepared or not, and unlike nearly every other exercise in Obedience, the handler is not within arms reach and able to intervene so that fallout does not occur, or potential disturbance of other dogs does not occur.

#### OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART – COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS

**TRIAL conducted by ........................................................at...................................................on...........................JUDGE...............................................**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Heel on Lead 30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ~~2.Stand for Examination on Lead……20~~ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Stand Stay 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Recall 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **. ~~Sub Total~~** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wait and Return 30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ~~4. One Minute Sit Stay~~  ~~15~~ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ~~5. Two Minute Down Stay~~ ~~15~~ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score** 100  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score 85** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour ~~Signature of Judge~~** ~~.......................................................................~~

#### Judge……………………………………………………….

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: 1 Minute Sit Stay and 2 Minute Down Stay to be replaced with NEW RULE – THIS IS AN INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE**

**DOWN RETURN Maximum points: 15**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stay off lead in the down position until the completion of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a down position and walk to a marker at least ten (10) metres away from the dog. The handler will about turn and return to the dog without pause. The handler will return around the back of the dog into the heel position. 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 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.

**Rationale:** This exercise will replace the Group Stays and therefore reduce the number of incidents. It will make this entry level class safer and more achievable for novice handlers thus encouraging new comers to the sport. It will also mean competitors do not have to wait and re-enter the ring once they have completed their exercises, thus reducing the judging time spent on this Class overall.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – JUDGING PROCEDURES – Group Exercises, Excluding Dogs from Group Exercises, Class exercise list, Exercise list at beginning of Community Companion Dog Class, Score Sheet.

General Rules:

4. Notes (c)

7. Exhibits – Dog Wearing Protective Clothing and Withdrawal of a dog

8. Exhibitors and Handlers – Entering the Ring

9. Judging Procedures – Testing Procedure, Change of Position, Group Exercises, Excluding

dogs from Group Exercise, Re-judging.

11. Equipment - Markers

**DOGS ACT**

**2 Min. DOWN STAY Maximum Points: 15**

**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 approximately five (5) metres. On order from the Judge or Steward the Handlers will turn to face their dogs and halt.

After two (2) 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 a 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.

Proposal: Make the Down Stay an individual exercise and decrease its duration

**5. ~~2~~ 1 Min. DOWN STAY**  Maximum Points: 15

**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~~ an individual exercise. The ~~Handlers~~ Handler 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~~ position as directed by the judge and with their ~~dogs~~ dog in the down position. On order from the Judge to 'Leave (Leave your Dog ~~Dogs~~)’, the ~~Handlers~~ Handler may give their ~~dogs~~ dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately five (5) metres. On order from the Judge or Steward the ~~Handlers~~ Handler will turn to face their ~~dogs~~ dog and halt.

After ~~two (2)~~ one (1) ~~minutes~~ minute from the time the Judge has ordered the ~~Handlers~~ Handler to leave, ~~he~~ they will give the order 'Return (Return to your Dog ~~Dogs~~)’. ~~The Handlers must return to their dogs together.~~ The ~~dogs~~ dog 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.~~

At the discretion of the judge, only dogs who are qualifying may be eligible to attempt this exercise. This decision will be made before judging commences for the class.

**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 (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.~~

**Rationale:** **Down Stay** Amending the stay to an individual exercise removes the safety and potential public liability issues related to group exercises. The amended version of the stay still provides a meaningful test of the dog’s stability in the presence of a reasonable level of background distraction. It allows all dogs to attempt the exercise under the same conditions, rather than some dogs being unduly affected by the actions of other dogs in the group. It also gives the judge more flexibility to position each dog in a shaded or sheltered part of the ring during extreme weather conditions.

The stay is more difficult if done immediately after all the other individual exercises. The dog must remain in the ring and concentrate for longer and demonstrate more self-control as it doesn't have an opportunity to leave the ring, settle and refocus before being asked to complete the stay. This is balanced by the shorter duration and by any reduction in difficulty from removing the "group" requirement.

Shortening the duration of the stay also has the incidental benefit of allowing the stay to be done as an individual exercise while keeping the judging time manageable. The discretion for the judge to only let dogs who are qualifying attempt the stay provides an additional mechanism to manage the judging time if a trial has a large entry or other time constraints.

Each dog is only required to be in the ring once. This reduces clashes between rings, as well as avoiding delays while stewards look for handlers for group exercises. It also makes it easier for affiliates to run multiple events concurrently.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposed Change - Judges Chart – CCD Class**

**Consequential Amendments**:

Change Stand for Exam to Stand Stay if Stand Stay proposal succeeds

Change time for Sit Stay if Sit Stay proposal succeeds

Change time for Down Stay if Down Stay proposal succeeds

Remove Sub Total row if both stay proposals succeed

If Down Stay proposal succeeds, but Sit Stay proposal does not succeed, then move Down Stay above the Sub Total row

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART – COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by ........................................................at...................................................on...........................JUDGE...............................................**

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| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Heel on Lead ……...30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.Stand for Examination on Lead……20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Recall ……...20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sub Total** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. One Minute Sit Stay ….…..15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Two Minute Down Stay ……...15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score**…………………………...100  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score**……………………..**85** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge** .......................................................................

**DOGS ACT**

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART – COMMUNITY COMPANION DOG CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by ........................................................at...................................................on...........................JUDGE...............................................**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Heel on Lead ……...30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.Stand ~~for Examination on Lead~~ Stay on Lead……20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Recall ……...20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **~~Sub Total~~** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. ~~One Minute~~ 30 Second Sit Stay ….…..15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. ~~Two~~ One Minute Down Stay ……...15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score**…………………………...100  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score**……………………..**85** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge** .......................................................................

**DOGS VIC**

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

**Proposal:** Introduction of a new exercise

**Down Stay:** Maximum Points 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.

**DOGS VIC**

**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**

**DOGS QLD**

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

**Principal Feature:**

The dog and Handler to work as a team without the use of a lead.

**Description of Exercise:**

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

The dog must work off lead. Any unusual or additional act, signal or command, which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalised.

At each order from the Judge to ‘Halt’, the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command and not move until ordered to do so.

The Handler and dog must execute a ‘Figure Eight’ at normal pace in which they must heel at least twice around two Stewards standing approximately three (3) metres apart. There must be at least one ‘Halt’ during this portion of the exercise. The Judge may replace a Steward in the ‘Figure Eight’ or may take the place of a Steward themselves.

**Orders from Judge:**

‘Forward’, ‘Right Turn’, ‘Left Turn’, ‘Right About Turn’, ‘Left About Turn’, ‘Fast Pace’, ‘Slow Pace’, ‘Normal Pace’, ‘Halt’, ‘Down (Down your Dog)’, ‘Stand (Stand your Dog)’, ‘Figure Eight, ‘Lead Out’, ‘Exercise Finished’. These orders may be given in any sequence and repeated.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which is unmanageable.

**Over 50%:** If the Handler continually guides the dog, or adapts their pace to the dog, or if the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise or if the dog fails to negotiate the Figure Eight.

**Minor:** For failing to sit, stand or down; for poor sits, downs, stands, for failing to accompany the Handler around one Figure Eight post, for occasional guidance or for the use of more than one command, for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Proposal:**

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

**Principal Feature:**

The dog and Handler to work as a team without the use of a lead.

**Description of Exercise:**

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

The dog must work off lead. Any unusual or additional act, signal or command, which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalised.

At each order from the Judge to ‘Halt’, the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command and not move until ordered to do so.

~~The Handler and dog must execute a ‘Figure Eight’ at normal pace in which they must heel at least twice around two Stewards standing approximately three (3) metres apart. There must be at least one ‘Halt’ during this portion of the exercise. The Judge may replace a Steward in the ‘Figure Eight’ or may take the place of a Steward themselves.~~

**Orders from Judge:**

‘Forward’, ‘Right Turn’, ‘Left Turn’, ‘Right About Turn’, ‘Left About Turn’, ‘Fast Pace’, ‘Slow Pace’, ‘Normal Pace’, ‘Halt’, ‘Down (Down your Dog)’, ‘Stand (Stand your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished’. These orders may be given in any sequence and repeated.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which is unmanageable.

**Over 50%:** If the Handler continually guides the dog, or adapts their pace to the dog, or if the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise.

**Minor:** For failing to sit, stand or down; for poor sits, downs, stands, for occasional guidance or for the use of more than one command, for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale**: Proposal to separate the Figure Eight exercise into a separate exercise.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

1. **FIGURE EIGHT Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog and Handler to work as a team without the use of a lead in a Figure Eight pattern.

**Description of Exercise:**

On order from the Judge 'Forward' the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name then give a command to heel and, at the same time, commence walking briskly and execute a ‘Figure Eight’ at normal pace in which they must heel at least twice around two Stewards standing approximately three (3) metres apart. There must be at least one 'Halt' during this portion of the exercise. The Judge may replace a Steward in the 'Figure Eight' or may take the place of a Steward themselves.

The dog must work off lead. Any unusual or additional act, signal or command, which in the opinion of the Judge gives the dog assistance, must be penalised.

At each order from the Judge to 'Halt', the Handler must stop and the dog must sit smartly at heel without command and not move until ordered to do so.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Into Figure Eight Forward', ‘Halt’, Forward', ‘Lead Out', ‘Halt’, ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which is unmanageable.

**Over 50%:** If the Handler continually guides the dog, or adapts their pace to the dog, or if the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise.

**Minor:** For failing to sit, for poor sits, for failing to accompany the Handler around one Figure Eight post, for occasional guidance or for the use of more than one command, for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale:** Separating the Figure Eight exercise will allow novice dogs in this class to have a break after an already long heel pattern and give the handler the opportunity to praise the dog. Then recommence a new exercise. It also eliminates the situation where the Figure Eight should be at the beginning or the end of the heel pattern.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – Class exercise list, Exercise list at beginning of Companion Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**STAND FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stand steadily off the lead until 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 from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will move forward. The Judge will order the Handler to about turn and then halt approximately two (2) metres from the dog.

The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge will touch the dog's head and body. The mouth, legs or 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.

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**STAND FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

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

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge ‘Leave (Leave your Dog)’, the Handler may give a command to stay and will ~~move~~ walk forward. The Judge will order the Handler to about turn and then halt approximately two (2) metres from the dog.

The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge will touch the dog's head and body. The mouth, legs or 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:**

'Take up position’, '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, 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.

**Rationale:** The Principal Feature is for the dog to stand steadily off the lead until the completion of the exercise and not show undue resentment or shyness.

The requirement to move forward from the starting marker does not compliment the principal feature. The heel forward and halt with the dog standing is already assessed in another exercise “Heel free”.

Some class descriptors of this exercise use ‘walk’ forward and some ‘move’ forward. Should be all the same and prefer ‘walk’ forward.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal; NEW RULE**

**~~STAND FREE FOR EXAMINATION~~ Maximum Points: 30**

**STAND FREE WALKAROUND**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stand steadily off the lead until 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 from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will move forward. The Judge will order the Handler to about turn and then halt approximately ~~two (2)~~ three (3) metres from the dog.

~~The Judge must approach the dog from the right or left front and not direct front. The Judge will touch the dog's head and body. The mouth, legs or tail must not be examined.~~

The Judge will walk around the dog, going between the dog and Handler as they circle the dog once. The Judge shall maintain a distance of approximately 1.5m from dog as they pass by.

After circling the dog and moving away from the dog and well out of the Handler’s path, 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.

**Rationale: for Replacing Stand Free for Examination with Stand Free Walkaround** Asking a dog to stand still for a stranger to approach and touch it is inconsistent with our increased understanding of what helps dogs feel psychologically safe (agency and control); provides an inappropriate role model to spectators about approaching dogs they don’t know (on the one hand seeing judges approach and touch dogs while often being told to “let the dog decide if it wants to interact with you”); and may jeopardize the safety of judges – attacks have been known to occur.

The purpose of the existing Stand for Examination exercise relates to the way dogs interact with unknown persons who may be encountered in everyday life. First, a safe dog should be reasonably comfortable (no undue resentment or shyness) in the vicinity of an unknown person. Second, a friendly dog should be able to demonstrate enough self-control to resist approaching or jumping on an unknown person when asked not to. To demonstrate both of these, it is not necessary for the person to come close enough to actually physically touch/examine the dog.

The proposed Stand Free Walkaround exercise assesses skills similar to those in the existing Stand Free for Examination exercise with less risk to dogs and judges while setting a better example for spectators. The proposed exercise requires the demonstration of skills equally essential to pet dogs in society – tolerating a reasonably close approach by an unknown person and refraining from approaching or jumping on the person when asked not to.

The proposed Novice Stand Free Walkaround exercise represents a progression from the proposed CCD Stand Stay Walkaround exercise where the dog was on lead and the handler a lead-length away to the handler being a full three (3) meters away (currently 2 meters away) while the judge walks between dog and handler and around the dog at a distance of 1.5m.

The Principle Feature, Judge’s Orders and Deductions do not change from the current Stand for Examination exercise.

The Stand for Examination does not appear in any level of the UK Kennel Club Obedience Tests.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – Class exercise list, Exercise list at beginning of Companion Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**RECALL Maximum Points: 40**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to sit where left off the lead and promptly obey the Handler's command to come.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order 'Forward' and then 'Halt'. On further order from the Judge ‘Leave (Leave your Dog)', the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a sitting position and walk at least fifteen (15) metres away from the dog. On further order from the Judge, the Handler will about turn and halt. On order from the Judge, the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name once and then give a command to come. The dog must come straight to its Handler at a brisk pace and sit directly in front without further command.

On order from the Judge 'Finish', the Handler must give a command and the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Forward', 'Halt', 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Call (Call your Dog)’, 'Finish', ‘Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog that breaks from position, or does not come on the first command or for a dog that anticipates the command to come.

**Substantial:** For slow response to commands, for failure to come at a brisk pace, for failure to sit in front of the Handler or finish or for anticipating the finish.

**Minor:** For a dog that fails to sit automatically when the Handler halts. For the Handler failing to leave a distinct pause between the dog’s name and the command to come. For poor sits or finishes, for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**RECALL Maximum Points: 40**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to sit where left off the lead and promptly obey the Handler's command to come.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge ‘Leave (Leave your Dog)’, the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a sitting position and walk at least fifteen (15) metres away from the dog. On further order from the Judge, the Handler will about turn and halt. On order from the Judge, the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name once and then give a command to come. The dog must come straight to its Handler at a brisk pace and sit directly in front without further command.

On order from the Judge 'Finish', the Handler must give a command and the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

Orders from Judge:

'Take up position’, 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Call (Call your Dog)’, 'Finish', ‘Exercise Finished'.

Deductions:

Zero Score: For a dog that breaks from position, or does not come on the first command or for a dog that anticipates the command to come.

Substantial: For slow response to commands, for failure to come at a brisk pace, for failure to sit in front of the Handler or finish or for anticipating the finish.

Minor: ~~For a dog that fails to sit automatically when the Handler halts~~. For the Handler failing to leave a distinct pause between the dog’s name and the command to come. For poor sits or finishes, for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale:** The Principal Feature is for the dog to promptly obey the handler’s command to come. The requirement to move forward from the starting marker does not compliment the principal feature. The heel forward and halt with the dog sitting is already assessed in another exercise “Heel free”.

**DOGS ACT**

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

1. Heel Free 40

2. Stand Free for Examination 30

3. Recall 40

4.(a) Retrieve on the Flat or

(b) Change of Position 30

5 1-min Sit Stay 30

6 3-min Down Stay 30

TOTAL 200

Less penalties for misbehaviour.

**Proposal: change Novice Class list of exerccises**

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

1. Heel Free 40

2. Stand Free for Examination 30

3.  Recall 40

4.  (a) Retrieve on the Flat or

4.  (b) Change of Position 30

5. ~~1-min~~30 sec Sit Stay 30

6. ~~3~~-1.5min Down Stay 30

TOTAL 200

Less penalties for misbehaviour

**Rationale: Co**nsequential amendments if the proposals amending the stays to individual exercises with shorter durations succeed.

**DOGS ACT**

**Consequential Amendment to order of Novice exercises:**

If the proposal to make the down stay an individual exercise succeeds, but the proposal to make the sit stay an individual exercise does not succeed, re-order the exercises so that all individual exercises are completed before the group exercise.

**Rationale:** Finish all individual exercises before doing the group exercise.

**DOGS ACT**

**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.

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

**Proposal: Make the Sit Stay an individual exercise and reduce its duration**

**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~~ an individual exercise. The ~~Handlers~~ Handler 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,~~ position as directed by the judge and with their ~~dogs~~ dog sitting in the heel position. On order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog), the ~~Handlers~~ Handler may give their dog ~~dogs~~ a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres. On order from the Judge or Steward the ~~Handlers~~ Handler will turn to face their ~~dogs~~ dog and halt.

After ~~one (1) minute~~ 30 seconds from the time the Judge has ordered the ~~Handlers~~ Handler to leave, they will give the order 'Return (Return to your Dog)'. ~~The Handlers must return to their dogs together.~~ The ~~dogs~~ dog 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.~~

At the discretion of the judge, only dogs who are qualifying may be eligible to attempt this exercise. This decision will be made before judging commences for the class.

**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~~

**Rationale:** Amending the stay to an individual exercise removes the safety and potential public liability issues related to group exercises. The amended version of the stay still provides a meaningful test of the dog’s stability in the presence of a reasonable level of background distraction. It allows all dogs to attempt the exercise under the same conditions, rather than some dogs being unduly affected by the actions of other dogs in the group. It also gives the judge more flexibility to position each dog in a shaded or sheltered part of the ring during extreme weather conditions.

The stay is more difficult if done immediately after all the other individual exercises. The dog must remain in the ring and concentrate for longer and demonstrate more self-control as it doesn't have an opportunity to leave the ring, settle and refocus before being asked to complete the stay. This is balanced by the shorter duration and by any reduction in difficulty from removing the "group" requirement.

Shortening the duration of the stay also has the incidental benefit of allowing the stay to be done as an individual exercise while keeping the judging time manageable. The discretion for the judge to only let dogs who are qualifying attempt the stay provides an additional mechanism to manage the judging time if a trial has a large entry or other time constraints.

Each dog is only required to be in the ring once. This reduces clashes between rings, as well as avoiding delays while stewards look for handlers for group exercises. It also makes it easier for affiliates to run multiple events concurrently.

**DOGS VIC**

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

**Proposal: 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.

**Rationale**: 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.

**1 Minute Sit Stay**

**Proposal:** Remove the exercise

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

**DOGS WEST**

**Proposal: Delete all Group Stays and replace with proposed new exercises**

**Stay and Return Maximum Points 30**

**Principle Feature:**

The dog to stay off the lead in a sit positon until the completion of the exercise

#### Description of Exercise

The Handler will take up their position as directed by the Judge. On order from the Judge ‘Leave (Leave your Dog)’, the Handler may give their dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres where directed by the Judge. On order from the Judge the Handler will turn to face their dog and halt. The Handler must become stationary. The Judge will then immediately order return to the dog. The dog must not move from the sit position until after the Judge orders ‘Exercise Finished’.

If the dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge will instruct the Handler to collect their dog.

#### Orders from the Judge:

‘Leave (Leave Your Dog)’, ‘About Turn’, ‘Halt’, ‘Return (Return to your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished’

#### Deductions:

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

**Minor:** For minor movements, eg, fidgeting.

**DOGS WEST**

**Proposal: DELETE GROUP DOWN STAY NEW EXERCISE**

**Stay and Return One minute Maximum points 30**

**Principle Feature:**

The dog to stay off the lead in a down position until the completion of the exercise

#### Description of Exercise:

The Handler will take up their position as directed by the Judge. On order from the Judge ‘Leave (Leave Your Dog)’, the Handler may give their dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres where directed by the Judge, about turn and halt. After one (1 minute from the time the Judge has ordered the Handler to leave, the Judge will give the order ‘Return (Return to your Dog). The dog must not move from the down position until after the Judge orders ‘Exercise Finished’

If the dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge will instruct the Handler to collect their dog.

#### Orders from the Judge

‘Leave (Leave your Dog)’, ‘About turn’, ‘Halt’, ‘Return (Return to your Dog’), ‘Exercise Finished’

#### Deductions:

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

**Minor:** For minor movements, eg, fidgeting.

#### **Rationale:** A Stay, (impulse control), is currently tested in the Novice class from the SFE, Recall, Retrieve or COP. We have a duty of care to dogs, handlers, Judges and stewards and we should not be putting them at risk by testing our dog’s stability by leaving them in a group of unfamiliar dogs.

With dogs in a close ring environment there is a greater propensity for an altercation to arise. There may be a small amount of time more 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. The positive benefits far outweigh the negatives.

**DOGS WEST**

#### NOVICE CLASS

The exercises for each dog and the maximum f points shall be:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Heel Free | 40 |
| 2. Stand Free for Examination | 30 |
| 3. Recall | 40 |
| 4. (a) Retrieve on the Flat or |  |
| (b) Change of Position | 30 |
| 5. Stay and Return | 30 |
| 6. Stay and Return One minute | 30 |

#### 200

Less penalty for misbehaviour

**DOGS TAS**

**Proposal:** REMOVE THE GROUP STAYS FROM CD COMPLETELY

REALLOCATE THE SIT STAY POINTS TO STAY AND RETURN

NEW RULE

**Stay and return Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stay off the lead in a down position until the completion of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Handler will take up their position as directed by the judge. On order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handler may give their dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres as directed by the judge. On order from the Judge the Handler will turn to face their dog and halt. After one (1) minute from the time the Judge has ordered the Handler to leave, the judge will give the order 'Return (Return to your Dog). The dog must not move from the down position until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished'~~.~~

If the dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge will instruct the Handler, to collect their dog

**Orders from Judge:**

'Leave (Leave Your Dog)’, ‘About turn’, ‘Halt', 'Return (Return to Your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

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

**Minor:** For minor movements, e.g. fidgeting,

**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~~**

**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 increase in the amount of time needed than the current stays, however not enough to be unreasonable, as time saved on the 4-minute group stays 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.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal replace 1 minute Sit Stay and 3 minute Down Stay**

**SUBMISSION 1**

**Proposal: NEW RULE – INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE**

**Down Return Maximum points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stay off lead in the down position until the completion of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a down position and walk to a marker at least fifteen (15) metres away from the dog. The handler will about turn and return to the dog without pause. The handler will return around the back of the dog into the heel position. 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 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.

**Rationale:** This exercise will replace the Group Stays and therefore reduce the number of incidents. It will make this entry level class safer and more achievable for novice handlers thus encouraging new comers to the sport. It will also mean competitors do not have to wait and re-enter the ring once they have completed their exercises, thus reducing the judging time spent on this Class overall.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – Class exercise list, Exercise list at beginning of Companion Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**SUBMISSION 2**

**Proposal: NEW RULE – INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE**

**SENDAWAY Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog will be in a standing position in heel position. On order from the judge the handler will cue the dog to leave the Handler and go substantially in the right direction to the Prescribed Area and sit. The handler on order from the judge will go to the dog’s side. The dog to remain in a sitting position until the exercise is finished.

**Description of the Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’ five (5) metres from the prescribed area. On further order from the Judge Send (Send your Dog)', the Handler will give the command to send away. The dog will leave the heel position and go to the prescribed area at a brisk pace and sit within the prescribed area. On judges order the handler will go to the dog’s side. The dog must not move from the sit position until after the Judge orders ‘Exercise Finished'.

**Orders from Judge:**

‘Take up position’, ‘Send/Send your dog’, ‘return to your dog’

**Deductions:**

**Zero:**

For a dog that does not go into the prescribed area or for a dog that does not remain within the prescribed area until the exercise is finished.

**Minor:**

For a dog that does not move ahead at a brisk pace, for not being substantially within the prescribed area and for not maintaining a stable position inside the prescribed area, for a dog that moves before the exercise is finished.

**Rationale:** This is also an individual exercise which will save judging time and this exercise also ties in with Tricks and UD exercises.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – Class exercise list, Exercise list at beginning of Companion Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**SUBMISSION 3**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**1 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 one (1) minute 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.

**Rationale:** Dogs in this class have a little more experience and should be able to perform one off lead group exercise. Eliminating the Sit exercise completely, makes this fairer for dogs who are uncomfortable sitting for a length of time. Dogs are usually more settled in the down position and the duration of one minute is achievable.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – Class exercise list, Exercise list at beginning of Companion Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS ACT**

**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.

**Proposal: Make the Down Stay an individual exercise and decrease its duration**

**5. ~~3~~ 1.5 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~~ an individual exercise. The ~~Handlers~~ Handler 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~~ position as directed by the judge and with their ~~dogs~~ dog in the down position. On order from the Judge to 'Leave (Leave your Dog ~~Dogs~~)', the ~~Handlers~~ Handler may give their ~~dogs~~ dog 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~~ Handler will turn to face their ~~dogs~~ dog and halt.

After ~~three (3)~~ 1.5 minutes from the time the Judge has ordered the ~~Handlers~~ Handler to leave, ~~he~~ they will give the order 'Return (Return to your Dog ~~Dogs~~)'. ~~The Handlers must return to their dogs together.~~ The ~~dogs~~ dog 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.~~

At the discretion of the judge, only dogs who are qualifying may be eligible to attempt this exercise. This decision will be made before judging commences for the class.

**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.~~

**Rationale:** Amending the stay to an individual exercise removes the safety and potential public liability issues related to group exercises. The amended version of the stay still provides a meaningful test of the dog’s stability in the presence of a reasonable level of background distraction. It allows all dogs to attempt the exercise under the same conditions, rather than some dogs being unduly affected by the actions of other dogs in the group. It also gives the judge more flexibility to position each dog in a shaded or sheltered part of the ring during extreme weather conditions.

The stay is more difficult if done immediately after all the other individual exercises. The dog must remain in the ring and concentrate for longer and demonstrate more self-control as it doesn't have an opportunity to leave the ring, settle and refocus before being asked to complete the stay. This is balanced by the shorter duration and by any reduction in difficulty from removing the "group" requirement.

Shortening the duration of the stay also has the incidental benefit of allowing the stay to be done as an individual exercise while keeping the judging time manageable. The discretion for the judge to only let dogs who are qualifying attempt the stay provides an additional mechanism to manage the judging time if a trial has a large entry or other time constraints.

Each dog is only required to be in the ring once. This reduces clashes between rings, as well as avoiding delays while stewards look for handlers for group exercises. It also makes it easier for affiliates to run multiple events concurrently.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposed Change - Judges Chart – Novice Class**

**Consequential Amendments:**

Change time for Sit Stay if Sit Stay proposal succeeds

Change time for Down Stay if Down Stay proposal succeeds

Remove Sub Total row if both stay proposals succeed

If Down Stay proposal succeeds, but Sit Stay proposal does not succeed, then move Down Stay above the Sub Total row

**DOGS ACT**

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART - NOVICE CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by ........................................................at...................................................on...........................JUDGE......................................................**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Heel Free……………………..………...40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Stand Free for Examination ……..…...30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Recall…………………….………….….40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.(a) Retrieve Dumbbell on Flat or……....30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.(b) Change of Position…………......…..30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sub Total** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. One Minute Sit Stay…………..………..30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Three Minute Down Stay………..…….30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score…………...………………….200**  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score 170** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge** ........................................................

**DOGS ACT**

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART - NOVICE CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by ........................................................at...................................................on...........................JUDGE......................................................**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Heel Free……………………..………...40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Stand Free for Examination ……..…...30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Recall…………………….………….….40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.(a) Retrieve Dumbbell on Flat or……....30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.(b) Change of Position…………......…..30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **~~Sub Total~~** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.~~One Minute~~ 30 Second Sit Stay ……..30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. ~~Three~~ One and a Half Minute Down Stay………..……. 30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score…………...………………….200**  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score 170** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge** ........................................................

**DOGS VIC**

**3 Minute Down Stay**

**Proposal: 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 40 points

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

**DOGS TAS**

NEW EXERCISE PROPOSAL

REMOVE THE GROUP STAYS FROM NOVICE COMPLETELY

Proposal - NEW RULE

**Stay and return One minute Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stay off the lead in down position until the completion of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Handler will take up their position as directed by the judge. On order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave Your Dog)', the Handler may give their dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and walk approximately ten (10) metres as directed by the judge about turn and halt. After one (1) minute from the time the Judge has ordered the Handler to leave, the judge will give the order 'Return (Return to your Dog) The dog must not move from the down position until after the Judge orders 'Exercise Finished'~~.~~

If the dog gets up and starts to roam, the Judge will instruct the Handler, to collect their dog

**Orders from Judge:**

'Leave (Leave Your Dog)’, ‘About turn’, ‘Halt', 'Return (Return to Your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished

'**Deductions:**

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

**Minor:** For minor movements, e.g. fidgeting,

**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 increase in the amount of time needed than the current stays, however not enough to be unreasonable, as time saved on the 4-minute group stays 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.

**OPEN CLASS**

**DOGS QLD**

**2. STAND FREE FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: 20**

**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.

**SUBMISSION 1**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**STAND FREE WALKAROUND**  Maximum Points: 20

**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 facing away from the dog.

~~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 walk around the dog, going between the dog and Handler as they circle the dog once. The Judge shall maintain a distance of approximately 1.5m from dog as they pass by.

After circling the dog and moving away from the dog and well out of the Handler’s path, 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.

**Rationale: for Replacing Stand Free for Examination with Stand Free Walkaround**

Asking a dog to stand still for a stranger to approach and touch it is inconsistent with our increased understanding of what helps dogs feel psychologically safe (agency and control); provides an inappropriate role model to spectators about approaching dogs they don’t know (on the one hand seeing judges approach and touch dogs while often being told to “let the dog decide if it wants to interact with you”); and may jeopardize the safety of judges – attacks have been known to occur.

The purpose of the existing Stand Free for Examination exercise relates to the way dogs interact with unknown persons who may be encountered in everyday life. First, a safe dog should be reasonably comfortable (no undue resentment or shyness) in the vicinity of an unknown person. Second, a friendly dog should be able to demonstrate enough self-control to resist approaching or jumping on an unknown person when asked not to. To demonstrate both of these, it is not necessary for the person to actually come close enough to physically touch/examine the dog.

The proposed Open Stand Free Walkaround exercise represents a progression from the proposed Novice Stand Free Walkaround exercise. In the former, the handler is 3 meters away and facing the dog while the judge walks between dog and handler and around the dog at a distance of 1.5m. In the proposed Open Stand Free Walkaround exercise, the handler is 5 meters away from the dog and facing away from the dog while the judge walks between dog and handler and around the dog at a distance of 1.5m.

The proposed exercise assesses skills similar to those in the existing Stand Free for Examination exercise without the risks. The proposed exercise requires the demonstration of skills equally essential to pet dogs in society – tolerating a reasonably close approach by an unknown person and refraining from approaching or jumping on the person when asked not to.

The Principle Feature and Deductions do not change from the current Stand for Examination exercise.

The Stand for Examination does not appear in any level of the UK Kennel Club Obedience Tests.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – Class exercise list, Exercise list at beginning of Companion Dog Excellent Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**SUBMISSION 2**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**2. STAND FREE FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: 20**

**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:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. 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:**

'Take up position’, '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 moves its feet or for poor stands, for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale:** The Principal Feature is for the dog to stand steadily off the lead until the completion of the exercise and not show undue resentment or shyness.

The requirement to move forward from the starting marker does not compliment the principal feature. The heel forward and halt with the dog standing is already assessed in another exercise “Heel free”.

**DOGS QLD**

1. **DROP ON RECALL Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to sit where left off lead and promptly obey the Handler's command to come, to down, and to come again when called from the down position.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order 'Forward' and 'Halt'. On further order from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will leave the dog in a sitting position and walk at least twenty (20) metres away. On further order from the Judge, the Handler will about turn and halt.

On order from the Judge, the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name and then give a command to come. The dog must come straight towards its Handler at a brisk pace.

On further order from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to down and it must drop promptly to the down position and remain there until given a command to come. The dog must come straight to its Handler at a brisk pace and sit directly in front without further command. The Handler may say the dog's name again before giving a command to come from the down position.

On order from the Judge 'Finish', the Handler may give a command and the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

The Judge must inform the Handler before the start of the exercise if he intends using a signal in lieu of a verbal order.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Forward', 'Halt', 'Leave (Leave your Dog)’, 'About Turn', 'Halt', ‘Call (Call Your Dog)', ‘Down (Down your Dog)’, ‘Call (Call your Dog)’, 'Finish', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

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

**Substantial:** For a dog failing to sit automatically when the Handler halts. For the Handler failing to leave a distinct pause between the name of the dog and the command. For slow response to commands and for failure to come at a brisk pace; for failure to sit in front, or finish, or for anticipating the finish.

**Minor:** For poor sits, downs, finishes, or for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**3. DROP ON RECALL Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to sit where left off lead and promptly obey the Handler's command to come, to down, and to come again when called from the down position.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will leave the dog in a sitting position and walk at least twenty (20) metres away. On further order from the Judge, the Handler will about turn and halt.

On order from the Judge, the Handler may attract the dog's attention by saying its name and then give a command to come. The dog must come straight towards its Handler at a brisk pace.

On further order from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to down and it must drop promptly to the down position and remain there until given a command to come. The dog must come straight to its Handler at a brisk pace and sit directly in front without further command. The Handler may say the dog's name again before giving a command to come from the down position.

On order from the Judge 'Finish', the Handler may give a command and the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

The Judge must inform the Handler before the start of the exercise if he intends using a signal in lieu of a verbal order.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up position’, 'Leave (Leave your Dog)’, 'About Turn', 'Halt', ‘Call (Call Your Dog)', ‘Down (Down your Dog)’, ‘Call (Call your Dog)’, 'Finish', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

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

**Substantial:** ~~For a dog failing to sit automatically when the Handler halts.~~ For the Handler failing to leave a distinct pause between the name of the dog and the command. For slow response to commands and for failure to come at a brisk pace; for failure to sit in front, or finish, or for anticipating the finish.

**Minor:** For poor sits, downs, finishes, or for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale:** The Principal Feature is for the dog to promptly obey the handler’s command to come, to down, and to come again when called from the down position.

The requirement to move forward from the starting marker does not compliment the principal feature. The heel forward and halt with the dog sitting is already assessed in another exercise “Heel free”.

**DOGS QLD**

**RETRIEVE DUMBBELL ON FLAT Maximum Points: 30 Principal Feature:**

The dog to retrieve the dumbbell on command.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the orders ‘Forward', 'Halt’. On further order from the Judge to throw the Dumbbell, the Handler may give a command to stay and must throw the dumbbell forward at least six (6) metres. On order from the Judge 'Send (Send your Dog)' the Handler will give a command to retrieve. The exercise must be done at not less than a brisk pace.

Where the dumbbell is not thrown at least six (6) metres a minor deduction must be incurred and a re‑throw allowed from the same position.

The dog must sit directly in front of the Handler and hold the dumbbell until the Judge orders 'Take it' when the Handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler

until after the Judge orders 'Finish'. On the Handler's command, the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Forward', 'Halt', 'Throw it', ‘Send (Send your Dog)', ‘Take it’, 'Finish’, 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog that does not retrieve the dumbbell on one command, anticipates the command to retrieve, or where the dumbbell is dropped and not delivered to hand or the dog refuses to give up the dumbbell.

**Substantial:** For a dog failing to sit automatically when the Handler halts. For failure to retrieve at a brisk pace, for slow response to commands, excessive mouthing, failing to sit, or finish, or anticipating the finish.

**Minor:** For poor sits and finishes; for minor mouthing of, or playing with the Dumbbell; where the Dumbbell is dropped and immediately picked up without further command or where a re‑throw of the dumbbell is ordered; if the Handler drops the dumbbell after it has been taken from the dog; for failure to carry out any of the lesser parts of the exercise.

**Proposal; NEW RULE**

**4. RETRIEVE DUMBBELL ON FLAT Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to retrieve the dumbbell on command.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge to throw the Dumbbell, the Handler may give a command to stay and must throw the dumbbell forward at least six (6) metres. On order from the Judge 'Send (Send your Dog)' the Handler will give a command to retrieve. The exercise must be done at not less than a brisk pace.

Where the dumbbell is not thrown at least six (6) metres a minor deduction must be incurred and a re‑throw allowed from the same position.

The dog must sit directly in front of the Handler and hold the dumbbell until the Judge orders 'Take it' when the Handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until after the Judge orders 'Finish'. On the Handler's command, the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up position’, 'Throw it', ‘Send (Send your Dog)', ‘Take it’, 'Finish’, 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog that does not retrieve the dumbbell on one command, anticipates the command to retrieve, or where the dumbbell is dropped and not delivered to hand or the dog refuses to give up the dumbbell.

**Substantial:** ~~For a dog failing to sit automatically when the Handler halts.~~ For failure to retrieve at a brisk pace, for slow response to commands, excessive mouthing, failing to sit, or finish, or anticipating the finish.

**Minor:** For poor sits and finishes; for minor mouthing of, or playing with the Dumbbell; where the Dumbbell is dropped and immediately picked up without further command or where a re‑throw of the dumbbell is ordered; if the Handler drops the dumbbell after it has been taken from the dog; for failure to carry out any of the lesser parts of the exercise.

**Rationale:** The Principal Feature is for the dog to retrieve the dumbbell on command.

The requirement to move forward from the starting marker does not compliment the principal feature. The heel forward and halt with the dog sitting is already assessed in another exercise “Heel free”.

**DOGS ACT**

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 Dumbbell on Flat 30

5a. Retrieve Dumbbell over Solid Jump or

5b. Directed Retrieve 30

6a. Broad Jump or

6b. Distance Control 20

7. 3‑min. Down Stay‑Handler Out of Sight 30

TOTAL 200

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**Proposal: Open Class list of exercises**

**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 Dumbbell on Flat 30

5a. Retrieve Dumbbell over ~~Solid~~ Jump or

5b. Directed Retrieve 30

6a. Broad Jump or

6b. Distance Control 20

7. 3‑min. Down Stay‑Handler Out of Sight 30

TOTAL 200

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**Rationale: Open Class list of exercises.** Consequential amendment if the change proposed to Exercise 5a Retrieve Dumbbell over Solid Jump succeeds.

**DOGS ACT**

1. **(a) RETRIEVE DUMBBELL OVER SOLID JUMP (Optional) Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog, on command, must go over the jump, retrieve the dumbbell, and return over the jump.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge must order the Handler to take up position in front of the jump, the Handler to choose the actual position with the dog sitting at heel.

On order from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and then throw the dumbbell over the jump and at least four (4) metres past it. Where the dumbbell is not thrown at least four (4) metres past the jump a Minor Deduction must be incurred and the Judge will order a re-throw from the same position. On order from the Judge 'Send (Send your Dog)', the Handler will give a command to retrieve. The retrieve must be done at not less than a brisk pace.

The dog must go over the jump in both directions. On its return, the dog must sit directly in front of the Handler and hold the dumbbell until the Judge orders ‘Take it'. The Handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until after the judge orders' 'Finish'. On the Handler's command, the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

It is the Judge's responsibility to see that the height jumped is that required for that particular dog's height.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up position', 'Throw it', 'Send (Send your Dog)', 'Take It', 'Finish', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog that does not retrieve the dumbbell on one command, anticipates the command to retrieve, climbs the solid jump or refuses to give up the dumbbell; where the dumbbell is dropped and not delivered to hand or where the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise.

**Substantial:** For failing to retrieve at a brisk pace, slow response to commands, excessive mouthing, for failing to sit, finish or anticipating the finish.

**Minor:** For tipping the jump, poor sits, finishes, minor mouthing of, or playing with the dumbbell. Where the dumbbell is dropped and immediately picked up without further command, or where a re‑throw of the dumbbell is ordered. If the Handler drops the dumbbell after it has been taken from the dog. For failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Proposal: Exercise 5a alternative to solid jump in retrieve over the solid jump exercise**

**5 (a) RETRIEVE DUMBBELL OVER ~~SOLID~~ JUMP (Optional) Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog, on command, must go over the jump, retrieve the dumbbell, and return over the jump.

**Jump**:

The jump used in this exercise may be either a Solid Jump or a Bar Jump capable of holding bars at all of the jump heights at the same time (filled-in bar jump). Where a filled-in bar jump is to be used, the top bar shall be placed at the height applicable to the dog and bars shall be placed at each height below the top bar. All bars must be capable of falling off if hit hard enough in any direction. All of the bars below the top bar must be coloured white without alternate black and white sections and the top bar must be coloured black and white as indicated in the description of the Bar Jump set out in Section 11. Equipment in the General part of these rules. The Judge may not require that a bar jump be used if the affiliate does not have a bar jump capable of holding bars at all heights at the same time.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge must order the Handler to take up position in front of the jump, the Handler to choose the actual position with the dog sitting at heel.

On order from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and then throw the dumbbell over the jump and at least four (4) metres past it. Where the dumbbell is not thrown at least four (4) metres past the jump a Minor Deduction must be incurred and the Judge will order a re-throw from the same position. On order from the Judge 'Send (Send your Dog)', the Handler will give a command to retrieve. The retrieve must be done at not less than a brisk pace.

The dog must go over the jump in both directions. On its return, the dog must sit directly in front of the Handler and hold the dumbbell until the Judge orders ‘Take it'. The Handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until after the judge orders' 'Finish'. On the Handler's command, the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

It is the Judge's responsibility to see that the height jumped is that required for that particular dog's height.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up position', 'Throw it', 'Send (Send your Dog)', 'Take It', 'Finish', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog that does not retrieve the dumbbell on one command, anticipates the command to retrieve, climbs the ~~solid~~ jump or knocks the top bar off the jump, refuses to give up the dumbbell; where the dumbbell is dropped and not delivered to hand or where the dog does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise.

**Substantial:** For failing to retrieve at a brisk pace, slow response to commands, excessive mouthing, for failing to sit, finish or anticipating the finish.

**Minor:** For tipping the solid jump or displacing a lower bar from the filled-in bar jump, poor sits, finishes, minor mouthing of, or playing with the dumbbell. Where the dumbbell is dropped and immediately picked up without further command, or where a re‑throw of the dumbbell is ordered. If the Handler drops the dumbbell after it has been taken from the dog. For failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale**: The purpose of this proposal is to ensure the safety of dogs retrieving a dumbbell over a jump. Currently, dogs must go out and return over a solid jump with fixed height boards which have no give in them if struck by the dog. Some dogs have injured themselves when hitting the solid jump and/or have reacted negatively when send over a solid jump after having struck the boards on a previous occasion. By ensuring that the bars can fall off if hit by the dog, the proposal allows for a safer alternative to the current solid jump. Most clubs have bar jumps with either cups or pegs to hold bars at all jump heights. The proposal ensures that The Judge may not require that a bar jump be used if the affiliate does not have a bar jump capable of holding bars at all heights at the same time.

**DOGS ACT**

**5. (b) DIRECTED RETRIEVE (Optional) Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to retrieve the designated glove on command.

**Description of Exercise**

In this exercise the Handler will provide two (2) predominately white, wrist length cotton gloves, which must be open and must be approved by the Judge.

The Judge or Steward will then place the two (2) gloves across the end or side of the ring. The Handler with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to and approximately twelve (12) metres from where the middle distance is between the gloves. The gloves must not be placed into position until the completion of the previous exercise.

The two gloves should be placed in a straight line approximately one (1) metre from the edge or side of the ring. The distance between the gloves will be approximately ten (10) metres. Both gloves must be clearly and equally visible to the dog when the Handler turns to face the glove designated by the Judge. The Handler should be able to look over their shoulder to check where the gloves are placed before turning around to face the gloves.

The gloves will be designated ’One’ and ’Two’ reading from left to right when the Handler turns and faces the gloves. The Judge will give the order ‘One’ or ‘Two’ and then order the Handler to ’About Turn’ and ‘Halt’. The Handler will give the command to Heel, and then turn in place, right or left, to face the designated glove. The Handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting at heel. The Handler must not touch the dog, nor reposition the dog.

The Judge will then order ’Send (Send your Dog)’ The Handler will give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of either the left or the right hand and arm. The Handler may bend the body and knees to the extent necessary in giving the direction to the dog. The command to retrieve will be given either simultaneously with, or immediately after the giving of the direction, after which the Handler will stand erect in a natural position.

The dog will go directly to and retrieve the glove at a brisk pace, without unnecessary mouthing or playing with it.

The dog must sit directly in front of the Handler and hold the glove until the Judge orders 'Take it' when the Handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until after the Judge orders 'Finish'. On the Handler’s command, the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

This exercise shall consist of a single retrieve. The same number glove will be used for every dog in the class in the trial.

**Proposal: Change 5(b) Directed Retrieve – Allow Judge to swap gloves if needed, making this exercise consistent with the UD Directed Retrieve.**

**Description of Exercise**

In this exercise the Handler will provide two (2) predominately white, wrist length cotton gloves, which must be open and must be approved by the Judge.

The Judge or Steward will then place the two (2) gloves across the end or side of the ring. The Handler with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to and approximately twelve (12) metres from where the middle distance is between the gloves. The gloves must not be placed into position until the completion of the previous exercise.

The two gloves should be placed in a straight line approximately one (1) metre from the edge or side of the ring. The distance between the gloves will be approximately ten (10) metres. Both gloves must be clearly and equally visible to the dog when the Handler turns to face the glove designated by the Judge. The Handler should be able to look over their shoulder to check where the gloves are placed before turning around to face the gloves.

The gloves will be designated ’One’ and ’Two’ reading from left to right when the Handler turns and faces the gloves. The Judge will give the order ‘One’ or ‘Two’ and then order the Handler to ’About Turn’ and ‘Halt’. The Handler will give the command to Heel, and then turn in place, right or left, to face the designated glove. The Handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting at heel. The Handler must not touch the dog, nor reposition the dog.

The Judge will then order ’Send (Send your Dog)’ The Handler will give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of either the left or the right hand and arm. The Handler may bend the body and knees to the extent necessary in giving the direction to the dog. The command to retrieve will be given either simultaneously with, or immediately after the giving of the direction, after which the Handler will stand erect in a natural position.

The dog will go directly to and retrieve the glove at a brisk pace, without unnecessary mouthing or playing with it.

The dog must sit directly in front of the Handler and hold the glove until the Judge orders 'Take it' when the Handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until after the Judge orders 'Finish'. On the Handler’s command, the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

This exercise shall consist of a single retrieve. The same number glove will be used for every dog in the class in the trial. Howeverif circumstances warrant, the Judge may alter which glove is used.

**Rationale:** Environmental factors may make it necessary for the judge to alter which glove is used. Examples would be where daylight ends during a trial and the previously chosen glove is badly lit, or if a dog fouls the ground in front of the glove. The proposed change would make the wording of the Open Directed Retrieve exercise consistent with the wording of the UD Directed Retrieve exercise. The circumstances that would cause a judge to alter which glove is used in the UD exercise are equally applicable to the Open exercise.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: to Remove 6a. Broad Jump (optional) and replace with 6a. Scent Discrimination (optional)**

1. **~~(a) BROAD JUMP (Optional) Maximum Points: 20~~**

**~~Principal Feature:~~**

~~The dog, on command, must jump the entire width of the jump and return to the Handler.~~

**~~Description of Exercise:~~**

~~The Judge must order the Handler to take up position in front of the jump, the Handler to choose the actual position with the dog sitting at heel.~~

~~On order from the Judge, the Handler may give a command to stay and will go to a position facing the right-hand side of the jump and stand at least 600mm from the jump anywhere between the first and last hurdles.~~

~~On order from the Judge 'Send (Send your Dog)', the Handler may say the dog's name and will give a command to jump. The dog must clear the entire width within the outside lines of the jump and return to the Handler and sit directly in front without further command. The Handler must turn right whilst the dog is in mid‑air. On order from the Judge 'Finish', the Handler may give a command and the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.~~

~~It is the Judge’s responsibility to see that the width to be jumped is correct.~~

**~~Orders from Judge:~~**

~~'Take up position', 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', 'Send (Send your Dog)', 'Finish', 'Exercise Finished'.~~

**~~Deductions:~~**

**~~Zero Score:~~** ~~For a dog that refuses to jump on the first command or does not clear the entire width within the outside lines of the jump, anticipates the command to jump, or does not complete the Principal Feature of the exercise.~~

**~~Substantial:~~** ~~For failing to leave a distinct pause between the dog's name and the command, for failing to return briskly to the Handler, slow response to commands, failing to sit or finish, or anticipating the finish.~~

**~~Minor:~~** ~~For the Handler not standing the required distance from the jump. For tipping the jump or for crooked jumps, for poor sits or finishes. For failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.~~

**SUBMISSION 1**

**(QLD) NEW RULE**

6. (a) Scent Discrimination (Optional) Maximum Points: 20

Principal Feature:

The dog, on command, to select the correct article by scent and promptly retrieve.

Description of Exercise:

The dog must select by scent and retrieve an article which has been scented by its Handler from amongst two (2) of each scent discrimination articles that have not been scented (i.e. two (2) each of wood, leather and metal- total of six (6) articles). This exercise to be carried out with the articles placed on the ground.

Preparation:

1. On entering the Ring, the Handler must surrender six (6) clean articles which must be kept on the Judge's table.

(ii) The Handler, with the dog sitting at heel, will take up position as directed by the Judge, approximately five (5) metres from and facing in the opposite direction to where the articles will be placed.

(iii) The Judge will confirm with the handler which article type they will command the dog to retrieve.

(iv) The Judge or Steward must use tongs to place five (5) of the articles in a straight line approximately fifty (50) cm apart with a space for the handler’s scented article. All articles must be at least one (1) metre from the edge or the side of the ring.

The Exercise:

After the five (5) articles have been placed, the Judge or Steward will offer the remaining article to the Handler (with tongs or by offering the Handler’s container containing one remaining article). The Handler must scent the article using only their hands which must remain in plain sight.

On order from the Judge, the Handler must surrender the scented article to the Judge or Steward who will use tongs to place it among the other articles on the ground. The Judge or Steward must not touch the scented article or any other article.

The Handler will then be asked ‘Are You Ready? On order from the Judge, the Handler and the dog will about turn and halt facing the articles. On further order, the Handler may place their hand gently over the dog's nose and may give a command to retrieve. The dog must go to the articles at a brisk pace, but may take a reasonable time to select the right one provided that it works smartly and continuously and does not pick up any article other than the one designated. After picking up the correct article, the dog must promptly return and sit directly in front of the Handler without further command, and hold the article until given a command to surrender.

The Judge will state 'Exercise Finished,' then take the article from the Handler and say ‘Article Correct' or ‘Article Incorrect.'

Orders from the Judge:

Are You Ready’, ‘Scent Your Article,‘ ‘Thank You,’ ‘About Turn’, ‘Halt’, ‘Send your Dog’, ‘Take It’, ‘Exercise Finished’, ‘Article Correct’ or ‘Article Incorrect’.

Deductions:

Zero: For a dog that anticipates the command to retrieve, fails to retrieve the correct article on a single command, refuses to give up the article or does not deliver to hand.

Substantial: For a dog that fails to sit before being sent out or does not leave the Handler promptly. Slow to go out to or return from the articles, does not work constantly, excessively mouths or plays with the article, picks up the wrong article even though the dog puts it down immediately, fails to sit in front on return.

Minor: Minor mouthing, poor turns or sits, if the Handler drops the article after it has been taken from the dog, where the article is dropped by the dog and immediately picked up without further command or for failures to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rational for adding Scent Discrimination as another option for Broad Jump/Distance Control**

At present, the gap between Open and UD is very large and many handlers fail to continue training beyond Open. A major part of the gap is the appearance in UD of a complex scent discrimination exercise (15 articles of three types, handler vs other scent) with no foundation in lower levels.

An introductory scent discrimination exercise modelled on the UK Kennel Club Test A (handler scent vs no human scent, 6 articles in a line) is proposed for Open class. This will give handlers the opportunity and impetus to begin teaching scent skills earlier and make the transition to UD easier.

The new Scent Discrimination exercise would be optional, paired with Broad Jump and Distance Control, and carry the same number of points.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – Equipment – Jumps. Class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Companion Dog Excellent Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**SUBMISSION 2**

**Proposal; NEW RULE**

1. (a) Scent Discrimination (Optional) Maximum Points: 20

Principal Feature:

The dog, on command, to select the correct cloth by scent and promptly retrieve.

Description of Exercise:

The dog must select by scent and retrieve a cloth which has been scented by its Handler from amongst five (5) similar cloths that have not been scented. This exercise to be carried out with the cloths placed on the ground.

Preparation:

1. On entering the Ring, the Handler must surrender six (6) clean rolled cloths secured with different coloured elastic bands, which must be kept on the Judge's table.

(ii) The Handler, with the dog sitting at heel, will take up position as directed by the Judge, approximately five (5) metres from and facing in the opposite direction to where the cloths will be placed.

(iii) The Judge or Steward must use tongs to place five (5) of the cloths in a straight line approximately 50cm apart with a space for the handler’s scented cloth. All cloths must be at least one (1) metre from the edge or the side of the ring.

The Exercise:

After the five (5) cloths have been placed, the Judge or Steward will offer the remaining cloth to the Handler (with tongs or by offering the Handler’s box containing one remaining cloth). The Handler must scent the cloth using only their hands which must remain in plain sight.

On order from the Judge, the Handler must surrender the scented cloth to the Judge or Steward who will use tongs to place it among the other cloths on the ground. The Judge or Steward must not touch the scented cloth or any other cloth.

The Handler will then be asked ‘Are You Ready? On order from the Judge, the Handler and the dog will about turn and halt facing the cloths. On further order, the Handler may place their hand gently over the dog's nose and may give a command to retrieve. The dog must go to the cloths at a brisk pace, but may take a reasonable time to select the right one provided that it works smartly and continuously and does not pick up any cloth other than the one designated. After picking up the correct cloth, the dog must promptly return and sit directly in front of the Handler without further command, and hold the cloth until given a command to surrender.

The Judge will state 'Exercise Finished,' then take the cloth from the Handler and say ‘Cloth Correct' or ‘Cloth Incorrect.'

Orders from the Judge:

‘Are You Ready’, ‘Scent Your Cloth,‘ ‘Thank You,’ ‘About Turn’, ‘Halt’, ‘Send your Dog’, ‘Take It’, ‘Exercise Finished’, ‘Cloth Correct’ or ‘Cloth Incorrect’.

Deductions:

Zero: For a dog that anticipates the command to retrieve, fails to retrieve the correct cloth on a single command, refuses to give up the cloth or does not deliver to hand.

Substantial: For a dog that fails to sit before being sent out or does not leave the Handler promptly. Slow to go out to or return from the cloths, does not work constantly, excessively mouths or plays with the cloths, picks up the wrong cloth even though the dog puts it down immediately, fails to sit in front on return.

Minor: Minor mouthing, poor turns or sits, if the Handler drops the cloth after it has been taken from the dog, where the cloth is dropped by the dog and immediately picked up without further command or for failures to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale: for Removing the Broad Jump exercise**

The Broad Jump exercise is not progressive in any way – nothing at levels below lead up to it and no exercises at higher levels rely on the skills developed in this exercise.

Broad jump is not a useful exercise in everyday life.

Very few handlers choose to do this exercise.

The broad jump is a cumbersome piece of equipment for Clubs to obtain and store given its low frequency of use.

Handlers with older or less sound dogs prefer to avoid jumping exercises. Jumping a spread from a near standstill then abruptly turning right is physically demanding.

The broad jump clutters up the ring and makes it more difficult to find a place for Directed Retrieve. In one case I know of, a judge tripped over the broad jump while walking backwards for the Drop on Recall and broke her wrist.

**Rationale: for adding Scent Discrimination in place of Broad Jump**

At present, the gap between Open and UD is very large and many handlers fail to continue training beyond Open. A major part of the gap is the appearance in UD of a complex scent discrimination exercise (15 articles of three types, handler vs other scent) with no foundation in lower levels.

The space freed up in the Open test by deleting the broad jump is better used to lay a progressive foundation for the more advanced scent discrimination exercises encountered in UD and UDX.

An introductory scent discrimination exercise modelled on the UK Kennel Club Test A (handler scent vs no human scent, 6 articles in a line) is proposed for Open class. This will give handlers the opportunity and impetus to begin teaching scent skills earlier and make the transition to UD easier.

The new Scent Discrimination exercise would be optional, paired with Distance Control, and carry the same number of points as the deleted Broad Jump exercise.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – Equipment – Jumps, Equipment – new definition for articles, Class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Companion Dog Excellent Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS ACT**

**7. 3 Min. DOWN STAY‑ Maximum Points: 30**

**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.

**Proposal: Make the Down Stay an individual exercise**

**7. 3 Min. DOWN STAY‑ Maximum Points: 30**

**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~~ an individual exercise. The ~~Handlers~~ Handler 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~~ as directed by the judge and with their ~~dogs~~ dog in the down position. On order from the Judge to 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the ~~Handlers~~ Handler may give their ~~dogs~~ dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and, accompanied by a Steward, go out of sight of the ~~dogs~~ dog to a point previously designated by the Judge.

After three (3) minutes from the time the Judge has ordered the ~~Handlers~~ Handler to leave their dog ~~dogs~~, the Judge or Steward will order 'Return (Return to your Dog ~~Dogs~~)'. ~~The Handlers must return to their dogs together.~~ The ~~dogs~~ dog 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~~.

At the discretion of the judge, only dogs who are qualifying may be eligible to attempt this exercise. This decision will be made before judging commences for the class.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Leave (Leave your Dog ~~Dogs~~)', 'Return (Return to your Dog ~~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.~~

**Rationale:** Amending the stay to an individual exercise removes the safety and potential public liability issues related to group exercises. The amended version of the stay still provides a meaningful test of the dog’s stability in the presence of a reasonable level of background distraction. It allows all dogs to attempt the exercise under the same conditions, rather than some dogs being unduly affected by the actions of other dogs in the group. It also gives the judge more flexibility to position each dog in a shaded or sheltered part of the ring during extreme weather conditions.

The stay is more difficult if done immediately after all the other individual exercises. The dog must remain in the ring and concentrate for longer and demonstrate more self-control as it doesn't have an opportunity to leave the ring, settle and refocus before being asked to complete the stay. This is balanced by any reduction in difficulty from removing the "group" requirement. As dogs at this level are more experienced, and the duration of the Open Stays was reduced in a previous rules review, this proposal does not suggest a reduction in the duration of the stay.

The discretion for the judge to only let dogs who are qualifying attempt the stay provides a mechanism to manage the judging time if a trial has a large entry or other time constraints. At this level, the number of qualifying dogs starts to become significantly lower.

Each dog is only required to be in the ring once. This reduces clashes between rings, as well as avoiding delays while stewards look for handlers for group exercises. It also makes it easier for affiliates to run multiple events concurrently.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposed Change - Judges Chart – Open Class**

**Consequential Amendments**:

Change description of Retrieve Over Jump exercise if proposal to allow the use of an alternative to the Solid Jump succeeds

Remove Sub Total row if proposal to make the Down Stay an individual exercise succeeds

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**DOGS ACT**

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART - OPEN CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by ........................................................at...................................................on...........................JUDGE.......................................................**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Heel Free……………………….………40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Stand Free for Examination……..……20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Drop on Recall…………………………30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Retrieve Dumbbell on Flat……………30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5a. Retrieve Dumbbell over  Solid Jump (optional) or…………30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5b. Directed Retrieve (optional)…………30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6a Broad Jump (optional) or…………20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6b Distance Control (optional)……..……20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sub Total** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Three Minute Down Stay……………..30  (Handler out of sight) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score……………………….…….200**  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score……………………..170** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge** .......................................................

**DOGS ACT**

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART - OPEN CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by ........................................................at...................................................on...........................JUDGE.......................................................**

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| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Heel Free……………………….………40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Stand Free for Examination……..……20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Drop on Recall…………………………30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Retrieve Dumbbell on Flat……………30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5a. Retrieve Dumbbell over  ~~Solid~~ Jump (optional) or…………30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5b. Directed Retrieve (optional)…………30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6a Broad Jump (optional) or…………20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6b Distance Control (optional)……..……20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **~~Sub Total~~** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Three Minute Down Stay……………..30  (Handler out of sight) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score……………………….…….200**  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score……………………..170** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge** ........................................................

**DOGS VIC**

**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

**DOGS TAS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OPEN- NEW EXERCISE**  **7. Send and Stay** | **Maximum Points:** | **30** |
|  |  |  |

**Principal Feature:**

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 no closer than 3 (three) metres from the unobstructed end of the ring and on either side (not the middle of the ring, nor behind the solid jump) of the ring 10 (ten) 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. Once the dog is in the prescribed area, the handler may give a sit command the dog should sit on one command

The Handler may attract the dog's attention by using its name before giving the command.

On judge’s order the handler will return to the dog.

The dog must remain in the sit position until the judge orders exercise finished

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up your position', 'Send (Send your dog)', ‘Return (Return to your dog’, 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which requires more thanone 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 9).

**Substantial:** For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going or respondsslowly to commands;

**Minor:** For that particular part of the exercise, where the dog is substantially but not entirely within theprescribed area. Or for any lesser points of the exercise.

**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.

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

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. If the rule review insists on keeping stays it should at least modify them so the stay is an individual exercise with no out of sight component and the times reduced for the upper classes. If group stays remain, obedience is likely to lose entries because of it.

Leaving dog in an out of sight group stay no longer fits into modern day society. Our rules are based on the American and UK exercises, both these countries have taken group 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 with in the stays. In this exercise the dog is demonstrating further skills by being sent to an area and then performing a stay until released.

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.

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

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: Replace 3 minutes Down Stay Out of Sight**

**SUBMISSION 1**

**(QLD) NEW RULE – INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE**

1. **DOWN RETURN Maximum points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stay off lead in the down position until the completion of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a down position and walk to a marker at least twenty (20) metres away from the dog. The handler will about turn and return to the dog without pause. The handler will return around the back of the dog into the heel position. 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 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.

**Rationale:** This exercise will replace the Group Stay and therefore reduce the number of incidents. It will make this class safer and in this era handlers should not be leaving dogs unattended. It will also mean competitors do not have to wait and re-enter the ring once they have completed their exercises, thus reducing the judging time spent on this Class overall.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Companion Dog Excellent Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**SUBMISSION 2 – If Submission 1 fails**

**(QLD) NEW RULE**

**Addition to Description of Exercise:**

Dogs that are not on a qualifying score may participate in the Group Stay on lead only with the handler remaining beside.

**Rationale:** Dogs not on a qualifying score may still experience trial conditions, but these dogs will not be allowed off lead to potentially jeopardise those dogs which are sitting on a possible qualifying score. This also assists in ensuring the safety of those dogs.

**DOGS WEST**

**Proposal: CDX NEW EXERCISE**

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 Dumbbell on Flat |  | 30 |
| 5a. Retrieve Dumbbell over Solid Jump | or |  |
| 5b. Directed Retrieve |  | 30 |
| 6a. Broad Jump | or |  |
| 6b. Distance Control |  | 20 |

1. ~~3-min. Down Stay-Handler Out of Sight 30~~

TOTAL 200

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**Send and Stay**

**Principle Feature:**

The dog on command to leave the Handler and go substantially in the right direction to the

prescribed area and sit and come as directed.

### **Description of Exercise:**

The Judge shall prescribe an area which will be marked by a frame, positioned no closer thatn 3 metres form the unobstructed end of the ring and on either side. (not the middle of the ring, nor behind the solid jump) 10 (ten) 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. Once the dog is in the prescribed area, the Handler may give a sit command. The dog should sit on one command. The Handler may attract the dog’s attention by using its name before giving the command to sit.

On the Judge’s order, the handler will return to the dog and walk around the frame then the Judge will give the order to call the dog to heel and halt

### Orders from the Judge:

‘Take up your position’, ‘Send’ (‘Send your Dog’), ‘Return to your Dog’, ‘Call your Dog’, ‘Halt’, ‘Exercise Finished’

### 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 Principle Feature, does not go substantially in the right direction or fails to sit substantially within the prescribed area

**Substantial:** For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going or responds slowly to commands.

**Minor:** For that particular part of the exercise where the dog is substantially but not entirely within the prescribed area or for any lesser points of the exercise

**Rationale: 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 stated in the **INTRODUCTION**, 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 bring it more, not less, in line with the mission statement above

The issue with group 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 unpredicted 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 every other exercise in obedience the handler is not within arms reach and avle to intervene so that fallout does not occur, or potential disturbance of other dogs does not occur. If the rule review insists on keeping stays it should at least modify them so that the stay is an individual exercise with no out of sight component and the times should be reduced for the upper classes. If group stays remain obedience will lose entries

Leaving a dog in an out of sight group stay no longer fits into modern day society. Our rules are based on the American and UK exercises and both these countries have taken group 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 with in the stays. It is a breach of trust between the dog and handler. The proposed new replacement exercise is demonstrating further skill by being sent to an area and then performing a stay until released, which is a nice lead in to the next class (UD)

This will take less time than the current stay as there is no gathering of competitors and waiting for them to get their dogs ready

A stay (impulse control) is currently tested in all classes from the sit stay in the recall in CCD and Novice through to Drop on Recall and bother retrieves in Open, Directed Jumping and retrieving exercises in Utility. Group stays are no longer justified.

**UTILITY CLASS**

**DOGS ACT**

**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.

**Porposal: Utility Class list of exercises**

**Consequential Changes**

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

1. Seek Back 30
2. (a)Directed jumping or

(b)Sendaway and Directed Retrieves 40

1. Scent Discrimination 45
2. Signal Exercise 30
3. (a) Speak on Command- or  
   (b) Food Refusal-or  
   (c) Directed Retrieve 20
4. ~~Group Examination~~ Moving Stand for Examination 10
5. 5 Min Down Stay-Handler Out of Sight 25

TOTAL 200

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**Rationale: C**onsequential amendments if the proposal to add an optional Directed Sendaway and Retrieves Exercise or the proposal to replace the Group Exam with an individual Moving Stand for Exam succeed.

**DOGS ACT**

**Consequential Amendment:** If the proposal to make the Down Stay an individual exercise succeeds, but the proposal to replace the Group Exam with an individual Moving Exam does not, re-order the exercises so that all individual exercises are completed before the group exercise.

**Rationale:** Finish all individual exercises before the group exercise.

**DOGS QLD**

**Directed Retrieve**

**SUBMISSION 1**

**Proposal: New Rule: Additional Option to Directed Jumping**

**2. (b) Directed Recall**

Maximum Points: 40

Principal Feature:

In each part the dog, on command, to leave the Handler and go substantially in the right direction to the prescribed area and sit and come as directed.

Description of Exercise:

The Judge shall prescribe an area, which will be marked by a frame positioned no closer than three (3) metres from the unobstructed end of the ring and in the middle, and no more than twenty-five (25) metres from the point from which the dog is sent. This prescribed area may be the same prescribed area as used for the Directed Jumping Exercise. The dog will recall between the jumps.

For an indoor ring, the prescribed area shall be no closer than one (1) metre from the end of the ring and a minimum of ten (10) metres from where the dog is sent.

This exercise consists of two parts. For each part of the exercise, the Handler shall stand the dog in the position indicated by the Judge, in front of and the required distance from the prescribed area. 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 at this point. Where the Handler chooses to command the dog to sit, he may attract the dog’s attention by using its name before giving the command. If this is done a penalty will be incurred.

On order from the Judge, the Handler may attract the dog’s attention by saying its name and then give a command to come. The dog must come straight towards its Handler at a brisk pace. On further order from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to drop, sit or stand and the dog must promptly adopt the position commanded and remain there until given a command to come. The dog must come straight to its Handler at a brisk pace and sit directly in front without further command. The Handler may say the dog’s name again before giving a command to come from the adopted position. The Judge must order the same position (drop/sit/stand) for each dog in each part of the exercise. A different position will be used for each part.

On order from the Judge ‘Finish’, the Handler may give a command and the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit. The Judge must inform the Handler before the start of the exercise if he intends using a signal in lieu of a verbal order.

Orders from Judge: ‘Take up your position’; ‘Send (Send Your Dog)’; ‘Call (Call Your Dog)’, ‘Drop/Sit/Stand (Drop/Sit/Stand your Dog)’, ‘Call (Call your Dog)’, ‘Finish’, ‘Part Exercise Finished’; ‘Exercise Finished’.

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 9). Goes past the back edge of the prescribed area or enters from behind. Does not return to the Handler, must be marked zero for that particular portion of the exercise and the Judge’s Chart endorsed ‘non-qualifying’ score. A dog that anticipates the command to come or to drop/sit/stand, fails to remain in the sit position in the prescribed area, fails to come, drop/sit/stand, or come again on the first command.

Substantial: For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going out or returning or responds slowly to commands; fails to sit in front or finish, or anticipates the finish or for a dog that requires a command to sit in the prescribed area. For the Handler failing to leave a distinct pause between the name of the dog and the command.

Minor: For the particular part of the exercise, where the dog is substantially but not entirely within the prescribed area. For poor sits, drops, finishes, or for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the exercise.

Note: A non-qualifying score in a part of this exercise shall be deemed to be a non-qualifying score for the whole of the exercise.

**Rationale:**

In past rules review there was an alternative provided in the Companion Dog Excellent Class for the Retrieve Over the Solid Jump. This was the Directed Retrieve and provided the avenue for a dog to compete in this class without having to jump. This has left the situation where the only class now in Obedience where the dog must jump is the Utility Dog Class.

Many dogs have difficulty in jumping which can be caused by such things as being a particular breed type, injury, age or night blindness. A dog jumping is not an important attribute of the dog being a part of its family or community. In actual fact, dogs jumping can cause problems e.g. clearing fences. Jumping is obviously key to agility sports, but it is not a pivotal criterion for demonstrating excellence in Obedience trialling.

There is already a considerable amount of equipment in the UD ring which limits open space where another exercise may be accommodated, especially one that involves the use of equipment. By providing this exercise as an alternative it not only gives the handler the choice of doing one or the other but it uses the equipment already in the ring meaning that no extra equipment needs to be placed in the ring or provided by the Affiliate.

This exercise is equal in difficulty to the Directed Jumping exercise.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**OPTION 2**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**Delete present 2. DIRECTED JUMPING**

**2. SENDAWAY WITH HOOPS Maximum Points: 40**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog, on command, to leave the Handler and go substantially in the right direction to the Prescribed Area and sit and return through a hoop as directed.

**Description of Exercise:**

The hoops, will be placed approximately seven and a half (7.5) metres apart on each side of the Ring.

The Judge shall prescribe an area, which will be marked by a frame positioned no closer than three (3)

metres from the unobstructed end of the ring and in the middle, and no more than twenty five (25) metres from the point from which the dog is sent. The hoops shall be set at approximately halfway, but no closer than ten (10) metres from the position from where the dog is sent or from the Prescribed Area.

For an indoor ring, the Prescribed Area shall be no closer than one (1) metre from the end of the ring and a minimum of ten (10) metres from where the dog is to be sent. The hoops shall be approximately half way, but no closer than five (5) metres from the position from where the dog is to be sent.

For each part of the exercise, the Handler shall stand the dog in the position indicated by the Judge, which shall be midway between and in front of the hoops. 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 at this point. 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 must indicate by order or signal which hoop is to be taken and will not advise the Handler until the dog is sitting within the Prescribed Area. The Handler will then command the dog to return through the designated hoop. The dog will come in to sit squarely in front. On order from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to finish, whereupon the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the exercise.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up your position', 'Send (Send your Dog)', ‘Left or Right Hoop’, 'Finish', 'Part Exercise Finished', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a Handler who directs the dog to the incorrect hoop. 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. Does not return as directed, does not return through a hoop, on command or does not return to the Handler, must be marked zero for that particular portion of the exercise and the Judge’s Chart endorsed 'non‑qualifying' score.

**Substantial:** For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going out or returning or responds slowly to commands; knocks over a hoop, fails to sit in front or finish, or anticipates the finish or for a dog that requires a command to sit in the Prescribed Area.

**Minor:** For that particular part of the exercise, where the dog is substantially but not entirely within the Prescribed Area. For poor sits or finishes and for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Note:**

A non‑qualifying score in a part of this exercise shall be deemed to be a non‑qualifying score for the whole of the exercise.

**Rationale**: Eliminating the jumping exercise in UD will allow handlers to compete with dogs that are older and/or no longer physically able to negotiate jumps safely. The majority of dogs competing in this Class are usually older by the time they achieve this title and they can continue competing in this class safely.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS ACT**

**DIRECTED JUMPING Maximum Points: 40**

**Proposal:**

**2 (a). DIRECTED JUMPING (OPTIONAL) Maximum Points: 40**

**Rationale:** Consequential amendments if the proposal to introduce a new Sendaway and Directed Retrieves exercise as an optional alternative to Directed Jumping succeeds.

**Principal Feature:**

The dog, on command, to leave the Handler and go substantially in the right direction to the Prescribed Area and sit and jump as directed.

**Description of Exercise:**

The jumps, consisting of a bar and a solid jump, will be placed approximately seven and a half (7.5) metres apart on each side of the Ring. It is the Judge's responsibility to see that the height jumped is that required for that particular dog's height.

The Judge shall prescribe an area, which will be marked by a frame positioned no closer than three (3)

metres from the unobstructed end of the ring and in the middle, and no more than twenty five (25) metres from the point from which the dog is sent. The jumps shall be set at approximately halfway, but no closer than ten (10) metres from the position from where the dog is sent or from the Prescribed Area.

For an indoor ring, the Prescribed Area shall be no closer than one (1) metre from the end of the ring and a minimum of ten (10) metres from where the dog is to be sent. The jumps shall be approximately half way, but no closer than five (5) metres from the position from where the dog is to be sent.

For each part of the exercise, the Handler shall stand the dog in the position indicated by the Judge, which shall be mid way between and in front of the jumps. 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 at this point. 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 must indicate by order or signal which jump is to be taken and will not advise the Handler until the dog is sitting within the Prescribed Area. The Handler will then command the dog to jump the designated jump. While the dog is jumping the Handler will turn and face it, so that the dog will come in to sit squarely in front. On order from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to finish, whereupon the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the exercise.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up your position', 'Send (Send your Dog)', ‘Bar Jump (Over the Bar Jump)', or ‘Solid Jump (Over the Solid Jump)', 'Finish', 'Part Exercise Finished', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a Handler who directs the dog to the incorrect jump. 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. Does not jump as directed, on command; knocks the bar off the bar jump, climbs the solid jump, or does not return to the Handler, must be marked zero for that particular portion of the exercise and the Judge’s Chart endorsed 'non‑qualifying' score.

**Substantial:** For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going out or returning or responds slowly to commands; fails to sit in front or finish, or anticipates the finish or for a dog that requires a command to sit in the Prescribed Area.

**Minor:** For that particular part of the exercise, where the dog is substantially but not entirely within the Prescribed Area or where the dog tips either jump. For poor sits or finishes and for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Note:**

A non‑qualifying score in a part of this exercise shall be deemed to be a non‑qualifying score for the whole of the exercise.

**Proposal: In Directed Jumping, replace the Solid Jump with a second Bar Jump (preferred option), or allow the use of a filled-in Bar Jump instead of a Solid Jump (alternative option if proposal to use two Bar Jumps is unsuccessful)**

**Preferred Proposal: Use two Bar Jumps instead of a Bar Jump and a Solid Jump**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog, on command, to leave the Handler and go substantially in the right direction to the Prescribed Area and sit and jump as directed.

**Description of Exercise:**

The jumps, consisting of ~~a bar and a solid jump~~ two bar jumps, will be placed approximately seven and a half (7.5) metres apart on each side of the Ring. It is the Judge's responsibility to see that the height jumped is that required for that particular dog's height. The jumps shall be designated “One” and “Two” reading from the Handler’s left to right.

The Judge shall prescribe an area, which will be marked by a frame positioned no closer than three (3) metres from the unobstructed end of the ring and in the middle, and no more than twenty five (25) metres from the point from which the dog is sent. The jumps shall be set at approximately halfway, but no closer than ten (10) metres from the position from where the dog is sent or from the Prescribed Area.

For an indoor ring, the Prescribed Area shall be no closer than one (1) metre from the end of the ring and a minimum of ten (10) metres from where the dog is to be sent. The jumps shall be approximately half way, but no closer than five (5) metres from the position from where the dog is to be sent.

For each part of the exercise, the Handler shall stand the dog in the position indicated by the Judge, which shall be mid way between and in front of the jumps. 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 at this point. 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 must indicate by order or signal which jump is to be taken and will not advise the Handler until the dog is sitting within the Prescribed Area. The Handler will then command the dog to jump the designated jump. While the dog is jumping the Handler will turn and face it, so that the dog will come in to sit squarely in front. On order from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to finish, whereupon the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the exercise.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up your position', 'Send (Send your Dog)', ‘~~Bar Jump (Over the Bar Jump)~~';’One (Jump Number One’), or ~~‘Solid Jump (Over the Solid Jump)'~~ ‘Two (Jump Number Two’), 'Finish', 'Part Exercise Finished', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a Handler who directs the dog to the incorrect jump. 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. Does not jump as directed, on command; knocks the bar off the bar jump, ~~climbs the solid jump,~~ or does not return to the Handler, must be marked zero for that particular portion of the exercise and the Judge’s Chart endorsed 'non-qualifying' score.

**Substantial:** For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going out or returning or responds slowly to commands; fails to sit in front or finish, or anticipates the finish or for a dog that requires a command to sit in the Prescribed Area.

**Minor:** For that particular part of the exercise, where the dog is substantially but not entirely within the Prescribed Area or where the dog tips either jump. For poor sits or finishes and for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Note:** A non-qualifying score in a part of this exercise shall be deemed to be a non-qualifying score for the whole of the exercise.

**Rationale:** Using two bar jumps minimises the need for equipment changes if a dog chooses to do the proposed new Sendaway and Directed Retrieves exercise instead of Directed Jumping. The two sets of bar jump uprights will stay in position throughout judging, regardless of which exercise is to be performed.

This proposal would also increase the safety of dogs while jumping. Currently, dogs must go out and return over a solid jump with fixed height boards which have no give in them if struck by the dog. Some dogs have injured themselves when hitting the solid jump and/or have reacted negatively when send over a solid jump after having struck the boards on a previous occasion. A bar that can fall off if hit by the dog provides a safer alternative to the solid jump.

**DOGS ACT**

**Directed Jumping Alternative Proposal: Allow a fill-in Bar Jump to be used as an alternative to the Solid Jump. This proposal will not be pursued if the proposal to use 2 Bar Jumps in Directed Jumping is successful.**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog, on command, to leave the Handler and go substantially in the right direction to the Prescribed Area and sit and jump as directed.

**Description of Exercise:**

The jumps**~~,~~** ~~consisting of a bar and a solid jump,~~ will be placed approximately seven and a half (7.5) metres apart on each side of the Ring. It is the Judge's responsibility to see that the height jumped is that required for that particular dog's height.

The jumps used in this exercise will be a Bar Jump and a Solid Jump. However, as an alternative to the Solid Jump, a Bar Jump, capable of holding bars at all of the jump heights at the same time, may be used (filled-in bar jump). Where a filled-in Bar Jump is used as an alternative to the Solid Jump, the top bar shall be placed at the height applicable to the dog and bars shall be placed at each height below the top bar. All bars must be capable of falling off if hit hard enough in any direction. All of the bars below the top bar must be coloured white without alternate black and white sections and the top bar must be coloured black and white as indicated in the description of the Bar Jump set out in Section 11. Equipment in the General part of these Rules. The Judge may not require that a Bar Jump be used as an alternative to the Solid Jump if the affiliate does not have a Bar Jump capable of holding bars at all heights at the same time.

The Judge shall prescribe an area, which will be marked by a frame positioned no closer than three (3) metres from the unobstructed end of the ring and in the middle, and no more than twenty five (25) metres from the point from which the dog is sent. The jumps shall be set at approximately halfway, but no closer than ten (10) metres from the position from where the dog is sent or from the Prescribed Area.

For an indoor ring, the Prescribed Area shall be no closer than one (1) metre from the end of the ring and a minimum of ten (10) metres from where the dog is to be sent. The jumps shall be approximately half way, but no closer than five (5) metres from the position from where the dog is to be sent.

For each part of the exercise, the Handler shall stand the dog in the position indicated by the Judge, which shall be mid way between and in front of the jumps. 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 at this point. 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 must indicate by order or signal which jump is to be taken and will not advise the Handler until the dog is sitting within the Prescribed Area. The Handler will then command the dog to jump the designated jump. While the dog is jumping the Handler will turn and face it, so that the dog will come in to sit squarely in front. On order from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to finish, whereupon the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the exercise.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up your position', 'Send (Send your Dog)', ‘Bar Jump (Over the Bar Jump)', or ‘Solid Jump (Over the Solid Jump)' or ‘Filled-in Jump (Over the Filled-in Jump)**’**, 'Finish', 'Part Exercise Finished', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a Handler who directs the dog to the incorrect jump. 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. Does not jump as directed, on command; knocks the bar off the bar jump or the top bar off the filled-in jump, climbs the solid jump, or does not return to the Handler, must be marked zero for that particular portion of the exercise and the Judge’s Chart endorsed 'non‑qualifying' score.

**Substantial:** For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going out or returning or responds slowly to commands; fails to sit in front or finish, or anticipates the finish or for a dog that requires a command to sit in the Prescribed Area.

**Minor:** For that particular part of the exercise, where the dog is substantially but not entirely within the Prescribed Area or where the dog tips either jump or displaces a lower bar from the filled-in jump. For poor sits or finishes and for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Note:**

A non‑qualifying score in a part of this exercise shall be deemed to be a non‑qualifying score for the whole of the exercise.

**Rationale**: The purpose of this proposal is to ensure the safety of dogs by providing that a filled-in Bar Jump may be used as an alternative to the Solid Jump. Currently, dogs must go out to the prescribed area and return over a Solid Jump with fixed height boards which have no give in them if struck by the dog. Some dogs have injured themselves when hitting the solid jump and/or have reacted negatively when sent over a Solid Jump after having struck the boards on a previous occasion. By ensuring that the bars can fall off if hit by the dog, the proposal allows for a safer alternative to the current Solid Jump. This proposal would also make it easier for the proposed new Sendaway and Directed Retrieves exercise to be performed, in the event that the proposal to use two Bar Jumps is unsuccessful.

Most clubs have Bar Jumps with either cups or pegs to hold bars at all jump heights. The proposal ensures that the Judge may not require that a filled-in Bar Jump be used if the affiliate does not have a Bar Jump capable of holding bars at all heights at the same time.

This proposal will not be pursued if any proposal to **replace** the Solid Jump with a Bar Jump is successful.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposed Change: 2(b) New Exercise - Sendaway and Directed Retrieves**

**2 (b) SENDAWAY AND DIRECTED RETRIEVES (OPTIONAL) Maximum Points: 40**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog, on command, to leave the Handler and go substantially in the right direction to the Prescribed Area and sit and retrieve as directed.

**Description of Exercise:**

On entering the ring, the handler will supply two identical dumbbells, which will be kept on the judge’s table.

Two pairs of bar jump uprights will be placed approximately seven and a half (7.5) metres apart on each side of the Ring. The distance between each of the uprights in a pair will be the same as for the Directed Jumping exercise.

A steward will place a dumbbell between (approximately in the centre of) each pair of uprights after the completion of the seek back exercise. The dumbbells shall be designated ‘One’ and ‘Two’ reading from the Handler’s left to right.

The Judge shall prescribe an area, which will be marked by a frame positioned no closer than three (3) metres from the unobstructed end of the ring and in the middle, and no more than twenty five (25) metres from the point from which the dog is sent. The jump uprights shall be set at approximately halfway, but no closer than ten (10) metres from the position from where the dog is sent or from the Prescribed Area.

For an indoor ring, the Prescribed Area shall be no closer than one (1) metre from the end of the ring and a minimum of ten (10) metres from where the dog is to be sent. The jump uprights shall be approximately half way, but no closer than five (5) metres from the position from where the dog is to be sent.

For each part of the exercise, the Handler shall stand the dog in the position indicated by the Judge, which shall be mid way between and in front of the two pairs of jump uprights. 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 at this point. 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 must indicate by order or signal which dumbbell is to be retrieved and will not advise the Handler until the dog is sitting within the Prescribed Area. The Handler will then command the dog to retrieve the designated dumbbell. The dog will go directly to the correct dumbbell, pick it up and continue through the correct pair of uprights and return directly to the handler at a brisk pace, without unnecessary mouthing or playing with the dumbbell. During the retrieve the dog may pause briefly to enable it to pick up the dumbbell.

When the dog picks up the dumbbell the Handler will turn and face it, so that the dog will come in to sit squarely in front. The dog must hold the dumbbell until the judge orders “Take It” when the handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the handler until after the judge orders ‘Finish’. On the handler’s command the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the exercise.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up your position', 'Send (Send your Dog)', ‘One (Dumbbell Number One)', or ‘Two (Dumbbell Number Two)', ‘Take It’, 'Finish', 'Part Exercise Finished', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a Handler who directs the dog to the incorrect dumbbell. 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. Does not retrieve as directed, on command; does not go between the correct pair of uprights while retrieving, knocks over an upright or does not return directly to the handler. Refuses to give up the dumbbell or does not deliver to hand, must be marked zero for that particular portion of the exercise and the Judge’s Chart endorsed 'non-qualifying' score.

**Substantial:** For that particular part of the exercise, if a dog is slow going out or returning or responds slowly to commands; fails to sit in front or finish or anticipates the finish or for a dog that requires a command to sit in the Prescribed Area. For excessive mouthing.

**Minor:** For that particular part of the exercise, where the dog is substantially but not entirely within the Prescribed Area or where the dog tips an upright without knocking it over. For poor sits or finishes, minor mouthing of or playing with the dumbbell, or where the dumbbell is dropped and immediately picked up without further command. For the handler dropping the dumbbell after it has been taken from the dog and for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Note:** A non-qualifying score in a part of this exercise shall be deemed to be a non-qualifying score for the whole of the exercise.

**Rationale:** The proposed change provides a non-jumping pathway through UD, so that handlers with non-jumping dogs can continue to progress in the sport after completing Open. It recognises the physical limitations of some dogs (conformation, joint problems, age-related deterioration in vision, etc); especially due to the higher proportion of older dogs competing in the higher levels of Obedience. The proposed change would make UD consistent with the Open and UDX classes. These classes both allow a dog to compete without jumping.

The only difference between the proposed new exercise and the existing Directed Jumping exercise is that, while passing between the designated jump uprights, the dog collects a dumbbell instead of jumping. The exercises each have an equivalent level of difficulty.

Accepting the proposal to use two Bar Jumps in Directed Jumping would allow the proposed new optional exercise to be performed with the minimum of extra work for the steward. The steward would just need to replace each of the two bars with a dumbbell.

**DOGS VIC**

Proposal: Alteration of deduction in Directed Jumping exercise.

**Existing wording:** “for a dog that requires a command to sit in the Prescribed Area”

This deduction is a substantial.

**Proposal:** 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.

**DOGS SA**

**Scent Discrimation:**

**Orders from Judge:**

Proposal: Replace “Thank you” with “surrender”

**Rationale:** The “order” does not make sense, it is irrelevant to the procedures required. Replace with an instruction to surrender the article to the steward.

**DOGS QLD**

**~~4. SIGNAL EXERCISE Maximum Points: 30~~**

**~~Principal Feature:~~**

~~The dog to work at heel in response to signals only, then promptly respond to the Handler's signals given from a distance.~~

**~~Description of Exercise:~~**

~~The heeling is done in the same manner as in the Heel Free exercise except that the Handler uses signals only and must not speak to the dog at any stage.~~

~~The Judge must give the Heel Free exercise routine excluding 'Figure Eight'.~~

~~The Judge will order 'Normal Pace' and on further order or signal from the Judge, the Handler will signal the dog to stand. On further order or signal from the Judge, the Handler may signal the dog to stay and will move forward approximately five (5) metres. On further order or signal, the Handler will turn to face the dog. On separate and specific order or signal from the Judge in each case, the Handler will give the signals to down, to sit, to come, and to finish.~~

**~~Orders from Judge:~~**

~~'Forward', followed by any orders from the Heel Free exercise routine, 'Stand (Stand your Dog)', 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Down (Down your Dog)', 'Sit (Sit your Dog)', 'Recall (Call your Dog)’, 'Finish', 'Exercise Finished'.~~

~~The order for those parts of the exercise done with the dog at heel may be given in any order and may be repeated, but those orders given after the Handler has left the dog in the Stand position must be given in the order specified.~~

**~~Deductions:~~**

**~~Zero Score:~~** ~~For a dog which is unmanageable, or receives an audible command from the Handler, or which fails on a single signal to stand where left, or drop, or sit or come, or fails to sit in front, or fails to finish and sit, or anticipates the signals given after the dog has been left.~~

**~~Over 50%:~~** ~~For a dog which moves more than half its body length when changing from the Stand to the Down or from the Down to the Sit, when signals are given after the dog has been left.~~

**~~Substantial:~~** ~~For any double signal or failure to sit, stand or down during the heel routine, prolonged signals, slow response to signals.~~

**~~Minor:~~** ~~For imperfections in heeling and for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.~~

**SUBMISSION 1**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**4. COMMAND EXERCISE Maximum Points: 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to work at heel in response to commands only, then promptly respond to the Handler's commands given from a distance.

**Description of Exercise:**

The heeling is done in the same manner as in the Heel Free exercise excluding the ‘Figure Eight’.

Commands to be by a single verbal OR a physical hand signal (but not both together).

The Handler must nominate prior to the commencement of the exercise their designated command (verbal or physical hand signal) and must be used consistently for the entire exercise.

The Judge will order 'Normal Pace' and on further order or signal from the Judge, the Handler will command the dog to stand. On further order or signal from the Judge, the Handler may command the dog to stay and will move forward approximately five (5) metres. On further order or signal from the Judge, the Handler will turn to face the dog. On separate and specific order or signal from the Judge in each case, the Handler will give the commands to down, to sit, to come, and to finish.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Forward', followed by any orders from the Heel Free exercise routine, 'Stand (Stand your Dog)', 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Down (Down your Dog)', 'Sit (Sit your Dog)', 'Recall (Call your Dog)’, 'Finish', 'Exercise Finished'.

The order for those parts of the exercise done with the dog at heel may be given in any order and may be repeated, but those orders given after the Handler has left the dog in the Stand position must be given in the order specified.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which is unmanageable, or receives a verbal and physical hand signal command from the Handler, or an incorrect command, or which fails on a single command to stand where left, or drop, or sit or come, or fails to sit in front, or fails to finish and sit, or anticipates the commands given after the dog has been left.

**Over 50%:** For a dog which moves more than half its body length when changing from the Stand to the Down or from the Down to the Sit, when commands are given after the dog has been left.

**Substantial:** For any double command or failure to sit, stand or down during the heel routine, prolonged commands, slow response to commands.

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

**Rationale**: The principle feature is to assess how well the dog responds to the handler and it should not matter whether the commands are verbal or physical as long as they are applied consistently throughout the exercise.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**SUBMISSION 2**

**Proposal: changes to Points for 4. Signal Exercise**

1. **SIGNAL EXERCISE Maximum Points: ~~30~~ 40**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to work at heel in response to signals only, then promptly respond to the Handler's signals given from a distance.

**Description of Exercise:**

The heeling is done in the same manner as in the Heel Free exercise except that the Handler uses signals only and must not speak to the dog at any stage.

The Judge must give the Heel Free exercise routine excluding 'Figure Eight'.

The Judge will order 'Normal Pace' and on further order or signal from the Judge, the Handler will signal the dog to stand. On further order or signal from the Judge, the Handler may signal the dog to stay and will move forward approximately five (5) metres. On further order or signal, the Handler will turn to face the dog. On separate and specific order or signal from the Judge in each case, the Handler will give the signals to down, to sit, to come, and to finish.

**Orders from Judge:**

'Forward', followed by any orders from the Heel Free exercise routine, 'Stand (Stand your Dog)', 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', 'About Turn', 'Halt', 'Down (Down your Dog)', 'Sit (Sit your Dog)', 'Recall (Call your Dog)’, 'Finish', 'Exercise Finished'.

The order for those parts of the exercise done with the dog at heel may be given in any order and may be repeated, but those orders given after the Handler has left the dog in the Stand position must be given in the order specified.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog which is unmanageable, or receives an audible command from the Handler, or which fails on a single signal to stand where left, or drop, or sit or come, or fails to sit in front, or fails to finish and sit, or anticipates the signals given after the dog has been left.

**Over 50%:** For a dog which moves more than half its body length when changing from the Stand to the Down or from the Down to the Sit, when signals are given after the dog has been left.

**Substantial:** For any double signal or failure to sit, stand or down during the heel routine, prolonged signals, slow response to signals.

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

**Rationale for Reallocating Group Examination Points to the Signal Exercise**

It is proposed that the points from the deleted Group Examination be reallocated the Signal exercise. This 30-point exercise is complex and demanding, requiring both a full heel pattern with no voice cues and then silent distance control. It is often failed. 40 points is more in keeping with the actual difficulty of the exercise compared to e.g. Seekback which is also worth 30 points at present.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS ACT**

1. **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.

**Proposal: Replace Group Examination with an individual Moving Stand for Examination exercise**

**6. MOVING STAND FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: 10**

**Principal Feature**

This is an individual exercise.

The dog to Stand on command whilst the Handler is still in motion and to stand steadily until the completion of the exercise and not show undue resentment or shyness.

**Description of Exercise:**

On order from the Judge ‘Forward’, the Handler will command the dog to heel forward. On further order from the Judge ‘Stand (Stand your Dog)’, the Handler may command the dog to Stand and will walk on alone without hesitation. When the handler has walked approximately five (5) metres from the dog, the Judge will give the order to about turn and halt. The Stand command by the handler may be a verbal command and / or a physical hand signal.

The Judge must approach the 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. The Judge will give the order “Return (Return to your dog)” whereupon the Handler will return to their dog. The dog must remain in the stand position until the Judge orders “Exercise finished”. The dog must not show undue resentment or shyness to the Judge.

**Orders from Judge:**

“Forward’, ‘Stand’ (Stand 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, fails to stand on the first command, walks on more than a body length from where it is commanded to stand, fails to remain in position after coming to a stop.

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

**Rationale:** We have a duty of care to dogs, handlers, judges and stewards and replacing group exercises is for the betterment of the sport. The new exercise still involves an examination of the dog with the added complexity that the stand will be done while the handler remains in motion.

The use of an individual exercise will also enable the ring to finish earlier without the need for stewards to gather either competing or stand in dogs for the groups. Logistically the class can finish and Handlers in other rings are not having to juggle stays and judges and stewards are not kept waiting.

**DOGS WEST**

### **Proposal: Remove Group Examination and replace with individual Stand Free for Examination**

### **Stand Free for Examination** maximum points 10

**Principle 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’

**Orders from the Judge:** ‘Forward’, ‘Stand (Stand Your Dog)’, ‘Leave (Leave your Dog)’, ‘About Turn’, ‘Halt’, ‘Return (‘Return to your Dog)’, Exercise Finished’.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**SUBMISSION 1 – Remove entirely and reallocate points**

**Rationale for Dropping Group Examination and Reallocating points to Signal Exercise**

Reduces the time needed to call all dogs back for a group exercise.

Consistent with other submissions to remove all group exercises due to concerns about dog on dog attacks as the class assembles outside the ring, during the exercise, or as they exit.

Consistent with prior parts of this submission to remove all Stand for Examination exercises. Asking a dog to stand still for a stranger to approach and touch it is inconsistent with our increased understanding of what helps dogs feel psychologically safe (agency and control); provides an inappropriate role model to spectators about approaching dogs they don’t know (on the one hand seeing judges approach and touch dogs while often being told to “let the dog decide if it wants to interact with you”); and may jeopardize the safety of judges – attacks have been known to occur.

By this level, the dog’s stability in all three positions has been thoroughly tested, including in the stand position for approach by the judge. It’s rare for a dog in UD to fail this exercise. If the proposed Open Stand Free Walkaround exercise is adopted, the dog will have already demonstrated stability in the stand position for a close approach by the judge with the handler 5 meters away and facing away from the dog.

It is proposed that the points from the Group Examination be reallocated the Signal exercise. This 30-point exercise is complex and demanding, requiring both a full heel pattern with no voice cues and then silent distance control. It is often failed. 40 points is more in keeping with the actual difficulty of the exercise compared to e.g. Seekback which is also worth 30 points at present.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**SUBMISSION 2 - Replace with individual exercise**

**6. STAND 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:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. The Handler will be asked ‘Are you Ready’. The next command will be ‘Leave (Leave your Dog)' whereupon the Handler may give their dog a command to stay and will immediately leave their dogs and move forward approximately ten (10) metres. On further order from the Judge to 'About Turn', the Handlers will about turn and halt on command.

The Judge must approach the 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.

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

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up position’, '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 moves its feet or for poor stands, for failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Rationale:** This exercise will replace the Group Examination and therefore reduce the number of incidents. It will make this class safer and is a natural progression with increased distance from prior classes. It will also mean competitors do not have to wait and re-enter the ring once they have completed their exercises, thus reducing the judging time spent on this Class overall.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS ACT**

**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 the ’Dead Dog’ position, or if Handlers do not leave and return with other Handlers.

**Proposed Change: Make the Down Stay an individual exercise**

**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~~ an individual exercise. The ~~Handlers~~ Handler 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,~~ position as directed by the judge and with their ~~dogs~~ dog in the down position. On order from the Judge to 'Leave (leave your Dog)', the ~~Handlers~~ Handler may give their ~~dogs~~ dog a command to stay and will immediately leave and, accompanied by a Steward, go out of sight of the ~~dogs~~ dog to a point previously designated by the Judge.

After five (5) minutes from the time the Judge has ordered the ~~Handlers~~ Handler to leave their dog ~~dogs~~, the Judge or Steward will order 'Return (Return to your Dog)'. ~~The Handlers must return to their dogs together.~~ The ~~dogs~~ dog 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.~~

At the discretion of the judge, only dogs who are qualifying may be eligible to attempt this exercise. This decision will be made before judging commences for the class.

**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 the ’Dead Dog’ position~~, or if Handlers do not leave and return with other Handlers.~~

**Rationale:** Amending the stay to an individual exercise removes the safety and potential public liability issues related to group exercises. The amended version of the stay still provides a meaningful test of the dog’s stability in the presence of a reasonable level of background distraction. It allows all dogs to attempt the exercise under the same conditions, rather than some dogs being unduly affected by the actions of other dogs in the group. It also gives the judge more flexibility to position each dog in a shaded or sheltered part of the ring during extreme weather conditions.

The stay is more difficult if done immediately after all the other individual exercises. The dog must remain in the ring and concentrate for longer and demonstrate more self-control as it doesn't have an opportunity to leave the ring, settle and refocus before being asked to complete the stay. This is balanced by any reduction in difficulty from removing the "group" requirement. As dogs at this level are more experienced, and to retain an increased level of difficulty compared to the Open class, this proposal does not suggest a reduction in the duration of the stay.

The discretion for the judge to only let dogs who are qualifying attempt the stay provides a mechanism to manage the judging time if a trial has a large entry or other time constraints. At this level, the number of qualifying dogs is significantly lower.

Each dog is only required to be in the ring once. This reduces clashes between rings, as well as avoiding delays while stewards look for handlers to participate in group exercises. It also makes it easier for affiliates to run multiple events concurrently.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposed Change - Judges Chart – Utility Dog Class**

**Consequential Amendments:**

If the proposal to introduce the Sendaway and Directed Retrieves exercise succeeds then add the new exercise at 2(b), renumber Directed Jumping to 2(a) and add “or” to show the exercises are optional

Change the description of Group Exam to Moving Exam, if the proposal for a Moving Exam succeeds

Remove the Sub Total row if the proposal for a Moving Exam and the proposal to change the group Down Stay to an individual Down Stay both succeed

If Down Stay proposal succeeds, but Moving Exam proposal does not succeed, then move Down Stay above the Sub Total row.

**DOGS WEST**

1. **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 the ’Dead Dog’ position, or if Handlers do not leave and return with other Handlers.~~

**DOGS WEST**

### **Proposal: Advanced Recall** maximum points 25

**Principle Feature:** The dog to sit where left off the lead and promptly obey the Handler’s command to heel. Simultaneous command and signal is permitted to call the dog to heel.

**Description of Exercise:** The Handler may give the command to stay and leave the dog in a sit and walk approximately ten (10) metres and on further order turn either left or right no sooner than five (5) metres of heeling, on judges order the dog is commanded to recall to heel and continue heeling with the Handler as ordered by the Judge, including one right or left turn with a final halt.

**Orders from the Judge:** ‘Leave (Leave your Dog)’, ‘Left turn’ or ‘Right turn’, ‘Call (Call you 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:** 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.

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART – UTILITY DOG CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by …......................................................at…................................................on…........................JUDGE…........................................**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Seek Back …30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Directed Jumping   Part 1 …20  Part II …20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Scent Discrimination   Part I …15  Part II …15  Part III …15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Signal Exercise …30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5a. Speak on Command or……20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5b. Food Refusal or …20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5c. Directed Retrieve …20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sub Total** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Group Examination …10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Five Minute Down Stay …25  (Handler out of sight) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score 200**  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score ..170** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge**….....................................................

**DOGS ACT**

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART – UTILITY DOG CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by …......................................................at…................................................on…........................JUDGE…........................................**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Seek Back …30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2a. Directed Jumping  Part 1 …20  Part II …20 or |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2b. Directed Sendaway and Retrieves  Part 1………………………………20  Part II.. …………………………….20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Scent Discrimination   Part I …15  Part II …15  Part III …15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Signal Exercise …30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5a. Speak on Command or……20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5b. Food Refusal or …20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5c. Directed Retrieve …20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **~~Sub Total~~** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. ~~Group~~ Moving Examination …10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Five Minute Down Stay …25  (Handler out of sight) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score 200**  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score ..170** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge**….....................................................

**DOGS VIC**

**Proposal:** Introduction of new exercise.

**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.

**DOGS VIC**

**Reorder of exercises**

**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

**DOGS TAS**

**Proposal: To remove Group Stays and Reallocate points.**

**T**he 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**

**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.

**DOGS TAS**

**Proposal: Rermove Down Stay and replace with new exercise**

**NEW EXERCISE**

**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**

**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.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: 5 minuters Down Stay to be replaced with – NEW RULE - INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE**

**7. DOWN RETURN Maximum points: 25**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to stay off lead in the down position until the completion of the exercise.

**Description of Exercise:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. On further order from the Judge 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', the Handler may give the command to stay and will leave the dog in a down position and walk to a marker at least thirty (30) metres away from the dog. The handler will about turn and return to the dog without pause. The handler will return around the back of the dog into the heel position. 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 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.

**Rationale:** This exercise will replace the Group Down Stay and therefore reduce the number of incidents. It will make this class safer and in this era handlers should not be leaving dogs unattended. It will also mean competitors do not have to wait and re-enter the ring once they have completed their exercises, thus reducing the judging time spent on this Class overall.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Class, Score Sheet

**UTILITY DOG EXCELLENT CLASS**

**DOGS SA**

**Seek Back with Decoy Article:**

**Proposal: NEW RULE – Add after first sentence in 3rd Paragraph** - The Handler’s scented articles must be placed by the judge or steward using tongs. The “decoy” article is to be placed by hand by the Steward no closer than five (5) metres from the Handler’s scented article.

**Rationale:** Current rule is complex particularly for inexperienced stewards and the exercise requires multiple tongs used to manage the 2 articles creating a risk of “contamination”. Clarify that –

1. Handler’s scented articles must be placed by tongs by the judge or steward
2. The “decoy” article is to be placed by hand by the steward

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: changes to points for 4. Directed Sendaway and Recall – as part of deleting Group Examination.**

**4. DIRECTED SENDAWAY AND RECALL Maximum Points ~~30~~ 35**

**Rationale for Reallocating Some Group Examination Points to Directed Sendaway and Recall, increasing its value to 35 points**

It is proposed that the points from the Group Examination be reallocated across two of the most demanding 30 point exercises in UDX, one of which is Directed Sendaway and Recall. (Alternatively, should another submission propose a different way to use these points for a new UDX exercise that removes both stays and examinations, that could be of interest.)

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: changes to points for 5. Distance Control – as part of deleting Group Examination.**

**5. DISTANCE CONTROL Maximum Points ~~30~~ 35**

**Rationale for Reallocating Some Group Examination Points to Distance Control, increasing its value to 35 points.** It is proposed that the points from the Group Examination be reallocated across two of the most demanding 30 point exercises in UDX, one of which is Distance Control.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Excellent Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS ACT**

The exercise for each dog and the maximum points shall be

1. Seek Back with Decoy Article 30

2. Positions in Motion 40

3. Scent Discrimination - Judges Scent 30

4. Directed Sendaway and Recall 30

5. Distance Control 30

6. Multiple Retrieve 30

7. Group Examination 10

TOTAL 200

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**Proposal: Change UDX list of exercises**

**Consequential Amendment**

The exercise for each dog and the maximum points shall be

1. Seek Back with Decoy Article 30
2. Positions in Motion 40
3. Scent Discrimination-Judges Scent 30
4. Directed Sendaway and Recall 30
5. Distance Control 30
6. Multiple Retrieve 30
7. ~~Group Examination~~ Moving Stand for Examination 10

TOTAL 200

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

**Rationale:** Consequential amendment if the proposal to replace the Group Examination with an individual Moving Stand for Examination exercise succeeds.

**DOGS ACT:**

**6. MULTIPLE RETRIEVE: Maximum Points 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to retrieve the designated articles on command.

**Description of Exercise:**

This exercise consists of two (2) retrieves only.

The Handler will provide three leather Scent Discrimination articles that may be any colour including white or black and may be numbered. The articles must not be covered with any material or painted. The dog must retrieve an article in each of the two (2) tests.

The Handler, with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to, and at approximately twelve (12) metres from where the centre article is to be placed. The Judge or Steward will then place three articles in a straight line with the articles approximately six (6) metres apart, tongs must be used. Articles to be placed approximately one (1) metre from the edge of the ring. The Handler should be able to look over their shoulder to watch where the articles are placed. Preferably articles and markers should not be visible to the dog at the commencement of the exercise.

The positions should be designated ‘One’ ‘Two’ ‘Three’ reading from left to right when the Handler turns to face them.

The Judge will give the order ‘One’ Two’ or ‘Three’ and then order the Handler to ‘About Turn’, ‘Halt’. The Judge will decide the order for each dog. The same two (2) articles must be used for all dogs in that class. The Handler will give the command to heel, then turn in place, right or left, and come to a halt with the dog sitting at heel and facing the designated position. The Handler must not touch or reposition the dog.

The Judge will order ‘Send (Send your Dog)’. The Handler will give the dog the direction to the designated position with a single motion of either the left or right hand and arm. The Handler may bend the body and knees to the extent necessary in giving the direction to the dog. The command to retrieve will be given either simultaneously with or immediately after the giving of direction, after which the Handler will stand erect in a natural position.

The dog will go directly to and retrieve the designated article at a brisk pace, without unnecessary mouthing or playing with it. The dog must sit directly in front of its Handler and hold the article until the judge orders ‘Take it’ whereupon the Handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until after the Judge orders ‘Finish’. On the Handler’s command the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

The Judge will state ‘Part Exercise Finished’ or ‘Exercise Finished’, followed by ‘Take up position’ if a further article is to be retrieved. Should the dog retrieve the wrong article, or does not retrieve an article where a further article is to be retrieved, the Steward will replace the article and remove the article to be retrieved in that test once the Judge orders ‘Take up Position’ for the next part of the exercise.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the test. The same procedure will be followed in each section of the test.

**Proposal:** **Clarrify whether articles can be visible**

**Description of Exercise:**

This exercise consists of two (2) retrieves only.

The Handler will provide three leather Scent Discrimination articles that may be any colour including white or black and may be numbered. The articles must not be covered with any material or painted. The dog must retrieve an article in each of the two (2) tests.

The Handler, with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to, and at approximately twelve (12) metres from where the centre article is to be placed. The Judge or Steward will then place three articles in a straight line with the articles approximately six (6) metres apart, tongs must be used. Articles to be placed approximately one (1) metre from the edge of the ring. The Handler should be able to look over their shoulder to watch where the articles are placed. ~~Preferably~~ ~~a~~ Articles and markers should not be visible to the dog at the commencement of the exercise. However, if it is not feasible, after reasonable attempts, to place the articles so that they are all not visible to the dog, then all articles should be clearly and equally visible to the dog at the commencement of the exercise*.*

The positions should be designated ‘One’ ‘Two’ ‘Three’ reading from left to right when the Handler turns to face them.

The Judge will give the order ‘One’ Two’ or ‘Three’ and then order the Handler to ‘About Turn’, ‘Halt’. The Judge will decide the order for each dog. The same two (2) articles must be used for all dogs in that class. The Handler will give the command to heel, then turn in place, right or left, and come to a halt with the dog sitting at heel and facing the designated position. The Handler must not touch or reposition the dog.

The Judge will order ‘Send (Send your Dog)’. The Handler will give the dog the direction to the designated position with a single motion of either the left or right hand and arm. The Handler may bend the body and knees to the extent necessary in giving the direction to the dog. The command to retrieve will be given either simultaneously with or immediately after the giving of direction, after which the Handler will stand erect in a natural position.

The dog will go directly to and retrieve the designated article at a brisk pace, without unnecessary mouthing or playing with it. The dog must sit directly in front of its Handler and hold the article until the judge orders ‘Take it’ whereupon the Handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until after the Judge orders ‘Finish’. On the Handler’s command the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

The Judge will state ‘Part Exercise Finished’ or ‘Exercise Finished’, followed by ‘Take up position’ if a further article is to be retrieved. Should the dog retrieve the wrong article, or does not retrieve an article where a further article is to be retrieved, the Steward will replace the article and remove the article to be retrieved in that test once the Judge orders ‘Take up Position’ for the next part of the exercise.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the test. The same procedure will be followed in each section of the test.

**Rationale:** This exercise was probably intended to be a blind retrieve exercise.

However, it is not aways possible to ensure that all the articles are not visible to the dog at the commencement of the exercise.

The proposed change removes ambiguity about the purpose of this exercise.

However, if after attempting to make all articles not visible to the dog, one or more articles are still visible, the proposal is that all articles should then be made clearly and equally visible.

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: NEW RULE**

**MULTIPLE RETRIEVE: Maximum Points 30**

**Principal Feature:**

The dog to retrieve the designated articles on command.

**Description of Exercise:**

This exercise consists of two (2) retrieves only.

The Handler must nominate at the commencement of the exercise to use either;

1. Three identical leathers that may be any colour including white or black; OR
2. Three identical dumbbells as per the dumbbell equipment requirements; OR
3. Three identical gloves as per the gloves equipment requirements.

The dog must retrieve an article in each of the two (2) tests.

The Handler, with the dog sitting at heel, will stand in the ring facing in the opposite direction to, and at approximately twelve (12) metres from where the centre article is to be placed. The Judge or Steward will then place three articles in a straight line with the articles approximately six (6) metres apart, tongs must be used. Articles to be placed approximately one (1) metre from the edge of the ring. The Handler should be able to look over their shoulder to watch where the articles are placed. Preferably articles and markers should not be visible to the dog at the commencement of the exercise.

The positions should be designated ‘One’ ‘Two’ ‘Three’ reading from left to right when the Handler turns to face them.

The Judge will give the order ‘One’ Two’ or ‘Three’ and then order the Handler to ‘About Turn’, ‘Halt’. The Judge will decide the order for each dog. The same two (2) articles must be used for all dogs in that class. The Handler will give the command to heel, then turn in place, right or left, and come to a halt with the dog sitting at heel and facing the designated position. The Handler must not touch or reposition the dog.

The Judge will order ‘Send (Send your Dog)’. The Handler will give the dog the direction to the designated position with a single motion of either the left or right hand and arm. The Handler may bend the body and knees to the extent necessary in giving the direction to the dog. The command to retrieve will be given either simultaneously with or immediately after the giving of direction, after which the Handler will stand erect in a natural position.

The dog will go directly to and retrieve the designated article at a brisk pace, without unnecessary mouthing or playing with it. The dog must sit directly in front of its Handler and hold the article until the judge orders ‘Take it’ whereupon the Handler may give a command to surrender. The dog must remain sitting in front of the Handler until after the Judge orders ‘Finish’. On the Handler’s command the dog must go briskly to the heel position and sit.

The Judge will state ‘Part Exercise Finished’ or ‘Exercise Finished’, followed by ‘Take up position’ if a further article is to be retrieved. Should the dog retrieve the wrong article, or does not retrieve an article where a further article is to be retrieved, the Steward will replace the article and remove the article to be retrieved in that test once the Judge orders ‘Take up Position’ for the next part of the exercise.

Praise may be given to the dog between parts of the test. The same procedure will be followed in each section of the test.

**Orders from Judge:**

‘Take up Position’, ‘Article Number One, Two or Three’, ‘About Turn’, ‘Halt, ‘Send (Send your Dog)’, ‘Take it’, ‘Finish’, ‘Part Exercise Finished’, ‘Exercise Finished’, ‘Article Correct’ or Article Incorrect’ followed by ‘Take Up Position’ if a further article is to be retrieved.

**Deductions:**

**Zero Score:** For a dog that does not retrieve the designated article on one command, or retrieves the incorrect article; anticipates the command to retrieve, refuses to give up the article or does not deliver to hand, where the incorrect article is picked up even though it is immediately put down. For any additional command to reposition the dog to face the designated position.

**Substantial:** For slowness, excessive mouthing, for failing to sit in front, or finish, or anticipates the finish. For touching the dog or excessive motions when turning to face the article. For a dog which fails to sit when turning to face the position.

**Minor:** For poor sits or finishes, minor mouthing or playing with the article or where the article is dropped and immediately picked up without further command. If the Handler drops the article after it has been taken from the dog. For failure to carry out any of the lesser points of the exercise.

**Note** – A ‘non-qualifying’ score in a part of this exercise shall be deemed to be a non-qualifying score for the whole of the exercise.

**Rationale:** The principle feature is to assess the dogs’ ability to retrieve the designated articles on command. The dogs have already utilised gloves and dumbbells in lower classes and hence this is a natural progression. Also, leather articles are sometimes not visible in long grass.

**DOGS ACT**

**Group Examination Maximum Points 10**

**Principal Feature:**

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

**Description of Exercise:**

On the order to ‘Take up your Position’ the Handlers will command their dog to stand in the heel position 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. The Handlers will be asked ‘Are you Ready’. The next command will be ‘Leave (Leave your Dogs)’ whereupon the Handlers may give their dog a command to stay and walk approximately ten (10) metres and halt as directed, with their backs to the dogs.

The Handlers are not permitted to look over their shoulders at the dogs.

The Judge will approach each dog from the right or left front not direct front. The Judge will physically examine the dog’s head, body, legs and hindquarters only. The mouth or tail must not be examined. An approximate time of three (3) minutes should be sufficient for this exercise. After the dogs have been examined the Handlers will be ordered to return to their dogs. Dogs must remain in position until after the Judge orders ‘Exercise Finished’.

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.

**Orders from Judge:**

‘Take Up your Position’, ‘Are you Ready’, ‘Leave (Leave your Dogs)’, ‘Halt’, ‘Return (Return to your Dogs)’, ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Deductions:**

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

**Zero Score:** For a dog that shows an obvious tendency to attack, breaks from position. For Handlers that look over their shoulders at their dogs.

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

**Proposal: Replace Group Examination exercise with an individual Moving Stand for Examination exercise**

**7. MOVING STAND FOR EXAMINATION Maximum Points: 10**

**Principal Feature**

This is an individual exercise.

The dog to Stand on command whilst the Handler is still in motion and to stand steadily until the completion of the exercise and not show undue resentment or shyness.

**Description of Exercise:**

On order from the Judge ‘Forward’, the Handler will command the dog to heel forward. On further order from the Judge ‘Stand (Stand your Dog)’, the Handler may give a command to the dog to Stand and will walk on alone without hesitation. When the handler has walked approximately ten (10) metres from the dog, the Judge will give the order to halt. The Stand command by the handler may be a verbal command and / or a physical hand signal.

The Judge must approach the 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. The Judge will give the order “Return (Return to your dog)” whereupon the Handler will return to their dog. The dog must remain in the stand position until the Judge orders “Exercise finished”. The dog must not show undue resentment or shyness to the Judge.

**Orders from Judge:**

“Forward’, ‘Stand’ (Stand Your Dog), '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, fails to stand on the first command, walks on more than a body length from where it is commanded to stand, fails to remain in position after coming to a stop.

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

**Rationale:** We have a duty of care to dogs, handlers, judges and stewards and replacing group exercises is for the betterment of the sport. The new exercise still involves an examination of the dog with the added complexity that the stand will be done while the handler remains in motion.

The use of an individual exercise will also enable the ring to finish earlier without the need for stewards to gather either competing or stand in dogs for the groups. Logistically the class can finish and Handlers in other rings are not having to juggle stays and judges and stewards are not kept waiting.

**DOGS ACT**

**Proposed Change - Judges Chart – Utility Dog Excellent Class**

**Consequential Amendments:**

If the proposal to replace the Group Exam with an individual Moving Exam succeeds, then update the description of the exercise and remove the Sub Total row.

**DOGS ACT**

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART - UTILITY DOG EXCELLENT CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by .....................................................................at..................................................on..................................JUDGE...............................................**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Seek Back With Decoy……….………….….30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Positions In Motion…………………………..40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Scent Discrimination -  Judge’s Scent………………….………….…30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Directed Sendaway and Recall………..…..30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 Distance Control………………..………….…30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Multiple Retrieve  Part I…………………………………….....….15  Part II…………………………….…….….…..15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sub Total** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Group Examination…………….……………10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score……………………………………200**  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score………………….………….170** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge**.......................................................

**DOGS ACT**

**OBEDIENCE TRIAL JUDGING CHART - UTILITY DOG EXCELLENT CLASS**

**TRIAL conducted by .....................................................................at..................................................on..................................JUDGE...............................................**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXHIBIT NO.  MAX POINTS |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 1. Seek Back With Decoy……….………….….30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Positions In Motion…………………………..40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Scent Discrimination -  Judge’s Scent………………….………….…30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Directed Sendaway and Recall………..…..30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 Distance Control………………..………….…30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Multiple Retrieve  Part I…………………………………….....….15  Part II…………………………….…….….…..15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **~~Sub Total~~** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. ~~Group~~ Moving Examination ….……………10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score……………………………………200**  **Less deductions for misbehaviour** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Qualifying Score………………….………….170** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

**Marks for misbehaviour** **Signature of Judge**.......................................................

**DOGS TAS**

Proposal: REMOVE GROUP EXAMINATION REPLACE WITH STAND FREE FOR EXAMINATION -UDX

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 Handler is not permitted to look over their shoulder at the dog The Judge will order the Handler to 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:**

‘‘Are you Ready’, ‘Forward’, ‘Stand (Stand your dog)’, ‘Leave (Leave your dog)’, ‘Halt’, ‘Return (Return to your Dog)’, ‘Exercise Finished’.

**Deductions:**

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

**Zero Score:** For a dog that shows an obvious tendency to attack, breaks from position. For Handlers that look over their shoulders at their dogs.

**Minor:** For a dog that moves its feet, for poor stands.

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, which it is very easy for a dog if it decided to move over to another dog before any intervention could happen. 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 with in the stays. 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.

**DOGS WEST**

The exercise for each dog and the maximum points shall be

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Seek Back with Decoy Article |  | 30 |
| 2. Positions in Motion |  | 40 |
| 3. Scent Discrimination - Judges Scent |  | 30 |
| 4. Directed Sendaway and Recall |  | 30 |
| 5. Distance Control |  | 30 |
| 6. Multiple Retrieve |  | 30 |
| ~~7. Group Examination~~ |  | ~~10~~ |
|  | TOTAL | 200 |

Less penalty for misbehaviour.

### Proposal: **Remove Group Stand for Examination and replace with Stand Free for Examination**

### **STAND FREE FOR EXAMINATION**

**Principle Feature:** The dog to stand steadily off the lead until 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 appropriately ten

(10) metres. The Judge will order the Handler to halt. The Handler is not permitted to look over their shoulder at the dog. The Judge must approach the dog from 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 the Judge:** ‘Are you ready?’, ‘Forward’, ‘Stand Your Dog’, ‘Leave (Leave Your Dog)’, ‘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, breaks from position, for Handlers who look over their shoulders at their dogs

**Substantial:** For a dog which requires a second command to Stand

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

### **Rationale:** A Stay exercise (Impulse control) is currently tested in the class from the SFE (or Stand Stay) and for the Recall in CCD. The time has come to re-examine in all classes the need for dogs being left in a group of unfamiliar dogs. Something that wouldn’t happen in today’s society. We have a duty of care to dogs, handlers, Judges and stewards. 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

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: SUBMISSION 1 - To be removed entirely and points reallocated.**

**Rationale: for Dropping Group Examination and Reallocating points to Directed Sendaway and Recall and Distance Control**

Reduces the time needed to call all dogs back for a group exercise.

Consistent with other submissions to remove all group exercises due to concerns about dog on dog attacks as the class assembles outside the ring, during the exercise, or as they exit.

Consistent with prior parts of this submission to remove all Stand for Examination exercises. Asking a dog to stand still for a stranger to approach and touch it is inconsistent with our increased understanding of what helps dogs feel psychologically safe (agency and control); provides an inappropriate role model to spectators about approaching dogs they don’t know (on the one hand seeing judges approach and touch dogs while often being told to “let the dog decide if it wants to interact with you”); and may jeopardize the safety of judges – attacks have been known to occur.

By this level, the dog’s stability in all three positions has been thoroughly tested. It’s very rare for a dog in UDX to fail this exercise. If the proposed CDX Stand Free Walkaround exercise is adopted, the dog will have already demonstrated stability in the stand position for a close approach by the judge with the handler 5 meters away and facing away from the dog.

It is proposed that the points from the Group Examination be reallocated to two of the most demanding 30 point exercises in UDX: Directed Sendaway and Recall and Distance Control.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Excellent Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**Proposal: NEW RULE - SUBMISSION 2 (if Submission 1 fails – this is an individual exercise.)**

**7. STAND 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:**

The Judge will give the order ‘Take up position’. The next command will be ‘Leave (Leave your Dog)’ whereupon the Handler may give their dog a command to stay and walk approximately fifteen (15) metres and halt as directed, with their back to the dog.

The Handler is not permitted to look over their shoulders at the dog.

The Judge must approach the 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.

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

**Orders from Judge:**

'Take up position’, 'Leave (Leave your Dog)', 'Halt', 'Return (Return to your Dog)', 'Exercise Finished'.

**Deductions:**

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

**Zero Score:** For a dog that shows an obvious tendency to attack, breaks from position. For Handlers that look over their shoulders at their dog.

**Minor:** For a dog that moves its feet, for poor stands.

**Rationale:** This exercise will replace the Group Examination and therefore reduce the number of incidents. It will make this class safer and is a natural progression with increased distance from prior classes. It will also mean competitors do not have to wait and re-enter the ring once they have completed their exercises, thus reducing the judging time spent on this Class overall.

**Consequential Changes to:**

Table of Contents – class exercise list, exercise list at beginning of Utility Dog Excellent Class, Score Sheet

**DOGS QLD**

**Introduction of FCI Rally Obedience**

The current rules are held by Federation Cynologique International (FCI) for International Rally Obedience Trials (Competitions).

<https://www.fci.be/en/Rally-Obedience-4746.html>

To propose the introduction of FCI Rally Obedience to Australia under the controlling body of the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd (Dogs Australia)

The FCI Rally Obedience Regulations and Rules are to be followed, except where the National country can make subtractions and/or additions to suit their conditions, ethics and guidelines.

The FCI Rally Obedience competitions allow competitors to teach good contact between dog and handler and on achieving the dog’s willingness to obey even when at a distance from the Handler. The Handler and dog should display a good overall relationship.

FCI Rally Obedience Competition Trials.

If Dogs Australia offers a totally new type of rally obedience category (FCI Rally Obedience), this will allow people to enter and perform rally obedience with their dogs in a different format to our current rally obedience exercises.

Our current rally obedience members also have a chance to learn new and exciting exercises and gain more titles for their dogs - therefore keeping them in the rally obedience ring for longer.

Rally numbers have fluctuated over the years. The many newer disciplines may have contributed to this. It seems that dogs are acquiring titles in higher classes at a much younger age and this would also give purpose to those dogs and handlers to continue on in rally obedience competition.

There would also be a monetary gain to the State Canine organisations for judges licences and dog titles, and also to clubs holding additional competitions without too much additional work and of course to gain additional titles to the dogs and their owners.

1. Judging

Initially all Rally judges who currently have held a Rally license for a period of two years, have the opportunity to undergo Judges Training which will involve inviting a representative from FCI to train judges in the areas of FCI Rules and Regulations.

A further ongoing training scheme will take place under the Rally Chair where authorised FCI accredited judge/s, train and educate the new interested judges.

This will also give our Rally judges another license to be maintained, but also an opportunity for invitation to judge overseas.

2. Competitions

Our current dog sport clubs will hold these competitions in conjunction with their Rally competitions.

This will also gain additional income for the club for entries gained for FCI Rally Obedience.

It is also the chance for the state organisations of Dogs Australia to include an FCI trial as a National event for all states to participate. This can also be in conjunction with the current National events.

3. Competitors

All competitors will require an eligibility (eg which National Rally level required) to participate in FCI Rally Obedience Classes.

Competitors will be able to gain additional titles in Rally which is added to the dog’s registered details. This title will be recognised internationally.

Competitors will have the opportunity to grow in areas of Rally by teaching new exercises. Competitors also will also have a new challenge they can move onto once they have completed the ANKC Rally.

International competitors would have an opportunity to participate in FCI Rally Obedience in Australia.

3. Rules and Regulations

FCI Rules and Regulations will be the foundation for ANKC members to follow, however a Rally/Dog Sport Committee may adjust these rules to suit our Australian conditions.

This will include Bitches in season and bitches in breeding - as these rules differ from our current ANKC Rally from FCI Rally Obedience.

Eligibility to participate will also be defined by the Rally/Dog Sport Committee, including age of dog and current level of rally.