

# JRTCA Obedience Rulebook

Changes: added to intro page, adjusted numbering and formatting for consistency and more clarity; added Brace Obedience class (as offered at Nationals), added paragraph for clarification of placements, changed championship and reserve requirements to better serve trials with dogs at lower levels of training.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide a uniform, fair set of obedience trial rules that are proprietary to the JRTCA and not governed by or subject to changes and/or amendments by an unaffiliated/outside obedience venue. These rules shall clarify all exercises for competitors and judges, and provide a class breakdown for trial premiums.

In order to allow for speedy judging and to accommodate the specific characteristics of JRTCA trials with all the various activities going on throughout the day, the exercises have been modified to allow for a self-contained ring performance of each individual dog/handler team. This eliminates having to rely on the presence of another team in order to complete the exercises for their specific class (e.g. as was previously required with the "Honor" exercise).

## **What is Obedience?**

Obedience is a formal team sport for dogs and their handlers in which teams complete specific exercises in a set pattern at a judge's direction. Precision is important, as is prompt execution of behaviors. The number and order of exercises in each class does not change from trial to trial.

# 1. General Rules and Regulations

The following rules apply to Obedience classes at sanctioned JRTCA trials.

## 1.1. Eligibility

- Any terrier 6 months and older may be entered.  
Titles are only issued to registered and recorded dogs at 1 year of age.
- Females in heat are not allowed to compete.
- Dogs with disabilities are allowed to compete, provided they are not in pain.
- Dogs with bandages, stitches or open sores/wounds are not allowed to compete.
- Dogs who are obviously lame and not moving soundly are not allowed to compete.

## 1.2. Ring Size

Rings should be approximately 40 feet x 50 feet and should not be less than 30 feet x 40 feet.

## 1.3. Equipment

Rings can & should be enclosed if possible with ring gates, snow fencing, or be otherwise enclosed (e.g. indoors) to provide a safe environment from which terriers cannot escape.

Trial hosts must provide all jumps, score sheets, and other equipment necessary to properly host a trial. If not they must be certain that judge will supply the necessary equipment for obedience.

# 2. Judging Guidelines

Consistent judging is critical. Judges are expected to have full understanding of all judging guidelines. As with any dog sport, there may be areas of interpretation and judges are required to make those interpretations fairly and consistently.

Exhibitors are also expected to be familiar with judging guidelines. Judges may, but are not required to, discuss an exhibitor's scoring after their class has finished. Judges are not to enter into any discussions with an angry or argumentative exhibitor. If an exhibitor feels that his/her performance was not scored fairly, they may file a complaint with the Trial Chair.

## 2.1. Scores and Qualifying Performance

After the last exercise has been performed, and the score sheet completed and signed, the judge shall inform each team whether their performance was qualifying or non-qualifying.

Each team enters the ring with a perfect score of 200. As errors are made, deductions are noted on the score sheet. A final score of 170 or better is considered a qualifying performance, provided the team has scored at least 50% of the individual point values for each exercise. Half point deductions will be made and precision is important. Dogs who exhibit fear or aggressiveness; eliminate or become ill in the ring will not receive a qualifying score. Handlers who discipline their dogs while in the ring will be excused. A judge will not require a handler or dog to do anything not outlined in this rulebook nor will a judge penalize a handler or dog for anything not outlined herein.

## 2.2. Deductions

- Minor deductions: ½ point and 1 point
- Substantial/major deductions: 2-5 points
- Additional cues: 3 points
- When hand signals are used, either alone or in combination with a verbal cue, the hand must be returned to a natural position after giving the signal. If, in the judge's opinion, the handler does not return her/his hand to a natural position within a reasonable time after giving the hand signal, minor to substantial deductions will be taken. If, in the judge's opinion, the hand signal is held and appears to be used as a lure, a non-qualifying score will be given for the exercise.
- Other deductions as described for each exercise.
- If the dog takes a jump when not directed, a 5 point deduction shall be given.

## 2.3. Judge's Instructions

- Before beginning each exercise, the judge will ask the handler "Are You Ready?"
- Once the handler has indicated she/he is ready, the judge will instruct the handler "Forward" for all exercises that begin with heeling. For other exercises, the judge's first instructions are noted in the exercise description.
- Judging begins once the handler has indicated he/she is ready.
- When the team has completed all features of an exercise, the judge will say "Exercise Finished" and judging for that exercise is complete.

## 2.4. Jump Heights

Height at withers	High/Bar Jumps (inches)	Broad Jump (inches)	# boards
12.5" and under	8	16	2 (4" dogs use 1 board)
Over 12.5"	12	20	2

**NOTE:** At the discretion of the handler, dogs 9 years and older may jump 4" lower than regular jump height indicated on above chart. This must be announced to the judge before judging of the individual team begins.

**Modifications:** Jump height will be the only modification in other circumstances other than age. No omission of exercises or distance for performing or time will be allowed.

## 2.5. Jump Construction

- \*The bar jump will consist of a bar between 2 and 2 ½ inches square with the edges rounded to remove any sharpness. Or a plain white jump rail 4 - 5 feet in length. The posts must be adjustable for each two inches of height. For safety, the jump must be built so that the bar may be knocked over without affecting the uprights.
- The high jump(for open only) will be four or five feet wide and painted white. The uprights of the high jump will be four feet high. There must be a sufficient number of boards to accommodate all possible jump height adjustments. The high jump may be made of wood or plastic.
- The broad jump must have nesting hurdles. They must all be approximately 8 inches wide, 4-5 feet in length and must all be painted white. The broad jump may be made of wood or plastic.

## 2.6. Interference and Double Handling

Exhibitors and spectators are not allowed to interfere or assist in any way with a team that is working in the ring. Instances of interference and/or double handling will result in the working team's performance being judged as non-qualifying if the assistance is perceived to assist the team, or the judge may decide to ask the team to repeat their performance if the situation appears to be intended to adversely affect the working team. Exhibitors

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who are found to be interfering with a working team's performance will be asked to leave the grounds and receive a non-qualifying score for the day. Any involved spectators will be asked to leave the grounds as well.

### 2.7. Unusual Conditions

If, during a team's performance in the ring, an unusual condition arises that could negatively affect the team's performance, the judge may have the team perform that portion of an exercise again.

### 2.8. Ties

The tie performance is a continuation of a team's original performance. All Misbehavior rules apply to the tie performance. Refer to the Misbehavior section of this chapter for a description of behaviors identified as "misbehaviors". In the case of a tie for placements in the Pre-Novice or Novice class, each team will again perform the On-Leash Heeling Pattern exercise. In the Open class, each team will again perform the Off-Leash Heeling Pattern exercise.

### 2.9. Score sheets

The judge will determine the number of points deducted from each team's performance. Before determining placements the judge must double check to ensure scores were calculated properly. The judge must clearly mark each score sheet as a qualifying or non-qualifying score and sign it. Since JRTCA obedience competitors are responsible for their own paperwork to submit for certificates, they will obtain their score sheet from the judge or a steward at the conclusion of the trial.

### 2.10. Physically Challenged Handlers and Dogs

Dogs and/or handlers with disabilities are allowed to compete, provided the dog does not appear to be in pain. The judge has the right to refuse entry into the ring if a dog appears to be in pain. The judge will excuse from the ring any dog that becomes lame during any of the exercises.

A handler may submit an Exercise Modification Form if they require an exercise to be modified to accommodate the handler or the dog's disability. The form must be submitted to the judge for approval before the class begins and, if approved, is to be attached to the team's worksheet. Judges have full discretion to approve or deny any exercise modification request. Judges may deny an exercise modification request if, in the judge's opinion, the modification does not reflect the principal features of an exercise.

### 2.11. Judging Order

Exhibitors shall check in with the judge or a desk steward to be sure their entry and score sheet is correct. Although accommodations shall be made within reason for dogs to be judged throughout the trial day's time frame posted in the agenda, judges are not required to delay judging for any dog that is not presented at the ring in a timely manner. If there is a conflict with an entry in another class, the handler must inform the judge or a desk steward at check-in. Absent dogs will not be permitted to run after judging has officially concluded for the day. No entry fees will be refunded in this instance.

### 2.12. Leash

All dogs must be kept on leash except when in the obedience ring, warm-up or exercise area. Dogs must be on leash when brought into the ring and when leaving the ring. The leash must be made of fabric or leather and not exceed 6 ft in length. For the Pre-Novice class only a 6 foot leash is required, otherwise it must be long enough to provide adequate slack when held. Slip leads (e.g. racing leads, leashes with choke collar as a part of the leash) are not permitted, nor are conformation-type slip leads or Flexi type leashes.

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### 2.13. Collars

Collars may be flat, buckle type collars or limited slip martingale type collars. No choke collars, head collars, prong collars or electronic collars are allowed. Body harnesses are also allowed, but a dog may only wear either a collar or harness, not both. Equipment must be properly fitted and while they may have tags on them, the tags must not interfere with the dog's movement. Dogs may not have decorative items around their neck nor on their collars.

### 2.14. Heel Position

The dog should be at the handler's left side and straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. The dog should be close to the handler but should not be so close as to crowd the handler and prevent the handler from moving naturally. The area from the dog's head to its shoulder should be in line with the handler's left hip. Heel position applies to instances where the dog is sitting, lying down, standing or moving next to the handler.

### 2.15. Hands

Hands and arms must be held in a natural position at all time. In the event a handler chooses to give a hand signal, the hand must be returned to a natural position after giving the signal. At no time may it appear that the handler is using their hands/arms to pretend to lure the dog, as with food.

In all exercises in which a dog is required to heel on-lead, one of the options listed shall be followed: (1) The handler's arms and hands shall move naturally at his/her sides while in motion, with the leash held in the left hand, or (2) The hand(s) holding the leash will be held against, and centered in the front of the body, in the area of the waist. The forearm(s) shall be carried, as much as possible, against the body.

In exercises in which the dog is required to heel off leash (free), one of the options listed shall be followed: (1) The handler's arms and hands shall move naturally at his/her sides while in motion and hang naturally at his/her sides when stopped, or (2) the handler's right hand and arm shall move naturally at his/her side while his/her left hand shall be held against and centered in front of the body in the area of the waist. The left forearm shall be carried, as much as possible, against the body. In any of the above situations, the hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of the exercise, in order to maintain balance.

Hand position, other than during the fast, must remain constant during the heeling exercise, except if a hand signal is used to begin heeling. In that case, an acceptable hand gesture is allowed instead of a verbal command. After the hand gesture is made, the hand must return to one of the acceptable positions. There shall be a minor to substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of the positions state above. In all exercises in which the dog is required to 'Come to' or 'Return to' the handler and 'Sit in Front', the handler's arms and hands shall hang naturally at his sides while the dog is coming in and until the dog has sat in front. A substantial deduction shall be made if a handler's arms and hands are not hanging naturally at his sides while the dog is coming in and until the dog has sat in front.

### 2.16. Cues

Handlers may use hand and verbal cues simultaneously for all exercises. Once a cue has been given by hand, verbal or hand/verbal, additional cues will be penalized with a three point deduction, regardless of the type of additional cue given. The dog's name may be used preceding any cue without penalty and may be used as a cue in and of itself. Loud verbal cues are to be penalized. Once an error has been made that results in a non-qualifying score, the handler may not give additional cues to perform that portion of an exercise again.

### 2.17. Praise and Encouragement

Handlers are allowed to praise and encourage their dogs during an exercise. The praise and encouragement must be calm, quiet and pleasant. Repeating a verbal cue given to perform an exercise is not considered praise

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or encouragement and will be penalized as an additional cue. Overly exuberant, loud and/or unpleasant praise and encouragement will be penalized. Handlers may not pat their legs or clap their hands as encouragement.

### **2.18. Food Rewards**

- Handlers are allowed to reward their dog with a food treat at the completion of all features of an exercise after the judge has said "Exercise Finished" if they so choose. This must be done before the team begins to move forward to the next exercise as directed by the judge.
- Handlers may not lure a dog with food nor pretend to have food in their hand. Food rewards are to be kept hidden in the handler's pocket only. No bait bags, fanny pouches, etc. are allowed and handlers may not have food in their mouths.
- Handlers must use food that can easily and quickly be swallowed by the dog and may not use food rewards that might create crumbs while the dog is swallowing it.
- A 5 point deduction will be taken in the event the handler or dog drops the food on the ring surface.
- Handlers who lure or appear to lure a dog will receive a non-qualifying score.
- Handlers may not enter the ring with food in their hand. This should be considered luring and the team will receive a non-qualifying score.

### **2.19. Handling between Exercises**

In the Novice class, the handler may gently take the dog by the collar and guide the dog to the place indicated by the judge for the next exercise. This is not allowed in the Open class, and deductions at the judge's discretion will be taken for physical guidance in-between exercises, as it is expected the dog be under verbal control in this class. Dogs who are not under verbal control between exercises in Open will receive score deductions.

### **2.20. Misbehavior**

Any dog who exhibits fear, nervousness or timidity or any uncontrolled behavior such as snapping, barking or running away from the handler will be penalized, to the maximum penalty of receiving a non-qualifying score. This applies in-between exercises as well as during exercises. If a dog leaves the ring during the transition from one exercise to another and the handler is successful in calling the dog back, a substantial/major deduction must be taken. If a dog leaves the ring during the performance of an exercise, a penalty must be taken to the maximum penalty of receiving a non-qualifying score. A dog that eliminates or becomes ill in the ring will receive a non-qualifying score and be excused from the ring.

Handlers who deliver harsh corrections inside and/or outside the ring will be excused from the day's events and asked to leave the grounds.

### **2.21. Exhibitor Requests to be Excused**

The judge should honor any exhibitor's request to be excused from the ring and should note this on the score sheet.

## 3. Obedience classes and individual exercises

### 3.1. Classes and Eligibility

There is no requirement in JRTCA that a dog must progress from Pre-Novice to Novice to Open, earning three qualifying scores in a class before being permitted to enter the next higher one. Dogs may be entered in any class for which they are eligible, except where cross entering is not permitted.

#### 3.1.1. Pre-Novice Obedience “A”

**Pre Novice “A”** is open to dogs that do not hold a Pre Novice title. Or dogs that do not show obedience in other venues. Not eligible for the Championship.

**Pre Novice “B”** class is open to dogs that have a good knowledge of obedience or hold a Pre Novice title. This class only is eligible for the championship.

→ Eligible for a Pre-Novice Obedience Certificate upon completion of 3 qualifying scores.

Eligible for a Pre Novice “B” – Obedience Certificate upon Completion of 3 Qualifying scores

#### 3.1.2A. Novice Obedience

→ Eligible for a Novice Obedience Certificate upon completion of 3 qualifying scores.

May cross enter into Pre Novice “B” and Open

#### 3.1.3A. Open Obedience

→ Eligible for an Open Obedience Certificate upon completion of 3 qualifying scores.

May cross enter into Novice and Pre Novice “B”

#### 3.1.4. Brace Obedience

Two dogs performing Pre-Novice exercises together, judged on Pre-Novice criteria. Dogs may be on two leashes or coupled. Braces to be judged on precision. The brace that works as one stands the best chance of winning, one score sheet for two terriers..

→ Dogs may cross-enter any other Obedience class for which they are eligible as outlined above.

This is an optional class that is not eligible for a certificate.

Addition:

### **3.2. Placements**

Qualifying scores shall be considered first for placements, in descending order. If there are no qualifying scores, or fewer than seven entries per class, non-qualifying scores shall be considered to fill the remaining placements.

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### 3.3. Obedience Trial Championship and Reserve

The dogs with the two highest combined scores from the Pre Novice "B", Novice Obedience or Open Obedience classes will be Obedience Trial Champion and Reserve. Ties shall be broken by each team again performing the Off-Leash Heeling Pattern exercise.

Addition: Note: Two of the 3 classes are acceptable for Championships.

### 3.4. Scoring

All dogs are to enter and leave the ring on leash for all classes. Any dog leaving the ring without a leash for any reason will be excused & will receive a non qualifying score.

For a **qualifying score** a team must earn a minimum of 170 points total and receive at least 50% of the points for each individual exercise. Non-qualifying scores will count for class placements.

**Open Obedience:** Judge or Club should provide a marker for the go out. Two ring gates with an upright in the center would be ideal. If that is not available either a cone or visible mark on the floor is appropriate. But only one marker should be used.



### 3.5.a Pre-Novice Exercises Description

#### On leash Heeling

**The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog and handler can work as a team in the presence of distractions.** The exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position. When the team is ready to begin, the judge will instruct the handler "Forward" and the team must heel forward at a brisk pace. During the heeling pattern, the judge will call at least one halt during the pattern and again at the completion. The judge will also instruct the following turns: Right Turn, Left Turn and About Turn. The judge will call a Slow Pace, followed by Normal Pace and a Fast Pace followed by Normal Pace. These instructions may be given in any order but the order must be consistent for all teams. The dog heels on your left side and the about turn is always to your right (dog outside).

#### On leash Figure 8

**The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog and handler can work as a team in the presence of distractions.** The handler will move with the dog to a place designated by the judge, midway between two cones standing approximately 8 feet apart. The exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position. After the judge asks if the team is ready and instructs the handler to heel forward, the handler and dog will heel briskly around and between the two cones twice in a figure eight pattern. The handler may go either to the left or right first. There will be no about turn, left turn or right turn or pace changes, but the judge must instruct the team to halt at least once during the exercise and again at the end.

#### Stand for Exam on leash

**The principal features of this exercise are that the dog remain standing and has the evenness of temperament to accept a light exam by the judge.**

The exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position. On judge's order the handler will stand his dog without any physical assistance. When ready, the handler will stand with the dog in the heel position and give his command and/or signal to the dog to stay, walk forward to the end of the leash, turn around and stand facing the dog. The judge shall approach the dog from the front, and walk around the entire dog. Judge will then instruct the handler to "Return to Your Dog",

The handler may instruct the dog to "Stay" before moving towards the dog. The handler will return, walk around the dog and stand in heel position next to the dog until the judge instructs the handler "Exercise Finished". The dog should not sit once the handler returns to heel position.

#### Recall on leash

**The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays where left until called by its handler and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come.** The exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position. On judge's order the handler will give his command and/or signal to the dog to stay, walk forward to the end of the leash, turn around and stand facing the dog. On judge's order or signal, the handler will give command or signal for the dog to come. The dog must come directly in at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered immediately in front of the handler's feet, close enough that the handler could readily touch its head without moving either foot or having to

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stretch forward. The dog must not touch the handler or sit between his feet. On judge's order the handler will give command or signal to "Finish" and the dog must go smartly to the heel position and sit. Handler's choice of left or right finish.

### Sit or Down Stay on leash, or in front

**The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stays in position for the duration of the exercise.**

Handler's choice of sit or down, performed in heel position or in front for the duration of one minute, as timed by the judge. The team will be positioned in a designated spot by the judge. On judge's order "Sit/down your dog" the handler will give his command and/or signal to the dog.

Judging ends after "Exercise Finished". Occasional quiet praise is permitted throughout the exercise, ( handler cannot use stay as a praise) tell the dog continuously to "stay" is an NQ. Additional commands are to be penalized 3 point

### 3.5.b Pre-Novice Scoring

Exercise	Non Qualifying	Substantial Deduction (2-5 points)	Minor Deduction (½ - 1 points)	Max. possible p
<b>On leash Heeling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Consistently tight leash</li> <li>* Handler consistently adapts to dog's speed</li> <li>* No pace change during fast and slow</li> <li>* Luring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* No automatic sit</li> <li>* Lagging, forging ahead, crowding handler</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Poor sit</li> <li>* Lagging/forging</li> <li>* Crowding, heeling wide</li> <li>* Failure to maintain pace change</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	40
<b>On leash Figure 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Consistently tight leash</li> <li>* Aggression, fear, shyness</li> <li>* Luring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* As above in On leash heeling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* As above in On leash heeling.</li> </ul>	40
<b>Stand for Exam on Leash, judge walks around dog</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Aggression, fear, shyness</li> <li>* Dog moves away</li> <li>* Breaks position</li> <li>* Handler maintains "stay" signal throughout exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Minor foot movement</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Minor foot movement</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	40
<b>Recall on leash</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Dog anticipates recall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* No sit front</li> <li>* No sit finish</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Poor sit</li> <li>* Poor/slow finish</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	40
<b>Sit/Down Stay on Leash 1 minute</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Breaks position</li> <li>* Food reward prior to exercise finished</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Loud/unpleasant praise</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Minor movement</li> </ul>	40

### 3.6.a Novice Exercises Description

#### On leash Heeling

This is the same as in Pre-Novice.

**The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog and handler can work as a team in the presence of distractions.** The exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position. When the team is ready to begin, the judge will instruct the handler "Forward" and the team must heel forward at a brisk pace. During the heeling pattern, the judge will call at least one halt during the pattern and again at the completion. The judge will also instruct the following turns: Right Turn, Left Turn and About Turn. The judge will call a Slow Pace, followed by Normal Pace and a Fast Pace followed by Normal Pace. These instructions may be given in any order but the order must be consistent for all teams. The dog heels on your left side and the about turn is always to your right (dog outside).

#### Off leash Figure 8

**The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog and handler can work as a team in the presence of distractions.** The handler will move with the dog to a place designated by the judge, midway between two cones standing approximately 8 feet apart. The exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position. After the judge takes the leash, asks if the team is ready, and instructs the handler to heel forward, the handler and dog will heel briskly around and between the two cones twice in a figure eight pattern. The handler may go either to the left or right first. There will be no about turn, left turn or right turn or pace changes, but the judge must instruct the team to halt at least once during the exercise and again at the end.

#### Moving Stand for Exam

**The principal features of this exercise are that the dog remain standing and has the evenness of temperament to accept a light exam by the judge.**

The handler will begin with the dog sitting in heel position. Upon instruction from the judge, the team will heel forward. After the team has heeled approximately ten feet, the judge will instruct the handler to "Stand Your Dog". The team will stop moving forward and the dog must remain standing, without sitting first. The handler may instruct the dog to "Stand". The judge will then instruct the handler to "Leave Your Dog" and the handler will walk approximately six feet away, turn and face the dog. The handler may instruct the dog to "Stay" before walking away. The dog must remain standing while the judge approaches and lightly runs her/his hand along the side of the dog's body. Upon instruction by the judge to "Return to Your Dog", the handler may instruct the dog to "Stay" before moving towards the dog. The handler will return, walk around the dog and stand in heel position next to the dog until the judge instructs the handler "Exercise Finished". The dog should not sit once the handler returns to heel position.

#### Recall over bar jump

**The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays where left until called by its handler and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come.** The exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position. On judge's order the handler will give his command and/or signal to the dog to stay, walk around jump min. of 8'. On judges command, call dog over jump.

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Sit or Down – dog is instructed into center of ring. Judge say Leave your dog, handler moves straight out to end of ring and does a “T” pattern returning to center. Judge tells handler to return to your dog. Stewart hands handler the leash.

On judge's order the handler will give command or signal to "Finish" and the dog must go smartly to the heel position and sit. Handler's choice of left or right finish.

**The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stays in position while the handler does a heeling pattern.**

**The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stays in position while the handler does a heeling pattern.**

The exercise begins with the judge directing the team to a location near the center of the ring, about half the distance of the longer side from the exit. The judge instructs the handler to sit or down your dog and leave when ready. The handler will walk straight out (cannot back away from their dog) go left to end of ring about turn and walk to opposite end of ring make about turn and stand in center facing their dog. Judge will then say “Return to your dog.” Handler may instruct the dog to “Stay” before walking back. The handler will return, walk around the dog, stand in heel position next to the dog, and wait until the judge instructs “Exercise Finished”.

### 3.6.b Novice Exercises Scoring

Exercise	Non Qualifying	Substantial Deduction (2-5 points)	Minor Deduction (½ - 1 points)	Max. possible p
<b>On leash Heeling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Consistently tight leash</li> <li>* Handler consistently adapts to dog's speed</li> <li>* No pace change during fast and slow</li> <li>* Luring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* No automatic sit</li> <li>* Lagging, forging ahead, crowding handler</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Poor sit</li> <li>* Lagging/forging</li> <li>* Crowding, heeling wide</li> <li>* Failure to maintain pace change</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	40
<b>Off leash Figure 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Consistently tight leash</li> <li>* Aggression, fear, shyness</li> <li>* Luring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* No automatic sit</li> <li>* Lagging, forging ahead, crowding handler</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Poor sit</li> <li>* Lagging/forging</li> <li>* Crowding, heeling wide</li> <li>* Failure to maintain pace change</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	40
<b>Moving Stand for Exam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Aggression, fear, shyness</li> <li>* Dog moves away</li> <li>* Breaks position</li> <li>* Handler maintains “stay” signal throughout exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Minor foot movement</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Minor foot movement</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	40
<b>Recall over bar jump</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Dog anticipates recall</li> <li>* Knocks bar</li> <li>* Goes around jump</li> <li>Uses jump as aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* No sit front</li> <li>* No sit finish</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Poor sit</li> <li>* Poor/slow finish</li> <li>* Hits or ticks bar</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	40
<b>Sit Stay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Breaks position or at return</li> <li>* Food reward prior to finish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Loud/unpleasant praise</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Minor movement</li> </ul>	40

### 3.7.a Open Exercises Description

#### Off leash Heeling

**The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog and handler can work as a team in the presence of distractions.** Teams will enter the ring with the dog on-leash. The handler will then remove the leash and hand it to the judge. The exercise begins with the dog sitting in heel position. When the team is ready to begin, the judge will instruct the handler "Forward" and the team must heel forward at a brisk pace. During the heeling pattern, the judge will call at least one halt during the pattern and again at the completion. The judge will also instruct the following turns: Right Turn, Left Turn and About Turn. The judge will call a Slow Pace, followed by Normal Pace and a Fast Pace followed by Normal Pace. These instructions may be given in any order but the order must be consistent for all teams. The dog heels on your left side and the about turn is always to your right (dog outside).

#### Running Broad Jump

**The principal features of this exercise are that the dog take the jump and return to the handler.** The judge will instruct the handler to begin the running broad jump exercise at the place where the team completes the Off-Leash Heeling Pattern exercise. The team must be a minimum of 10 feet from the broad jump. Upon the judge's instruction to begin, the team will heel towards the broad jump. As the team approaches the jump, the handler will begin to move at a fast pace and may run. The handler will cue the dog to jump. The handler must run past the jump as the dog goes over the jump. After the handler has run past the jump and the dog has cleared the jump, the handler will call the dog to front. The handler may not call the dog to front until the dog has cleared the jump. The handler must not stop moving while calling the dog but may slow her/his pace and must begin to walk backwards after calling the dog to front. The handler must stop after walking backwards a maximum of 4 steps. The judge will instruct the handler to finish the dog. When the dog is sitting in heel position, the judge will instruct the handler "Exercise Finished".

#### Drop on Recall

**The principal features of this exercise are the dog's prompt response to the handler's cues to come and to drop/down and once down, to remain in position until called to front.** The handler shall sit the dog in heel position. Upon the judge's instructions to "Leave Your Dog", the handler will cue the dog to wait or stay and walk to the opposite side of the ring, turn and face the dog. The judge will give a hand cue to the handler to call the dog. The judge will give a hand cue to the handler to drop/down the dog. The handler may not cue the dog to stop moving forward before the cue to drop/down. The judge will give the handler a hand cue to call the dog to front. The judge will then instruct the handler to cue the dog to finish. Once the dog has finished and is sitting in heel position, the judge will instruct the handler "Exercise Finished".

#### Retrieve on Flat

**The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog retrieves the dumbbell promptly.** The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position at a spot designated by the judge. The judge will instruct the handler to throw the dumbbell. The handler will cue the dog to stay or wait and then throw the dumbbell. The dumbbell must be thrown at least 20 feet. If the dumbbell is thrown less than 20 feet, bounces out of the ring, or lands too close to the ring gates, the judge will instruct the handler to re-throw the dumbbell. The judge will then instruct the handler to send the dog. The dog should then quickly go and retrieve the dumbbell and return to the handler with it, sitting in front position. The dog must sit at front close enough for the handler to take the dumbbell from the dog without moving forward. The judge will instruct the handler to take the dumbbell and then to finish. The dumbbell must be approved by the judge. It may be made of wood or plastic. Dumbbells may not be hollow. Dumbbells may be any color but may not have decorations or items attached to them.

#### Retrieve over High Jump

**The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes out over the jump, picks up the dumbbell and quickly returns over the jump to the handler with the dumbbell.** This exercise shall be performed in the same way as the Retrieve on Flat exercise except that the dog must clear the high jump both going for the dumbbell and coming back with it. The handler will stand a minimum of 8 feet from the jump and the dog must be sitting in heel position. The dumbbell must land a minimum distance of 8 feet from the jump. If the dumbbell lands less than 8 feet from the jump, the judge will

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instruct the handler to re-throw it.

### Go-out, Turn, Sit

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes at a brisk pace away from the handler to the opposite side of the ring, turns and sits on cue.

Dog must go at least 10 ft. from handler to qualify

The handler must stand and the dog must sit in heel position in the middle/center of the ring between the High Jump and the Broad Jump for this exercise. The handler will cue the dog to look at the opposite side of the ring and upon instruction from the judge to "Send Your Dog", will cue the dog to move at a brisk pace to the opposite side of the ring. As the dog is moving to the opposite side of the ring, the handler will cue the dog to turn and sit without any instruction to do so from the judge. When cued by the handler, the dog must turn and sit, facing the handler. The dog should turn and sit within a 3 ft radius of the center of the ring, adjacent to the ring gates. The dog need not sit squarely in the designated area. Upon instruction by the judge to "Return to Your Dog", the handler may instruct the dog to "Stay" before moving towards the dog. The dog must remain in a sit until the handler returns. The handler will return, walk around the dog and stand in heel position next to the dog until the judge instructs the handler "Exercise Finished". Deductions will be taken for being off center.

### 3.7.b Open Exercises Scoring

Exercise	Non Qualifying	Substantial Deduction (2-5 points)	Minor Deduction (½ - 1 points)	Max. possible points
<b>Off leash Heeling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Handler consistently adapts to dog's speed</li> <li>* No pace change during fast and slow</li> <li>* Aggression, fear, shyness</li> <li>* Luring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* No automatic sit</li> <li>* Lagging, forging ahead, crowding handler</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Poor sit</li> <li>* Lagging/forging</li> <li>* Crowding, heeling wide</li> <li>* Failure to maintain pace</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	40
<b>Running Broad Jump</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Refuses/runs around jump</li> <li>* Steps on/in between</li> <li>* No return to handler</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* No sit front/finish</li> <li>* Poor sit front/finish</li> <li>* Slow to finish</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Poor sit front/finish</li> <li>* Lagging/forging</li> <li>* Call to front before clearing jump</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	30
<b>Drop on Recall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Anticipates recall</li> <li>* Anticipates drop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Slow response</li> <li>* No sit/front/finish</li> <li>* Poor sit front/finish</li> <li>* Drop food (5) additional cue(3)</li> <li>* Additional cue to drop(3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Slow response</li> <li>* Poor sit front/finish</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	30
<b>Retrieve on Flat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Anticipates</li> <li>* Does not respond to first cue to go retrieve</li> <li>* Fails to retrieve</li> <li>* Front more than arm's length out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* No sit/front/finish</li> <li>* Slow leave/pickup/return</li> <li>* Drops dumbbell</li> <li>* Refuses to release on cue</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Poor sit front/finish</li> <li>* Slow finish</li> <li>* Slow leave/pickup/return</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	30
<b>Retrieve over High Jump</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Anticipates</li> <li>* Does not respond to first cue to go retrieve</li> <li>* Fails to retrieve</li> <li>* Front more than arm's length out</li> <li>* Does not go over jump</li> <li>* Uses jump as aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* No sit/front/finish</li> <li>* Slow leave/pickup/return</li> <li>* Drops dumbbell</li> <li>* Refuses to release on cue</li> <li>* Touches jump</li> <li>* Drop food (5)</li> <li>* Additional cue (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Poor sit front/finish</li> <li>* Slow finish</li> <li>* Slow leave/pickup/return</li> <li>* Loud cues/praise</li> </ul>	40

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### Go-out, Turn, Sit

- \* Knocks jump over

- \* Anticipates cue to go out

- \* Does not leave

- \* No turn

- \* Turns and comes back

- \* Slowness to respond

- \* Breaking the sit

- \* Turning/sitting outside designated area

- \* Turns but no sit

- \* Drop food (5)

- \* Additional cue (3)

- \* Breaking the sit

- \* Turning/sitting outside designated area

- \* Turns but no sit

- \* Slow to respond

- \* Loud cues/praise

30