



NOTICE TO ALL OBEDIENCE TRIAL CLUBS, JUDGES & EXHIBITORS RE: New Group Exercises

This is a communication to clubs that host Obedience Trials, Judges, and Exhibitors in Obedience Trials with regard to the changes to the Obedience Trial and Rally Obedience Trial Rules and Regulations Group Exercises.

The changes were approved by the Board of Directors at the September 2024 Board Meeting, and will be updated in the Obedience Trial and Rally Obedience Trial Rules and Regulations effective January 1, 2025.

As it is not possible to provide all of the changes in a notice, we have included copies of the motions pertaining to the main changes for each level of competition below.

Please review the changes and speak to your local Obedience Trial Council Representative for more details. The new rulebook will be posted on the CKC website the first week of December.

All required forms are in the process of being reviewed and updated.

“THAT, the Obedience Trial & Rally Obedience Trial Rules & Regulations, Chapter 8 Regulations for Performance & Judging, Section 8.13 Ring Procedure, Subsection 8.13.9 be amended **effective January 1, 2025** as follows:

8 Regulations for Performance & Judging

8.13 Ring Procedure

8.13.9 a) **In the Novice classes the ring steward will take the leash from the handler at the completion of the Figure 8 exercise and place it on a chair, small table or leash holder as designated by the judge, just inside the ring entrance.**

b) ~~In the Novice Intermediate, Open and Utility classes, before the handler enters the ring, a steward will take the dumbbell, gloves and articles or and place it them where designated by the judge until required and return it them after the team exits the ring. The leash shall be taken from the handler once after they enter the ring and will be returned before the handler leaves the ring.~~

c) **In the Open classes, before the handler enters the ring, a steward will take the dumbbell and place it where designated by the judge until required and return it after the team exits the ring. The leash shall be taken from the handler after they enter the ring and placed on a chair, small table or leash holder as designated by the judge, just outside the ring entrance.**

d) **In the Utility classes, before the handler enters the ring, a steward will take the glove and articles and place them where designated by the judge until required and return them after the team exits the ring. The leash shall be taken from the handler after they enter the ring and will be returned before the handler leaves the ring.”**

“THAT, the Obedience Trial & Rally Obedience Trial Rules & Regulations, Chapter 9 Pre-Novice Class, Section 9.9 Group Sit or Down Exercise be amended **effective January 1, 2025** as follows:

9 PRE-NOVICE CLASS

- 9.9 Group Sit or Down Exercise
- 9.9.1 The judge will choose either a sit or down position for this exercise for all of the dogs in a class.
- 9.9.2 The principal feature of this exercise is for the dog to stay in the specified position until the handler returns to the heel position.
- 9.9.3 The orders for this exercise are: "Are you ready?", "Sit your dogs" or "Down your dogs", "Leave your dogs", "Back to your dogs", "Exercise finished. Maintain control of your dogs".
- 9.9.4 All dogs in the class that are eligible to compete in the group exercises ~~exercise~~ will do so together. If however, there are more than ~~eight (8)~~ **five (5)** dogs competing, they will be split into groups of not more than **five (5)**.
- 9.9.5 Handlers will enter the ring with their dogs on a **1.8m (6 ft)** leash and line up in a straight line in catalogue order, at least ~~1.2 m (4ft)~~ **1.8 m (6 ft)** apart, where the judge indicates. ~~Handlers will place their armbands behind their dogs. Armbands will remain on the handler's left arm. They will leave the leash attached to the dog's collar, placing it at the dog's right side.~~
- 9.9.6 On the judge's orders, the handlers shall sit or down their dogs, give the command and/or signal to stay, immediately leave their dogs, walk ~~about 6 m (20 ft)~~ **forward to the end of their leash, without jerking or tightening the leash**, turn and face their dogs. **The leash must remain slack throughout the entire exercise and must be held at waist level or below.**
- 9.9.7 The judging of this exercise will not start until the judge orders the handlers to "Leave your dogs".
- 9.9.8 The judge shall take a position in the ring where both the dogs and handlers can be observed. Thirty seconds after giving the order to "Leave your dogs," the judge will order the handlers to return promptly to their dogs, each walking around behind his own dog to the heel position. The dogs should not move from the required sit or down position until the judge says "Exercise finished."
- 9.9.9 No additional commands or encouragement are permitted during this exercise.
- 9.9.10 No dog shall qualify that, at any time during the exercise, moves a substantial distance from the place it was left, ~~goes to~~ **moves toward** another dog, barks or whines unreasonably or fails to remain in the required sit or down position until the handler has returned to heel position **or whose handler jerks or tightens the leash in an attempt to keep the dog in position."**

"THAT, the Obedience Trial & Rally Obedience Trial Rules & Regulations, Chapter 10 Novice Class, Section 10.10 Group Sit & Down Exercises, Subsections 10.10 - 10.10.13 be amended **effective January 1, 2025** as follows:

10 Novice Class

- ~~10.10~~ **11** Group Sit ~~or~~ **and** Down Exercise
- ~~10.10~~ **11.1** The principal features of these exercises are for the dog to stay and to remain in the sit or down position, whichever is required by the particular exercise, until the handler has returned.
- ~~10.10~~ **11.2** The orders for the Group Sit exercise are: "Sit your dogs," "Leave your dogs," "Back to your dogs," "Exercise finished. Maintain control of your dogs."
- ~~10.10~~ **11.3** The orders for the Group Down exercise are: "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," "Back to your dogs," "Exercise finished. ~~Put your leashes on your dogs.~~ Maintain control of your dogs."
- ~~10.10~~ **11.4** All dogs in a class that are eligible to compete in the group exercises will do so together. If, however, there are more than ~~eight~~ **five (5)** dogs competing, they will be split into groups of not more than ~~eight~~ **five (5)**.
- ~~10.10~~ **11.5** When the Novice A, B and/or C classes are judged by the same judge, the classes may be combined.
- ~~10.10~~ **11.6** Handlers will enter the ring with their dogs on ~~leash~~ **a 1.8 m (6 ft) leash** and line up in catalogue order, ~~along one side of the ring~~ **at least 1.8 m (6 ft) apart, where the judge indicates.** ~~Handlers will place their armbands, weighted with leashes behind the dogs.~~ **Armbands will remain on the handler's left arm.**
- ~~10.10~~ **11.7** On the judge's orders, the handlers shall sit their dogs, give the command and/or signal to stay, immediately ~~leave their dogs,~~ **walk to the opposite side of the ring forward to the end of their leash, without jerking or tightening the leash**, turn and face their dogs. **The leash must remain slack throughout the entire exercise and must be held at waist level or below.**

- 10.1011.8 The judge shall take a position in the ring where both the dogs and handlers can be observed. One (1) minute after giving the order to "Leave your dogs," the judge will order the handlers to return promptly to their dogs, each walking around behind his own dog to the heel position. The dogs should not move from the sitting position until the judge says "Exercise finished."
- 10.1011.9 The Group Down is executed in the same manner as the Group Sit except that instead of sitting the dogs, the handlers, on orders from the judge, shall down their dogs using a command and/or signal. The time for this exercise shall be ~~three (3) minutes~~ **one (1) minute**. The dog should stay in the down position until after the judge says "Exercise finished. ~~Put your leash on your dogs.~~ Maintain control of your dogs."
- 10.1011.10 The scoring of these exercises will not start until the judge orders the handlers to sit or down their dogs.
- 10.1011.11 No dog shall qualify that, at any time during the exercise, moves a substantial distance from the place it was left, ~~goes over to~~ **moves toward** another dog, barks or whines unreasonably, or fails to remain in the sitting or down position (whichever is required by the particular exercise) until the handler has returned to the heel position **or whose handler jerks or tightens the leash in an attempt to keep the dog in position.**
- 10.1011.12 A substantial deduction shall be given for a handler who repositions his dog after the dog is in the sit or down position or for a dog that sits, stands or lies down after the handler has returned to the heel position but before the judge has said "Exercise finished."
- 10.1011.13 Substantial or minor deductions, depending on the circumstances, shall be given for a handler who touches the dog or its collar to get it into the sit or down position, **inadvertently jerks or tightens the leash**, or for a dog that occasionally barks or whines or for a minor move from position."

"THAT, the Obedience Trial & Rally Obedience Trial Rules & Regulations, Chapter 10 Novice Class be amended **effective January 1, 2025** as follows:

10 Novice Class

ADD NEW

- 10.10 Sit Stay – Get Your Leash
- 10.10.1 The principal feature of this exercise is for the dog to stay in the sit position until the handler returns to the heel position.
- 10.10.2 The orders for this exercise are: "Sit your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash," "Back to your dog," "Exercise finished. Put your leash on."
- 10.10.3 Prior to the start of judging, the judge will indicate to the ring steward where to place the leash. The ring steward will place the leash in the designated spot after the Heel on Leash & Figure 8 exercise. The leash will be placed on a chair, small table or leash holder just inside the ring entrance.
- 10.10.4 The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge, approximately 9.1 m (30 ft) from the ring entrance. The handler and dog will be positioned facing the direction of the ring entrance.
On the judge's order to "Leave your dog to get your leash," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay and walk directly to the place where their leash has been placed.
The handler will pick up their leash, turn, stop and face the dog and wait for the judge's order, "Back to your dog." The handler will return to the dog, walking around and behind the dog to return to the heel position. The dog should remain sitting until the judge says, "Exercise finished."
- 10.10.5 No dog shall qualify that, at any time during the exercise, moves a substantial distance from the place it was left, fails to remain in the sit position until the handler returns to the heel position, or barks or whines unreasonably.
- 10.10.6 A substantial deduction shall be given for a dog that stands or lies down after the handler has returned to heel position but before the judge has said "Exercise finished."

10.10.7 Substantial or minor deductions, depending on the circumstances, shall be given for a handler who touches the dog or its collar to get it into the sit position or for a dog that occasionally barks or whines or for a minor move from position.”

“THAT, the Obedience Trial & Rally Obedience Trial Rules & Regulations, Chapter 12 Open Class, Section 12.2 Open HA and Open 18A, be amended **effective January 1, 2025** as follows:

12 Open Class

12.2 ~~Open HA & Open 18A~~ Open A

- 12.2.1 The Open A classes shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has earned the title of CD but has not earned the title of CDX.
- 12.2.2 The handler of any dog in these classes must be the owner, co-owner or a member of their immediate family.
- 12.2.3 Only one (1) dog per handler is allowed in these classes and that person must handle the dog in all exercises.
- 12.2.4 Any person who has exhibited a dog that has earned an OTCH title may not handle a dog in these classes.
- 12.2.5 When a dog is wrongfully entered in these classes, any score awarded will be cancelled.”

“THAT, the Obedience Trial & Rally Obedience Trial Rules & Regulations, Chapter 12 Open Class, Section 12.3 Open HB & Open 18B, be amended **effective January 1, 2025** as follows:

12 Open Class

12.3.1 ~~Open HB & Open 18B~~ Open B

- 12.3.2 The Open B classes shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has earned the title of CD.
- 12.3.3 Dogs that have earned the title of CDX or any higher obedience titles may enter either of the Open B classes. A dog may also be entered in the Utility class in the same trial.
- 12.3.4 Dogs in these classes may be handled by the owner or any other person.
- 12.3.5 A person may enter or handle more than one (1) dog in these classes.
- 12.3.6 The same handler must handle each dog in all seven (7) exercises. ~~unless he has two (2) or more dogs entered. In such case, they must have an additional handler for each extra dog when they are judged together in the group exercise(s).~~
- 12.3.7 Prior to the start of judging, the judge will choose which of the six (6) numbered routines is to be performed. ~~for Open HB and Open 18B.~~ These choices will not be disclosed to exhibitors until they are posted at ring side at least 30 minutes before the start of each class and never more than one hour before the start of the trial. In future assignments, judges are required to alternate the six (6) routines so they will be used approximately the same number of times.”

“THAT, the Obedience Trial & Rally Obedience Trial Rules & Regulations, Chapter 12 Open Class, Section 12.13, Group, Sit & Down Exercise be amended **effective January 1, 2025** as follows:

12 Open Class

DELETE:

~~12.13 Group Sit & Down Exercise~~

- ~~12.13.1 The principal features and deductions are the same as for the Novice Group Sit and Down exercises.~~
- ~~12.13.2 The orders for the Group Sit exercise are: “Sit your dogs,” “Leave your dogs,” “Back to your dogs,” “Exercise finished. Maintain control of your dogs.”~~
- ~~12.13.3 The orders for the Group Down exercise are: “Down your dogs,” “Leave your dogs,” “Back to your~~

dogs," "Exercise finished. Put your leashes on your dogs. Maintain control of your dogs."

~~12.13.4 The Group Sit and Group Down exercises in the Open classes are performed in the same manner as in the Novice classes, except that after leaving their dogs the handler must immediately leave the ring and go to a place designated by the judge out of sight of their dogs, where they must remain until three (3) minutes has passed. On the judge's order, the handlers will return to the ring and line up opposite their dogs and on further order, return to their dogs as in Novice.~~

ADD NEW:

12.13 Sit, Down or Stand Stay – Walk Around – Get Your Leash

12.13.1 The principal feature of this exercise is for the dog to stay in the position specified by the judge until the handler returns to the heel position with the leash.

12.13.2 The orders for this exercise are: "Sit your dog," or "Down your dog", or "Stand your dog," "Leave your dog," "Walk around your dog to get your leash," "Return to your dog," "Exercise finished. Put your leash on."

12.13.3 Prior to the start of judging, the judge will indicate to the ring steward where to place the leash. The ring steward will place the leash in the designated spot after the handler and dog have entered the ring. The leash will be placed on a chair, small table or a leash holder immediately outside the ring entrance.

12.13.4 The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge approximately 4.5 m (15 ft) from the ring entrance. The handler and dog will be positioned facing the direction of the ring entrance. The judge will ensure that the dog can keep the handler in its direct line of vision throughout the exercise. On the judge's order the handler shall sit, down or stand their dogs. On the order to "Leave your dog," the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay and walk forward about 4.5 m (15 ft), turn and face the dog and pause. On further order to "Walk around your dog to get your leash," the handler will promptly walk back to their dog, walking around behind the dog and passing through heel position, without pausing or giving another signal or command, then continue to walk directly to the place where their leash has been placed.

The handler will pick up their leash, step back into the ring, stop and wait for the judge's order, "Return to your dog." The handler will return to the dog, walking around and behind the dog to the heel position. The dog should not move from the required sit, down or stand position until the judge says, "Exercise finished."

12.13.5 No dog shall qualify that, at any time during the exercise, moves a substantial distance from the place it was left, barks or whines unreasonably or fails to remain in the required sit, down or stand position until the handler returns to the heel position, or if the handler gives an additional command or signal at any time after leaving the dog and before the exercise is finished.

12.13.6 A substantial deduction shall be given for a dog that changes from the required sit, down or stand position after the handler has returned to heel position but before the judges says, "Exercise finished."

12.13.7 A Substantial or minor deduction, depending on the circumstances, shall be given for a dog that occasionally barks or whines, or for a minor move from position, or for a handler that hesitates or pauses at any time while walking around the dog."