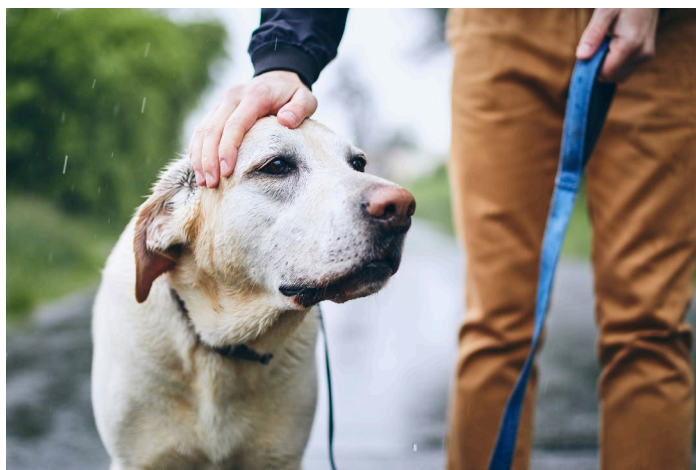


Dog Obedience

Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Rules for Participation



2025



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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Dog Obedience Rules for Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Participation

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County-Use of Ohio 4-H/OSF Dog Rules and Regulations

County usage of all Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Dog Show Rules and Regulations is recommended for consistency and continuity in the 4-H dog programs throughout the state. However, counties may adapt The Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Dog Show Rules and Regulations for county level evaluations to allow for a more positive experience for youth.

Some examples include:

- *Adding, deleting or modifying classes offered to accommodate entry numbers or experience, such as dividing Pre-Novice into Pre-Novice A and Pre-Novice B classes*
- *Adding "C" classes when needed.* At the Ohio State Fair, except for certain advanced obedience classes, youth are required to move to a higher level if winning. However, depending on the size of classes at the county level, it may not be feasible for a youth to move to a higher level after winning. They may be the only youth in the class or may not be ready as a team to move to the higher level. Therefore, either permitting youth winning first place to repeat a class or creating a "C" class for certain obedience classes, allows that youth to continue training at the same level to become successful and not get discouraged, dropping out of the dog project.
- *Adapting age divisions for participation.* For example, Showmanship and You and Your Dog are divided into Junior, Intermediate, and Senior classes at the State Fair. Counties may offer Junior and Senior classes, or even just one Showmanship class, depending on numbers.
- *Combining A and B classes.* Counties may combine an A and B class into one class provided the class exercise requirements are the same. However, record-keeping is required to ensure that youth/dog teams who are inexperienced "A" teams, are recognized as such so that they are not excluded from participating at the "A" level at the Ohio State Fair in the same 4-H year, if applicable.

2025 General Dog Show Rules for Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Participation

Note: Changes and/or additions for 2025 are underlined.

Preface

Below are the rules for participating in the 2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show. It is your responsibility to read, understand, and follow these rules. Please refer to the *County-Use of Ohio/OSF Dog Rules and Regulations* at the beginning of this section to find examples of how these rules can be modified for county use.

1. Prior to participating in 4-H dog activities with a dog (which includes the Ohio State Fair Dog Show), a *2025 Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims* form **MUST** be signed by the 4-H member and a parent or guardian for this year's 4-H dog projects. **This form for the current year must be on file in the county Extension office for each youth before they can participate in the Ohio 4-H Dog Program activities with a dog.**
2. Individuals who violate any rule and/or exhibit poor sportsmanship during the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show will be disqualified from showing.
3. Any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior *at any time before, during, or after exhibition* **MUST** be removed from the fairgrounds and will not be permitted to return at any time throughout the Dog Show. Determination of the show committee and/or judge will be final.
4. A dog that snaps, bites, or attempts to bite while in the ring must be immediately excused from the ring and then removed from the Fairgrounds for the remainder of the Dog Show.
5. Individuals are not permitted to have any discussion with judges at any time throughout the Dog Show. (This does not include discussions or questions during Agility or Rally Briefings or Walkthroughs.)
6. Determinations of the Show Committee and/or Judges are FINAL.
7. Judges' judging and scoring decisions are FINAL.
8. Individuals with concerns must express them in writing, give them to Show Personnel, and those concerns will be discussed at the fall Ohio 4-H Dog Advisory Committee meeting. Confrontations with judges and/or show personnel may result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal of individuals from the Fairgrounds.
9. Ohio State Fair Dog Show information can be found at <http://go.osu.edu/osfdogs>.

Project Eligibility

1. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H, and ages 8 and in the third grade, or 9 years old and older regardless of grade level, as of January 1, 2025, with the last year of eligibility, or participation, in 4-H being the year in which the individual turns 19.
2. Youth must be enrolled in the correct dog project to show in classes at the State Fair as follows:
 - *You and Your Dog*, Project No. 201D – to show in You and Your Dog classes;
 - *Obedience*, Project No. 201O – to show in Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, Novice, Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, Utility, Brace, Team, and Rally classes;
 - *Showmanship*, Project No. 201S – to show in Showmanship classes;
 - *Performance Dog*, Project No. 201P – to show in Agility, Drill Team, Freestyle, and Scent Work;
 - *Working Dog*, Project No. 201W – to show in the Assistance Dog classes;
 - *4-H PetPALS*, Project No. 230 - to show in the 4-H PetPALS class (Youth do not need to enroll in the Working Dog project to participate in 4-H PetPALS at the State Fair.)
 - 4-H members can be enrolled in any 4-H Dog Project to participate in the Poster Contest; and
 - Any 4-H member, regardless of 4-H project, as well as FFA members, can participate in the Dog Skillathon.

3. FFA members are eligible to show provided they meet school FFA dog project requirements, as well as the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules* and entry requirements. This includes ownership requirements.
4. Project eligibility and class or classes entered must be determined at the county level, based on the experience and ability of the handler/dog team. Extension 4-H educators must verify the youth is a member in good standing in their county to be able to participate at the Ohio State Fair.
5. Prior to showing at the Ohio State Fair, the exhibitor is expected to understand and agree to follow the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules*, including the exercises to be performed for the judge, and to be able to perform those exercises prior to the Ohio State Fair Dog Show.

Dog Eligibility

1. Only domestic dogs can be shown. Wolf and wolf hybrids are not permitted.
2. All dogs exhibited must be **six months of age** by the date of the show. **This includes Pilot Dog puppies and other assistance dogs. Dogs exhibited in Agility must be 18 months or older on or before the first day of the agility trial.** Proof of age is the burden of the exhibitor or exhibitor's immediate family. Dogs not meeting this age requirement cannot be shown.
3. Dogs shown at the Ohio State Fair Dog Show must be the same project dogs taken by 4-H members at the county level.

Ownership Requirements

1. Dogs participating in the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show must either be owned by the junior fair exhibitor or the exhibitor's immediate family.
2. Ownership of Assistance Dogs is respective of each applicable organization.
3. Dogs must be in the continual care of the junior fair exhibitor for the duration of the project.
4. *The date of ownership must be no later than April 1, or earlier as the date specified by the exhibitor's county.* Proof of ownership is the burden of the exhibitor and exhibitor's family.
5. Hardship cases will not be considered for State Fair participation.
6. Leasing a dog is not permitted for State Fair Dog Show participation. If counties have a leasing program, leased dogs are not permitted to exhibit at the State Fair.
7. Sharing a dog at the county level is not permitted for State Fair Dog Show participation, except for You and Your Dog. Siblings will be permitted to share a dog in the You and Your Dog class at the Ohio State Fair. Dogs cannot be shared in Obedience, Showmanship, Performance or Working events. If two youth share a dog at the county level in classes other than You and Your Dog, neither youth is eligible to show that dog at the Ohio State Fair, including 4-H Agility and 4-H PetPALS.

Definitions of Ownership

1. *Immediate family* is defined as the junior fair exhibitor's father, mother, legal guardian, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather, or grandmother, including the corresponding step and half relations, or by a member of the exhibitor's household.
2. *Continual care* is defined as the junior fair exhibitor being responsible for and involved in the feeding, cleaning, and caring of the project.
3. *Hardship cases* are defined as dogs that replace the original project enrolled by the exhibitor after the county's enrollment deadline, or no later than April 1.
4. *Ownership – Registered dogs:* The exhibitor's name, or a member of his/her immediate family's name, must appear on the registration certificate of a dog registered by AKC, UKC, individual breed registries, herding dog registries, etc. Co-ownership of a dog is permitted provided the exhibitor's name, or a member of his/her immediate family's name, is listed on the registration certificate. It is recommended that a copy of the registration certificate be on file in the county Extension office.

5. *Ownership – Non-registered purchased dogs:* A non-registered dog purchased from a private owner, pet shop, humane society, dog rescue, etc., must have the exhibitor's name or a member of his/her immediate family's name, on the bill of sale. It is recommended that a copy of this bill of sale be on file in the county Extension office.
6. *Ownership – Dogs found/gifts:* If a dog was given to the exhibitor or immediate family, or found by the exhibitor or immediate family, the exhibitor or a member of his/her immediate family receiving or finding the dog should verify the date received or found by use of veterinary records, dog licenses, and other forms of records, and write a statement as to the definite or approximate date the dog was received as a gift or found. It is recommended that a copy of this statement be on file in the county Extension office.

Training

1. Lessons, instruction, and advice for the exhibitor are encouraged. As long as the exhibitor is present in the learning situation and handles or trains the dog the majority of the time present, such assistance can include occasional handling or training by another person. Only the exhibitor can train the dog at any type of training class *on or after April 1, 2025*.
2. The judge will not permit an exhibitor to train or practice any exercise in the show ring at any time.

Showing

1. **No one other than the junior fair exhibitor** is permitted to show the project dog(s) at any type of dog show, including agility, field trials, rally trials, etc., as well as fun matches, *on or after April 1, 2025*. (Excluding You and Your Dog if siblings share a dog.)
2. **No one other than the junior fair exhibitor** is permitted to take the project dog(s) on animal-assisted activities (pet therapy) visits, *on or after April 1, 2025*. Any exceptions must be approved by the State 4-H Dog Advisory Committee.
3. Eligibility for showing in an "A" class is defined as "no training or showing experience for the handler and/or dog prior to the county's current project year." (A new "project year" typically begins following the exhibitor's county fair, or State Fair if after the OSF exhibitor's county fair, or county's 4-H awards program. Check with your county Extension office for your county's policy.) Handlers and/or dogs not meeting this requirement **MUST** show in a "B" class. Refer to "A" class information in the rules for each show discipline.
4. Junior Fair exhibitors in respective activities and classes are expected to perform in those events and demonstrate those skills which are listed in these *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules*, in the *Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook*, *Ohio 4-H Dog Project and Record Book*, and on the various 2025 dog 4-H judging score sheets.
 - a. Score sheets used in judging are posted under Resources at: go.osu.edu/dog. **Counties MUST use these score sheets for evaluating 4-H dog projects.** *Note:* All applicable score sheets will have 2025 at the bottom of the score sheet.
 - b. Any additional information pertinent to the State Fair Dog Show will be posted on the website at www.go.osu.edu/osfdogs.
5. **ONLY** dogs shown by junior fair exhibitors are permitted on the Fairgrounds. Exceptions can be made for Ohio State Fair show personnel, judges, and volunteers, if requests are made to the State Fair Dog Show Director prior to the first day of the show. **ALL** dogs must comply with the 2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show health requirements.

Safety and Sportsmanship

Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims:

1. ALL youth enrolled in 4-H dog projects are required to sign the *2025 Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims* document. A parent or guardian is also required to sign the document.
 - a. This document must be signed each year a youth enrolls in a 4-H dog project and a copy **MUST** be kept on file at the county Extension office.
 - b. Exhibitors and parents/guardians verify they have this signed document on file at their county Extension office and understand and agree to information provided in this document, when signing the *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate*.

Misbehavior and Excusals for Dogs on the Fairgrounds, Show Area, or in the Show Ring

1. Any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior *at any time before, during, or after exhibition* **MUST** be removed from the fairgrounds and will not be permitted to return at any time throughout the Dog Show. Determination of the show committee and/or judge will be final.
2. The judge or show officials *will immediately* excuse from the ring any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior.
 - a. The judge will *immediately* excuse any dog that appears dangerous to other dogs or exhibitors.
 - b. Any dog that snaps, bites, or attempts to bite any person or dog while in the show ring will *immediately* be excused.
 - c. If a judge determines that a bitch in the ring is in season or appears to be so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element, the bitch is *immediately* excused. The judge shall not obtain the opinion of the health check officials.
3. Any uncontrolled behavior such as barking, running away from its handler, etc., will be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, whether it occurs during or between exercises, or before or after judging.
4. Any dog not under its handler's control may be excused from competition.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1. Any exhibitor or other person(s) abusing a dog will be removed from the fairgrounds.
2. The judge or show officials will dismiss from the ring any exhibitor abusing the dog, which *will* result in disqualification of exhibitor *and* removal from the Fairgrounds.
3. Judges and/or show officials have the right to deduct points from the Sportsmanship category on the exhibitor's score sheet if unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed at any time throughout the 4-H dog show prior to or during judging.
4. Judges and/or show officials have the right to disqualify any participant exhibiting poor sportsmanship at any time throughout the 4-H Dog Show from showing, participating in activities, or from receiving any awards.
5. Any handler who willfully interferes with another competitor or that competitor's dog will be excused from competition.
6. Exhibitors, parents, volunteers, and other individuals verbally and/or physically abusive or threatening to show personnel will be removed from the Fairgrounds, and exhibitors will be disqualified.
7. Show officials have the right to order the removal from the Fairgrounds anyone showing unsportsmanlike conduct.
8. *Exhibitors must check in at their show ring within 15 minutes after being called to their ring. Exhibitors who do not check in at their show ring within 15 minutes after being called will have sportsmanship points deducted on their score sheets.*

Other

1. An exhibitor disciplining a dog in the show ring will be excused from further competition in that class.
2. The judge will not permit any handler to use excessive verbal commands or to move toward the dog to correct it.
3. Exhibitors are totally responsible for their dogs while on the Fairgrounds.
 - a. Dogs must be kept on leash while on the Fairgrounds, except when participating in the ring during judging.
 - b. Dogs must be kenneled in designated areas.
 - c. Exhibitors must clean up after their dogs.
 - d. Dogs are not permitted outside agility show venue and the Buckeye Sports Center except to load, unload, and use the marked Exercise Areas.
 - e. Dogs must not be left unattended.
4. Dogs are not permitted to wear any type of muzzle, prong/pinch collar, or electronic collar while on the fairgrounds.
 - a. Exhibitors will be disqualified if their dogs are seen wearing muzzles, prong/pinch collars, or electronic collars.
5. Only the exhibitor's dog, exhibitor, and show officials are permitted in the show ring area at any time throughout the show.
6. **Judges' decisions are final.** Exhibitors, parents, volunteers, and other individuals **are not permitted** to talk with judges at any time during the Dog Show, except during Agility or Rally briefings and walkthroughs.
 - a. Discussion and/or confrontation with judges may result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal of individuals from the Fairgrounds.
7. Judges, show staff and 4-H Dog Committee reserve the right to withhold class placements.
8. Dogs are not permitted to be dyed or colored in any way. If coat or nails show any evidence of dye or coloring, the score sheet will reflect a major point deduction.

License Requirements

1. Junior Fair exhibitors must list their dogs' license tag numbers on the *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate*. Exception: Assistance Dogs licensed through their respective organizations.

Health Requirements

1. The **2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate** completed and signed by a licensed veterinarian **is required for exhibition**. The **2025 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate** is also permitted for use at the Ohio State Fair Dog Show and Ohio State Fair Agility Trial provided the vaccinations are current through the last day of the 2025 OSF Dog competition. **THESE ARE THE ONLY CERTIFICATES THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED AT HEALTH CHECK. HEALTH CHECK CERTIFICATE MUST BE IN PAPER FORM. ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** These certificates must include **ALL** information requested in the Identification Form section, completed, signed, and dated by the exhibitor, and signed by the parent/guardian. The administering veterinarian must complete the information requested in the Vaccination Certificate section and may modify it as per Rule 3 in this section. **Other certificates of vaccination, computerized vaccination records, pet record cards, or kennel records will not be accepted. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to make sure all health requirements for State Fair are met.**
 - a. These certificates can be downloaded at: go.osu.edu/osfdogs.
 - b. The use of the *2025 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* must be

approved by the county 4-H professional and must be used consistently throughout the respective county.

2. **ALL** dogs must have current Rabies vaccinations, administered by licensed veterinarians. Veterinarians must document on the *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* or *2025 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* whether the exhibitor's dog's rabies vaccination is current by filling in the "date expires" blank.
3. ALL dogs must be vaccinated for Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus by licensed veterinarians. If the veterinarian does not administer certain vaccinations, those vaccinations must be noted by the administering veterinarian, either on the vaccination form or letterhead. *The Ohio State Fair Dog Show officials will accept the veterinarian's protocol for their client/patient. For the Ohio State Fair Dog Show and Ohio State Fair Agility Trial, all vaccinations must be current through the last day of the dog competition 2025.* (Note: Vaccination deadlines for county fairs may differ.)
4. *Bordetella* vaccination is recommended, but not required. Consult with your veterinarian.
5. Dogs **CANNOT** be shown at the Ohio State Fair if vaccinations are given by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian.
6. Any dogs exhibiting abnormalities or symptoms of sickness, disease, or parasite infestation as determined by the health check officials will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. If a dog is under veterinary care for a health condition that is not infectious or contagious, the exhibitor must bring a health certificate from the attending veterinarian verifying the condition and treatment. **Decision of the health check officials is final.**
7. ***Bitches showing ANY signs of heat are not permitted on the Fairgrounds. They are not permitted to show!*** Each dog must go through a health check **each** day shown, where all females will be checked for signs of heat. If a bitch shows **any** signs of heat, she will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. Any bitch, which appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element, will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. **Decision of the health check officials is final.**
8. Pregnant and/or lactating (nursing) bitches are not permitted on the Fairgrounds and may not be shown.
9. Any male or female dog that is a disturbing element to other dogs will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds.
10. Before going to Registration, exhibitors must bring their dog(s) and *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate(s)* to Health Check **each day** they are showing.
11. Incomplete or falsified information on the *2025 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* or *2025 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* is grounds for dismissal.
 - a. Correction tape or other forms of correction used to cover errors on the ID/Vaccination Certificates is NOT permitted.

Scores and Score Sheets for Ohio State Fair Dog Show

1. Scores will be posted within a reasonable amount of time after each class has been judged. Exhibitors who are tied for the top fifteen places in their respective classes should remain until all classes in the same category are judged, in case of further ties. Failure to stay could mean forfeiture of a possible placing.
2. No one other than show management and judges may view exhibitors' score sheets during the State Fair Dog Show.
3. Score sheets will be returned to the county Extension office about two weeks following the closing day of the State Fair. Score sheets will not be returned during the State Fair Dog Show.

4. Ohio State Fair Dog Show will require minimum scores for placements. Scores falling below the minimum score will not be eligible for placement. The scale is as follows:
 - Rally classes must score 100 points out of a possible 130 points.
 - You and Your Dog, Showmanship must score 190 points out of a possible 230 points.
 - Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, and Preferred Novice obedience classes must score 190 points out of a possible 230.
 - Novice, Grad Novice, Grad Open, Open, and Utility obedience classes must score 180 points out of a possible 230.

State Fair Championship Title

Exhibitors showing their dogs at the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show may apply for titling by recording State Fair achievements during their 4-H careers. The junior fair participant, their parent/guardian, and 4-H advisor must document achievements. The Ohio State Fair Championship Title is for the handler, regardless of the number of dogs shown.

Requirements

1. 4-H member may earn one Title per year regardless of the number of dogs shown;
2. 4-H member must accumulate 30 points to earn a Title;
3. Points will carry over from one year to the next;
4. Subsequent Titles will be awarded for each additional 30 points;
5. Points are recorded for the handler; and
6. All State Fair Dog Show participation rules apply.

Point System – Regular Classes

A 4-H member may use multiple dogs the same year to earn points toward an OSF Championship Title provided the dogs are shown in different events. However, in one given year at the Ohio State Fair Dog Shows (2025), youth can receive no more than the following points per event, regardless of the number of dogs exhibited or classes entered in that event:

One (1) point will be awarded for participation in any of these State Fair events:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Freestyle | 9. Pre/Advance Team |
| 2. Drill Team | 10. Brace |
| 3. Rally | 11. 4-H PetPALS |
| 4. Scent Work* | 12. Assistance Dog |
| 5. Showmanship | 13. Poster Contest |
| 6. You and Your Dog | 14. Agility |
| 7. Skillathon | 15. AKC CGC* |
| 8. Obedience | 16. AKC Trick Dog* |

An additional 5 points for earning a gold medal or placing 1st through 15th will be awarded per event, per year, regardless of the number of dogs entered in that event. For example: placement in ONE obedience class, regardless of the number of obedience classes exhibited = 5 points; placement in ONE rally class, regardless of the number of rally classes exhibited = 5 points; placement in ONE agility class, regardless of the number of agility classes exhibited = 5 points. Exhibitors must meet all the criteria according to the score sheet to receive 5 points for the 4-H PetPALS class. Exhibitors must meet all of the expectations according to the score sheet to receive 5 points for the Assistance Dog class.

* For Scent Work, Trick Dog and CGC classes, exhibitors may earn points for participation only. An exhibitor may earn 1 point for participation in ONE Scent Work class, ONE Trick Dog class and ONE CGC class.

Awards: A pin and T-shirt will be presented to each exhibitor receiving his/her first Title at the Ohio State Fair during the Ohio State Fair Dog Show. Exhibitors receiving second titles, third titles, etc. will receive an award depending on sponsorship.

4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award

The purpose of the 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award (EVA) is to: (1) encourage youth to participate in several classes (including Skillathon and Poster) at the Ohio State Fair Dog Show, and (2) award youth for achieving excellence in the classes in which they are showing or participating. To earn a 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award, exhibitors must place in FIVE (5) classes as follows: (1) receive a gold medal in Agility; (2) meet all of the expectations according to the score sheet in the Assistance Dog class; (3) meet all of the criteria according to the score sheet in the 4-H PetPALS dog class; (4) place in the top five in all classes receiving placings, including the Skillathon and Poster Contest. Youth violating any of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules* or with points taken off for poor sportsmanship will not be eligible for this award. An exhibitor must show in five (5) classes and earn one placing as described above per class, with one dog in each of those classes. The 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award is based on the number of classes, not number of dogs per class (i.e. for agility and rally). An exhibitor may earn one 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award a year.

4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award Forms: Exhibitors must request an EVA form from the registration table. The exhibitor must keep track of their points toward earning the 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award on this form. Once enough points have been earned to receive this award the completed form must be turned in at the registration table for verification. After verification that points earned are adequate to receive this award, the award will be presented.

Ohio State Fair Entry Information

Terminology

1. **Discipline** – refers to a show category. Each of the following is a Discipline: Showmanship, Obedience (including Team and Brace), Rally, Agility, You and Your Dog, Drill Team, Canine Freestyle, 4-H PetPALS, Assistance Dogs, Tricks, and Canine Good Citizen.
2. **Level** – refers to sub-categories within certain disciplines. For example, Novice is a level in the Obedience discipline; Rally Excellent is a level in the Rally discipline.
3. **Class** – refers to the two classes within certain disciplines and/or discipline levels. The letters “**A**” and “**B**” refer to the experience of the youth **and** dog.
 - a. “**A**” classes are for handlers or dogs with **NO** training or showing experience prior to the county’s current project year. “**A**” classes can never be repeated by the same youth, regardless of what dog is shown. “**A**” classes can never be repeated by the same dog, regardless of what youth shows that dog. Refer to “**A**” class information in the rules for each show discipline.
 - b. “**B**” classes can be repeated by the same youth regardless of what dog is shown, and by the same dog, regardless of who shows that dog, provided the youth and/or dog are not the class winners (exception: Showmanship and You & Your Dog). If/when a youth and/or dog wins first place in a “**B**” class, the youth and dog must move to the next level (exception: Showmanship, You & Your Dog, and specified advanced obedience classes). A dog must move to a higher level within a discipline, once that dog begins performing at that higher level. (Refer to each of the show discipline’s rules for rules specific to that discipline.)

Eligibility

Youth may enter any of the disciplines, levels, and classes they are eligible for as outlined in the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules*. The handler and dog must be able to perform the exercises required of the disciplines/levels/class(s) entered. *Youth may not enter classes without both youth and dogs being prepared prior to the State Fair to perform the required exercises. A zero (0) will be given to any handler/dog team not attempting an exercise, except as provided otherwise specifically in the rules. A zero (0) on the exhibitor's score sheet will result in an incomplete for that class, and therefore the exhibitor will not be eligible for an award, except as provided otherwise specifically in the rules.*

Exhibitors may show one or more project dogs, provided the exhibitors and dogs meet the eligibility requirements of each respective class, as follows (refer to each respective show discipline rulebook for more detailed and complete information).

Show Disciplines

1. Agility

Youth may enter any number of project dogs in Agility and are permitted to enter more than one dog per Agility class. Youth showing in Agility may show the same or different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

2. Obedience

Beginner Novice A

Beginner Novice A is for the first-year member and first-year dog with no prior show experience.

Beginner Novice A youth are not permitted to show the same or different dog in any other obedience class. This is like any other "A" class and can never be repeated by youth or dog. Youth may show one project dog in Beginner Novice A.

Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice

Youth may show two or more project dogs in Beginner Novice B and/or Pre-Novice, provided the youth and dog meet eligibility requirements. A dog cannot be shown in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice in the same year. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes and/or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

Preferred Novice

Youth may show two or more project dogs at the Preferred Novice Level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

Novice

Youth may show one project dog at the Novice A level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show two or more project dogs at the Novice B level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes and/or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

Advanced Obedience

Youth may show two project dogs in each of the following Obedience classes: Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, and Utility provided youth and dogs meet eligibility requirements. Level "A" and "B" in Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open and Utility will be combined into single classes, without designation of experience. Classes provided at these levels will be listed as Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open and Utility. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other non-obedience disciplines and/or a different dog in other obedience levels provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

3. Brace

Youth must show two project dogs that are capable of performing the Novice exercises. Youth may show the same dogs or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth showing in Beginner Novice or Pre-Novice classes cannot show in Brace.

4. Teams

Pre-Novice Team: Youth may enter two or more project dogs in Beginner Novice B and/or Pre-Novice and may enter more than one dog in Pre-Novice team provided the project dogs entered are for different teams.

Advanced Team: Youth may show a Novice level or above project dog in the Advanced Team class if having multiple dogs. Youth may participate in a second Advanced Team class provided they use a different project dog. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

Team alternates must enter online for their respective Team class to be eligible to replace another team member.

5. Rally

Youth may show a maximum of two project dogs per Rally level. A level is Rally Novice, Rally Intermediate, Rally Advanced, or Rally Excellent. Therefore, youth may show two dogs in Rally Novice B, two dogs in Rally Intermediate B, two dogs in Rally Advanced, and two dogs in Rally Excellent. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

6. Showmanship

Showmanship classes are based on age of youth and show experience of the youth and dog. Therefore, an exhibitor and dog can show in **ONE** Showmanship class only. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

7. You and Your Dog

You and Your Dog classes are based on the age of youth. Therefore, an exhibitor and dog can show in **ONE** You and Your Dog class only. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may share one project dog with a sibling for this show discipline only. Both siblings may enter a You and Your Dog class. Refer to *You and Your Dog* rules for completion requirements of the *Dog Project and Record Book* for judging.

8. 4-H PetPALS

Youth **MUST** be enrolled in the 4-H PetPALS Project No. 230 to be eligible to enter this class. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. (Note: Youth who have more than one 4-H PetPALS species [i.e. a dog and a rabbit, or dog and cat, etc.] can enter the rabbit or cat, etc. in 4-H PetPALS Day held (Date TBD) in the Youth Center.)

9. Assistance Dogs

- a. Assistance Dogs must be 6 months of age by show date. Youth taking Assistance Dog projects may show their Assistance Dogs in You and Your Dog classes. Youth must show in the appropriate age You and Your Dog level.
- b. Youth taking Assistance Dogs may show their Assistance Dogs in one Beginning Obedience level/class (Beginner Novice A, Beginner Novice B, or Pre-Novice) that meets the exhibitor's experience eligibility. Youth showing Assistance Dogs may show a different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.
- c. Youth taking Assistance Dogs may enter the Canine Good Citizen class.
- d. Youth taking Assistance Dogs may also participate in the Poster Contest and Skillathon.

10. Canine Freestyle

Youth may show one project dog in a maximum of two Canine Freestyle classes, with the following exception: Youth showing in the Sassy Seniors class may NOT show this senior dog in another Freestyle class.

- *To show in a Canine Freestyle class at the Ohio State Fair, youth and their dogs must have practiced a routine and be prepared to perform the routine to the best of their abilities, as a result of training and practice.*

Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

11. Drill Team

Drill Team entries must consist of no more than two Drill Team entries per county. The same youth may participate on more than one Drill Team in their county provided they use a different project dog. Refer to the Drill Team rules for cross-county Drill Team eligibility. Refer to the Drill Team rules for the number/size of Drill Teams per county permitted to show. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

- Drill Team entries must be made online. Drill Team alternates must enter online for their respective Drill Team class to be eligible to replace another team member.

12. AKC Trick Dog

Youth may enter AKC Trick Dog classes with the same or different project dog(s) and are permitted to enter more than one dog per Trick Dog class. Youth showing in AKC Trick Dog may show the same or different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. AKC Trick Dog classes offered include Novice Trick Dog, Intermediate Trick Dog, and Advanced Trick Dog.

- *To show in an AKC Trick Dog class at the Ohio State Fair, youth and their dogs must have practiced the tricks performed and be prepared to perform to the best of their abilities, as a result of training and practice.*

13. AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC)

Youth may enter AKC CGC classes with the same or different project dog(s) and are permitted to enter any number of project dogs in AKC CGC. Youth showing in AKC CGC may show the same or different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. **To show in an AKC CGC class at the Ohio State Fair, youth and their dogs must have practiced the test exercises and be prepared to perform to the best of their abilities, as a result of training and practice.*

14. Scent Work

Youth may show only one project dog in each of the offered Scent Work classes. Youth may show the same dog in another offered Scent Work class(es) or a different dog in another offered Scent Work class provided they meet the eligibility requirements. Youth may show the same dog or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements.

2025 Dog Obedience Rules for Ohio 4-H/Ohio State Fair Participation

NOTE: These Rules and Regulations are in effect for the 2025 Ohio State Fair and strongly recommended to be followed at the County level.

Introduction

The purpose of obedience is to demonstrate the dog's usefulness as a companion. Youth train their dogs to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect credit in the sport of obedience at all times and under all conditions. 4-H obedience competition demonstrates the handler's ability to work as a team with their 4-H dog project, following specified routines in the obedience ring and emphasizing the usefulness of their dog as a companion. All participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and out of the ring. All exhibitors in a class are required to perform the same exercises in the same manner so that the quality of the performances may be scored.

The 2025 Dog Obedience Score Sheets representing the exercises for each obedience class can be found at www.go.osu.edu/resourcesdogs or www.go.osu.edu/osfdogs.

Ring Size

Obedience rings should be rectangular in shape, and about 40 feet x 50 feet for all obedience classes. The Utility ring should never be less than 35 feet x 50 feet, and the Novice or Open ring should not be less than 30 feet x 40 feet. The floor must have firm footing, using rubber or similar non-slip material at least 4 feet wide for the takeoffs and landings of all jumps, unless the judge feels the surface does not require it.

The recommended size for a ring at an outdoor show or trial is 40 feet x 50 feet. The ground should be clean and level. Any grass should be cut short. For the Open classes, there must be an appropriate place for the handlers to go completely out of sight of their dogs. Under unusual or adverse weather conditions, there may be a separate regulation size ring for the group exercises. If inclement weather at an outdoor show or trial necessitates the judging of obedience under shelter, the requirements as to ring size may be waived.

Handler's Appearance

Exhibitors should be neat, clean, and well-groomed in appearance. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to handle in and appropriate for dog shows. Clothing should not distract, limit, or hinder the judge's view of the dog. Youth with long hair should tie it back to keep it from interfering with handling or the judge's view.

- **Acceptable clothing** for all Obedience classes includes slacks, dressy shorts, skorts, capris or crop pants, colored dress jeans, collared blouses and shirts, polo shirts, or similar attire, closed-toe shoes, rubber-soled shoes, flats, and similar type footwear.
- **Inappropriate clothing** includes clothing that is too tight or too revealing, such as short skirts, short shorts, tank tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, low cut blouses or shirts, shorts hanging too low on the waist, clothing with holes or tears in the fabric, blue jeans, faded or torn jeans of any kind, or other similar types of clothing. Do not wear shirts with club names or logos, or clothing with lettering and distracting or offensive wording or designs. Do not wear hats. Do not wear sandals, open-toed shoes, high-heeled shoes, clogs, or similar type footwear. *Exhibitors dressed inappropriately will have points deducted or may be excused from the show ring.*

Dog's Appearance

Dogs must be clean, well-brushed and in good physical condition appropriate for the dog's age. The coat must be free from mats and loose hair. Ears must be clean and free from hair in the ear canal. Dogs are not permitted to be dyed or colored in any way. If coat or nails show any evidence of dye or coloring, the score sheet will reflect a major point deduction.

Hair in Dog's Eyes

Any dog whose hair surrounding the eyes, ears, or beard interferes with its performance may have its hair tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes. Ribbons or bows are not permitted.

Collars

- ***Acceptable collars while in the obedience show ring:*** Well-fitting plain buckle or quick release collars, martingales, or slip collars of an appropriate single length of leather, fabric or chain with two rings, one on each end. Flat securely attached tags are permitted on these collars. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.
- ***Acceptable collars while outside the show ring:*** Head halters, fancy collars, harnesses, and studded collars are permitted on dogs.
- ***Unacceptable collars anywhere on the Fairgrounds:*** Pinch collars, collars with prongs or spikes on inside or outside, electronic collars, or any other special training collars, or muzzles. Youth are subject to disqualification from showing and removal from the Fairgrounds if their dogs are seen wearing these collars or devices.

Leashes

Leashes must be made of fabric or leather and *must* be 6 feet in length for Beginner Novice and Pre-Novice classes. The Novice Group Exercise – Sit and Down Stay must be performed with the dog on a 6-foot leash. For other classes, the leash need be only of sufficient length to provide adequate slack in the Heel on Leash exercise, unless stated otherwise. Chain leashes are not acceptable.

Leashes must be clipped to the collar when dogs are brought in for classes requiring an on-leash exercise, a group exercise, and awards. In a class where a leash is not required for the performance of the individual exercises, the dog may be brought into and taken out of the ring on a leash that slips/attaches through the dog's collar.

Unless designated otherwise, the handler will leave the leash on the judge's table between the individual exercises and during all exercises performed off leash.

Dumbbells

Dumbbells must be made of one or more solid pieces of wood or of non-wooden material similar in size, shape, and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted. Dumbbells will not be hollowed out. They may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish, or may be any color. They may not have decorations or attachments but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell will be proportionate to the size of the dog. The judge must approve the dumbbell.

Bait

Food, treats, or toys are *not* permitted in the show ring or show ring areas during obedience classes. Exhibitors may take dogs out of holding rings and off show floor to give rewards, and then return immediately when finished.

Heel Position

The heel position, as defined in these rules, applies whether the dog is sitting, standing, lying down, or moving at heel. The dog should be at the handler's left side straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. The area from the dog's head to shoulder is to be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog should be close to the handler, without crowding, so the handler has freedom of motion at all times. The dog should stop when the handler stops and sit quietly until the handler gives him a command to move. When beginning the heel, the handler steps off with their left foot. This is not considered an extra command.

Hands

The Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise specifically states that the hands must be in a natural position but do not require that they be at the handler's side while heeling on leash. On the other hand, no judge should consider that a handler is unnatural just because they do not perform with the hands and arms in the same position for each exercise.

In all exercises where the dog is required to heel free, one of these options should be followed: (1) when the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the sides and must hang naturally at the sides when stopped; or (2) the right hand and arm must move naturally at the side, while the left hand must be held against the front of the body, centered at the waist, with the left forearm carried against the body. In either of the above circumstances, the handler's hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast part of an exercise to maintain balance.

In any exercise requiring the dog to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at their sides. Any movement of the handler's hands or arms from the time the dog sits in front and prior to the dog returning to the heel position will be considered an additional signal or command and will be penalized unless such movement is otherwise permitted by these regulations.

Commands and Signals

The dog's name may be used **once** immediately before any verbal command, or before a verbal command and signal when these rules allow command and/or signal. The handler is not to use the dog's name with any signal not given simultaneously with a verbal command. The dog's name, when given immediately before a verbal command, will not be considered as an additional command, but a dog that responds to its name without waiting for the verbal command will be scored as having anticipated the command. The dog should never anticipate the handler's directions but wait for the appropriate commands and/or signals. Moving forward at the heel without any command or signal other than the natural forward movement of the handler's body will not be considered anticipation.

Loud commands by handlers to their dogs create a poor impression of obedience and should be avoided. Shouting is not necessary, even in a noisy place, if the dog is properly trained to respond to a normal tone of voice. Commands the judge deems as excessively loud will be substantially penalized.

When a signal is permitted, it must be a single gesture with one arm and hand only, and the arm and hand must immediately be returned to a natural position. A handler may bend their body and knees to bring their hand level with the dog's eyes while giving a signal to a dog in heel position. Signals must be inaudible, and the handler must not touch the dog. Any unusual noise or motion may be considered to be a signal. Position of the arms and hands and movements of the head and/or body that aid the dog will be considered additional signals. Signaling a correction to a dog is forbidden and will be penalized.

When these rules mention a "**command or signal**," only a single command **or** signal may be given, **not** both. Handlers will be penalized for giving extra commands or signals, or for giving a command and signal

simultaneously. When these rules specify “**command and/or signal,**” the handler may give either a command **or** a signal, or both a command **and** signal simultaneously. The name will not be used with any signal not given simultaneously with a verbal command. Any extra commands or signals must be penalized.

The dog should never anticipate the handler’s directions but will wait for the appropriate commands and/or signals. Moving forward at the heel without any command or signal other than the natural forward movement of the handler’s body will not be considered anticipation.

Lack for prompt response by the dog to a command or signal is subject to a penalty. Delay in following a judge’s order to give a command or signal must be penalized unless the judge directs the delay. Whistling of any kind is prohibited.

Additional Commands or Signals

If a handler gives an additional command or signal not permitted by these *Regulations*, a maximum point deduction will be made. This includes giving a signal or command when none is permitted or using the dog’s name with a permitted signal but without a permitted command.

Handling between Exercises

In the Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, and Novice classes, the dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. No other physical guidance is permitted, and if used, must receive minor or substantial penalties, depending on the circumstances.

In the Graduate Novice, Graduate Open, Open, and Utility classes, there will be a substantial penalty for any dog that is physically guided at any time or not readily controllable. Minor penalties will be imposed for a dog that does not respond promptly to its handler’s commands or signals before or between exercises in these classes.

Praise

Praise and petting are encouraged and allowed between and after exercises. However, points will be deducted from the total score for a dog that is not under reasonable control while being praised. There will be a substantial penalty for any dog that is picked up or carried at any time in the obedience ring while under judgment. Note: A dog is under judgment from the time it enters the ring until it leaves the ring.

Interference and Double Handling

Assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from outside the ring is not permitted. A judge who is aware of such double handling or interference must substantially penalize the dog.

Leaving the Ring

A dog leaving the ring *between* exercises shall receive a 10-point deduction. A dog leaving the ring *during* an exercise shall receive a maximum point deduction. (In 4-H, a maximum point deduction means that at least one-half of the total points for that exercise (in which the dog leaves the ring while performing) will be deducted.

Fouling the Ring

A 25-point deduction will be made for any dog fouling the ring. The exhibitor and their dog are not to be excused from the ring. Judging is to continue once the area is properly cleaned. Fouling includes urine, feces, or vomit. In exceptionally poor ring conditions, judges must confer with the show committee and other judges to determine scoring if fouling should occur.

Earning Obedience Titles Outside of 4-H

Obedience: Exhibitors showing their dogs at any Licensed or Member Obedience Trial or at a Sanctioned Match must show their dogs at the same or higher *Level B classes* than they are showing in AKC, UKC, or other titling shows. Dogs completing their Companion Dog (CD) title (or UKC, or other titling equivalents) *prior to July 1, 2025*, must show in Graduate Novice classes. Dogs completing their Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title (or UKC, or other titling equivalents) *prior to July 1, 2025*, must show in Open or Graduate Open classes. Any dog receiving one or more legs toward a title anytime during the project year must then move into the appropriate B class at the time the first leg was earned. Fun matches do not apply.

Awards

Awards for obedience classes (Beginner Novice A through Utility B), Brace, and Team, include a trophy for each class winner and 1st through 15th place rosettes for each class.

Ohio State Fair Dog Show will require minimum scores for placements. Scores falling below the minimum score will not be eligible for placement. The scale is as follows:

- Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, and Preferred Novice obedience classes must score 190 points out of a possible 230.
- Novice, Grad Novice, Grad Open, Open, and Utility obedience classes must score 180 points out of a possible 230.

Levels and Classes

Level refers to an obedience sub-category, such as Novice. **Class** refers to the two classes within an obedience sub-category. The letters **“A”** and **“B”** refer to the experience of the youth and dog. **“A”** classes are for handlers or dogs with **NO** training. **“A”** classes can never be repeated by the same youth, regardless of what dog is shown. **“A”** classes can never be repeated by the same dog, regardless of what youth shows that dog. **“B”** classes can be repeated by the same youth regardless of what dog is shown, and by the same dog, regardless of who shows that dog, provided the youth and/or dog are not the class winners. If/when a youth and/or dog wins first place in a **“B”** class, the youth and dog must move to the next level. A dog must move to a higher level, once that dog begins performing at that higher level.

Obedience Classes Offered at 2025 Ohio State Fair

Beginner Novice A
Beginner Novice B
Pre-Novice
Pre-Novice Team
Preferred Novice
Novice A
Novice B
Graduate Novice
Open
Graduate Open
Utility
Brace
Advanced Team

Beginner Novice Level and Class Information

Beginner Novice A

Youth may show one project dog in Beginner Novice A. This class is for the beginning exhibitor and beginning dog. This means that the exhibitor and/or dog cannot have any training or showing experience in Obedience prior to the county's current project year. If they have had any training or showing experience, they must enter the Beginner Novice B class OR the Pre-Novice level. Exhibitors and dogs showing in counties that have "pre-beginner-novice" or similar classes must enter either the Beginner Novice B classes OR Pre-Novice at the State Fair. Beginner Novice A youth are NOT permitted to show the same or different dog in any other obedience class. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, they must move to Beginner Novice B OR Pre-Novice at the very minimum. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown in the Beginner Novice B class OR Pre-Novice at the very minimum.

Beginner Novice B

Youth may show two or more project dogs in Beginner Novice B and/or Pre-Novice, provided the youth and dog meet eligibility requirements. A dog cannot be shown in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice in the same year. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes and/or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Beginner Novice A or has had training or showing experience at the Beginner Novice level prior to the county's current project year. They have not yet progressed to Novice level or higher. The first-place winner must move to Pre-Novice, or Novice A or higher with that same dog. The dog of a first-place winner in the Beginner Novice B class must either be shown in Pre-Novice or be shown in the Novice A class at the very minimum. If an exhibitor and/or dog places in Beginner Novice B at the Ohio State Fair, they can repeat this class at the state fair provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Novice level or higher, OR they can show in Pre-Novice provided the dog is not performing at the Novice level or higher. Exhibitors have the option of moving back and forth between Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice until winning both of these classes or they have experience at the Novice level, with the same dog. Dogs shown in this class cannot show in Beginner Novice A.

- a. Youth may move back and forth between Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice, from year to year, until winning first place in one of those classes.
- b. Once a youth/dog wins Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice, they may go to the other option or move up to Novice.
- c. Once/if a youth wins both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice (not in the same year), they must move to Novice, unless they are showing a different dog that is eligible to show in these classes.
- d. Once a youth/dog has experience or is showing at the Novice level, they must move to the Novice level. Once at the Novice level, the handler/dog cannot go back to Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice.

Pre-Novice Level Information

Youth may show two or more project dogs in Beginner Novice B and/or Pre-Novice, provided the youth and dog meet eligibility requirements. A dog cannot be shown in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice in the same year. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes and/or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Beginner Novice A or has had training or showing experience at the Beginner Novice level prior to the county's current project year. They have not yet progressed to Novice level or higher. The first-place winner must move to Beginner Novice B, or Novice A or higher with that same dog. The dog of a first-place winner in the Pre-Novice class must either be shown in Beginner Novice B or be shown in the Novice A class at the very minimum. If an exhibitor and/or dog places in Pre-Novice at the Ohio State Fair, they can repeat this class at the state fair provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Novice level or higher, OR they can show in Beginner Novice B provided the dog is not performing at the Novice level or higher. Exhibitors have the option of moving back and forth between Pre-Novice and Beginner Novice B until winning both of these classes or they have experience at the Novice level, with the same dog. Dogs shown in this class cannot show in the Beginner Novice A class.

- a. Youth may move back and forth between Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice, from year to year, until winning first place in one of those classes.
- b. Once a youth/dog wins Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice, they may go to the other option or move up to Novice.
- c. Once/if a youth wins both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice (not in the same year), they must move to Novice, unless they are showing a different dog that is eligible to show in these classes.
- d. Once a youth/dog has experience or is showing at the Novice level, they must move to the Novice level. Once at the Novice level, the handler/dog cannot go back to Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice.

Preferred Novice Level and Class Information

Youth may show two or more project dog at the Preferred Novice level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements.

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice or has had training or showing experience at the Preferred Novice level prior to the county's current project year. They have not yet progressed to Novice level or higher. Once a dog shows in Preferred Novice, that dog cannot go back to either Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice. The first-place Preferred Novice class winner must move to Novice A or higher with that same dog. The dog of a first-place winner in the Preferred Novice class must be shown in the Novice A class at the very minimum. If an exhibitor and/or dog places in Preferred Novice at the Ohio State Fair, they can repeat this class at the state fair provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Novice level or higher.

Novice Level and Class Information

Youth may show one project dog at the Novice A level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show two or more project dogs at the Novice B level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes and/or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

Novice A

In this class the exhibitor and/or dog cannot have any training or showing experience at the Novice level prior to the county's current project year. If they have had any training or show experience at the Novice

level prior to the county's current project year, they must show at the Novice B level at the very minimum. Once an exhibitor shows in this class, they must move to Novice B at the very minimum. Once a dog has been shown in this class, the dog must be shown at the Novice B class at the very minimum.

Novice B

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Novice A or has had experience at the Novice level prior to the county's current project year. They have not yet progressed to Graduate Novice or higher. The first-place winner must move to Graduate Novice or higher with that same dog. The dog of a first-place winner in the Novice B class must then be shown in the Graduate Novice class at the very minimum. If an exhibitor and/or dog places in Novice B at the Ohio State Fair, they can repeat this class at state provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Graduate Novice level or higher. Dogs shown in this class cannot show in any lower levels of dog obedience.

Progressive Ring Judging

At the Ohio State Fair, a Progressive Ring style of judging is used for Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, Preferred Novice and Novice obedience classes.

- a. For Beginner Novice, the Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, and Sit for Exam are judged in the first ring. When finished, the youth and their dog then progress to the next ring for the Sit Stay and Recall. The steward takes the youth's score sheet from the first ring to the second ring.
- b. In Pre-Novice, the Heel on Leash and Figure 8 on Leash are judged in the first ring. When finished, the youth and their dog then progress to the next ring for the Stand for Exam on Leash and Recall on Leash. The steward takes the youth's score sheet from the first ring to the second ring. Once finished with these first four exercises, the youth and dog are directed to a holding area for a short wait until there are a minimum of 5 dogs to be judged on the Long Sit and Long Down exercises.
- c. For Preferred Novice, the Heel on Leash and Figure 8, and Heel Free are judged in the first ring. They then move to the second ring for the Stand for Exam (off leash), Recall (off leash), Stay, Sit or Down (on leash), and Sit Stay-Get Your Leash.
- d. For Novice, the Heel on Leash and Figure 8, and Heel Free are judged in the first ring. They then move to the second ring for the Stand for Exam (off leash), Recall (off leash), and Sit Stay-Get Your Leash. Once finished they go to the holding area to wait for the Group Exercise to be judged.

Advanced Obedience

Youth may show two project dogs in each of the following Obedience classes: Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, and Utility provided youth and dogs meet eligibility requirements. Level "A" and "B" in Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open and Utility will be combined into single classes, without designation of experience. Classes provided at these levels will be listed as Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open and Utility. Youth may show the same dog or different dog in other non-obedience disciplines and/or a different dog in other obedience levels provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year. If a youth and/or dog wins the first-place trophy, they must move to a higher level with the same dog; however, can continue to show at the same level with other dogs, providing they meet eligibility requirements. Exception: Youth/dog team winning Open may repeat this class until ready to move to Graduate Open. Youth winning Graduate Open may repeat this class until ready to move to Utility.

Graduate Novice Level and Class Information

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Novice B or has had any training or showing experience at the Graduate Novice level prior to the county's current project year. They have not yet progressed to Open class or higher. The first-place winner must move to Open or higher with that same dog. The dog of a first-place winner in the Graduate Novice class must then be shown in the Open class at the very minimum. The dog of a first-place winner in the Graduate Novice B class must then be shown in Open at the very minimum. If an exhibitor and/or dog places in Graduate Novice at the Ohio State Fair, they can repeat this class at state provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Open level or higher. Dogs shown in this class are not permitted to show in any lower levels of dog obedience.

Open Level and Class Information

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Graduate Novice or has had any training or showing experience at the Open level prior to the county's current project year. They have not yet progressed to the Graduate Open level or higher. If an exhibitor and/or dog wins first place **or** places in Open at the Ohio State Fair, they can repeat this class at state provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Graduate Open level. Dogs shown in this class are not permitted to show in any lower levels of dog obedience.

Graduate Open Level and Class Information

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Open or has had training or showing experience at the Graduate Open level prior to the county's current project year. They have not yet progressed to the Utility level or higher. If an exhibitor and/or dog wins first place **or** places in Graduate Open at the Ohio State Fair, they can repeat this class at state provided the county requirements have been met, and the dog is not performing at the Utility level. Dogs shown in this class are not permitted to show in any lower levels of dog obedience.

Utility Level and Class Information

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Graduate Open or has had training or showing experience at the Utility level prior to the county's current project year. If an exhibitor and/or dog wins first place **or** places in the Utility class at the Ohio State Fair, they can repeat this class at the state fair provided the county requirements have been met. Dogs shown in this class are not permitted to show in any lower levels of dog obedience at the Ohio State Fair.

Brace and Team Class Information

Brace

The Brace Class will be for two dogs (either of the same breed, of different breeds, or mixed breeds) that are capable of performing the Novice exercises. *Beginner Novice and Pre-Novice dogs cannot participate in this class.* For State Fair participation, the exhibitors and dogs must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair/Ohio 4-H Dog Show Rules*. Both dogs shown by a youth in Brace must be that youth's dog projects. One dog cannot be another family member's show dog or another youth's project.

Dogs may be shown unattached or coupled (the coupling device will be not less than 6 inches in overall length). Whichever method is used will be continued throughout all exercises.

Exercises, performances and judging will be as in the Novice Class. The brace should work in unison at all times. Dogs will be judged as one unit.

Team

This class will be for teams of four exhibitors and their dogs. *If there are not enough youth from one county to form a team, members from more than one county may make up a team. Counties do not need to share a border.* For Ohio State Fair participation, teams must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair/Ohio 4-H Dog Show Rules*. The same four dogs will perform all exercises.

Youth may show a Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice project dog in the Pre-Novice Team class and show a Novice level or above project dog in the Advanced Team class if having multiple dogs. Only one dog can be entered per exhibitor as a pre-novice team competitor.

There will be two judges, one of whom will call orders while the other scores the team's performance. The teams will be judged one at a time, except for the Group Exercises, which will be done with no more than four teams (16 dogs) in the ring.

In all exercises except the Drop on Recall, the teams have the option of executing the judge's orders on the team captain's repeat of the command.

In the Figure Eight portion of the Heel on Leash exercise, five stewards will be used. The stewards will stand 8 feet apart in a straight line. Each handler with the dog sitting in heel position will stand about equidistant from each of two stewards with all members of the team facing the same direction. On orders from the judge, the team will perform the Figure Eight, each handler starting around the steward on their left and circling only the two stewards between whom they had been standing.

Cross-county Team Requirements

ONLY if a county (not a club) does not have enough members to complete one pre-novice and/or one advanced team, they may then enter a cross-county team. For cross-county teams:

- a. Members must represent their county of 4-H enrollment.
- b. Members from one or more additional counties can make up a cross-county team.
- c. Cross-county team members do not need to be from neighboring counties with adjacent borders.
- d. Team members participating from another county must provide enrollment documentation in the form of a letter from one Extension professional in their county on county letterhead. This letter must be emailed to Renee Clark, OSF Dog Show Director, clark.471@osu.edu no later than June 15.
- e. Documentation will be confirmed upon receipt of Extension professional's letter and team online entries.

Pre-Novice Team

This class will be for teams of four exhibitors and their dogs showing at the Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice levels. Youth may enter two or more project dogs in Beginner Novice B and/or Pre-Novice and may enter more than one dog in Pre-Novice team provided the project dogs entered are for different teams. Team alternates must enter online for their respective Team class to be eligible to replace

another team member. For Ohio State Fair participation, teams must meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair /Ohio 4-H Dog Show Rules*. The same four dogs will perform all exercises. The handlers and dogs on a team will perform the exercises simultaneously and will be judged as specified for the Pre-Novice class. All exercises will be done on leash. In the Recall exercise, on the order from the judge, handlers will simultaneously walk forward to the end of the leash and turn to face their dogs. On the judge's order, handlers will call or signal dogs to come one at a time. The finish will be done in unison on order from the judge. *This class is for Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice dogs only.* Youth may enter more than one project dog as a Pre Novice team competitor as long as they enter each dog on a different team. Dogs showing in a higher class (Novice or above) are ineligible to compete in the Pre-Novice Team class.

Advanced Team

This class will be for teams of four exhibitors and their dogs showing at the Novice level and above. For Ohio State Fair participation, teams meet the eligibility requirements of the *2025 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair/Ohio 4-H Dog Show Rules*. The same four dogs will perform all exercises. Youth may participate in a second Advanced Team class provided they use a different project dog. Team alternates must enter online for their respective Team class to be eligible to replace another team member. *The handlers and dogs on a team will perform the exercises simultaneously and will be judged as specified for the Novice class except a Drop on Recall will be used in place of the Recall exercise.* Novice dogs and handlers are permitted to work on and perform the Drop on Recall while retaining their Novice status.

In the Drop on Recall exercise, the handlers will leave their dogs simultaneously on order of the judge. The dogs will be called or signaled in, one at a time, on a separate order from the judge to each handler. Handlers will, without any additional order from the judge, command or signal their dogs to drop at a spot midway between the line of dogs and the handlers. Each dog will remain in the down position until all four have been called and dropped. The judge will give the order to call the dogs, which will be called or signaled simultaneously. The finish will be done in unison on order from the judge.

Team Scoring

Individual dogs' scores will be based on the performance of the dogs and handlers individually, plus team precision and coordination. Each dog and handler will be scored against the customary maximum for a team total of 800 available points. Individual dogs' scores need not be recorded.

The exercises and maximum scores are listed in the following table:

Pre-Novice Team Exercises	Advanced Team Exercises	Max. Points
1. Heel on Leash	1. Heel on Leash	160
2. Figure 8 on Leash	2. Stand for Examination	120
3. Stand for Examination on Leash	3. Heel Free	160
4. Recall on Leash	4. Drop on Recall	120
5. Long Sit on Leash (1 minute)	5. Sit Stay-Get Your Leash	120
6. Long Down on Leash (1 minute)	6. Group Exercise-Sit and Down Stay	120
Maximum Possible Points		800

4-H Obedience Scoring Guidelines

Ohio 4-H Obedience Regulations provide the foundation for judges to follow and define criteria for judges to use when judging 4-H dog shows in Ohio. Each judge is expected to be consistent in their scoring for each

class judged at a given show. The same methods and standards must be used for judging and scoring “A” and “B” classes, as well as in judging and scoring the work of dogs of different or mixed breeds. However, each judge has their own personal standards and 4-H expects the judge to apply those standards to the best of their ability. There is no published list of reasonable and customary penalty points for various faults and errors, so there will be some variations in the scoring systems of individual judges.

The performances of the handler and dog team in the ring must be accurate and correct and must conform to *Ohio 4-H Obedience Regulations*. However, it is essential that the handler and dog demonstrate teamwork, willingness, and enjoyment. A performance that is smooth and natural on the part of the handler must be given precedence over a performance based on military precision and authoritative commands.

Judges must be consistent in evaluating each handler and dog throughout the same obedience class or classes, such as all Pre-Novice classes, at a given show. Judges must evaluate each handler and dog in accordance with these obedience regulations and not inject their own variations into the exercises. The judge is expected to evaluate each handler and dog team against a standard of a theoretically perfect performance in each exercise, and score each dog and handler against this standard. Any action or inaction on the part of the handler or dog that results in the display less than that of a theoretically perfect performance should be penalized.

Maximum Point Deductions and Minor to Substantial Point Deductions

1. The obedience score sheets are divided into areas of Maximum Point Deductions and Minor to Substantial Point Deductions. Points are always deducted from a handler/dog team’s total possible points earned for each exercise, never added.
2. In AKC, a Maximum Point Deduction means that all points in an exercise are lost, and the handler/dog team receives a zero (0) or Non-Qualifying (NQ) score for that exercise. **Zeros are not given in 4-H, provided the youth attempts to perform the exercise with his or her dog.** Youth may not enter classes without both youth and dogs being prepared prior to the State Fair to perform the required exercises. A zero (0) will be given to any handler/dog team not attempting an exercise. A zero (0) on the exhibitor’s score sheet will result in an incomplete for that class, and therefore the exhibitor will not be eligible for an award.
3. Our goal is to provide a positive learning experience, rewarding youth for training their dogs to the best of their abilities, and showcasing what they have learned as a team at 4-H obedience competition. Therefore, **in 4-H, a Maximum Point Deduction means that at least one-half of the total points for that exercise will be deducted if the youth/dog team fails to perform one part of that exercise.** If they continue to make errors in that same exercise, the judge will continue to deduct points. For example, in the Novice Recall exercise, if the first error made was that the dog did not come on the first command or signal, the judge will deduct 20 points from the possible 40 points in that exercise. Then if the dog makes a second error, such as anticipating the recall, the judge will deduct additional points, and so on for additional errors.
4. Under the Minor to Substantial Point Deduction section, **Substantial Deductions are 3 or more points deducted per fault or error. Minor Point Deductions are from ½ to 2 ½ points deducted per fault or error.**
5. When totaling the Maximum Point Deductions and Minor to Substantial Point Deductions, judges must give each youth/dog team a minimum score of 5 points per exercise. Points are deducted in one-half (1/2) or whole point increments (no three-fourths or one-thirds, etc.)
6. A dog leaving the ring *between* exercises shall receive a 10-point deduction. A dog leaving the ring *during* an exercise shall receive a maximum point deduction. (In 4-H, a maximum point deduction means that at least one-half of the total points for that exercise (in which the dog leaves the ring while performing) will be deducted.

7. A 25-point deduction will be made for any dog fouling the ring. The exhibitor and their dog are not to be excused from the ring. Judging is to continue once the area is properly cleaned. Fouling includes urine, feces or vomit. In exceptionally poor ring conditions, judges should confer with the show committee and other judges to determine scoring if fouling should occur.

Ties in Scoring

Ties will be broken as follows:

- *Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, Preferred Novice, Novice Obedience:* When two or more exhibitors have the same overall scores, the scores in the first exercise will be compared. The exhibitor with the highest score in the first exercise will receive the highest placing, and so forth. If all exhibitors have the same score in the first exercise, the scores in the second exercise will be compared, and so forth until ties are broken. If the scores are equal throughout all the exercises, including the Exhibitor's Appearance, Dog's Appearance, and Sportsmanship, ties will be broken by the exhibitors and their dogs performing a heeling pattern specified by the judge.
- *Graduate Novice & above Levels of Obedience:* Ties will be broken by the exhibitors and their dogs performing an exercise specified by the judge.

Summary of Progression of Obedience Classes

Beginner Novice A	- 1 year, then move to Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice (Beginner Novice A class can never be repeated by handler OR dog)
Beginner Novice B	- can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner OR can show in Pre-Novice unless class winner. Once class winner in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice, then move to Novice A
Pre-Novice	- can repeat class with same or different dog unless class winner OR can show in Beginner Novice B unless class winner. Once class winner in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice, then move to Preferred Novice
Preferred Novice	- can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, then move to Novice A
Novice A	- 1 year, then move to Novice B (Novice A class can never be repeated by handler OR dog)
Novice B	- can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, then move to Grad Novice
Graduate Novice	- can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, then move to Open
Open	- can repeat class <i>with same dog regardless of winning</i> if not moving to Graduate Open
Graduate Open	- <i>can repeat this class with same dog regardless of winning</i> if not moving to Utility
Utility	- <i>can repeat this class with same dog regardless of winning</i>

- a. Exhibitors must continually progress to a higher class or level of obedience training with the same dog. Any previous participants, both youth and dogs, in classes Beginner Novice A and Novice A, may not enter the same class ever again. First place winners (youth and dogs) of Beginner Novice B, Pre-Novice, Preferred Novice, Novice B, and Graduate Novice are not permitted to repeat the same class with the same dog. First place winners (youth and dogs) of Open, Graduate Open, and Utility may repeat this class each year.

- b. Participants in Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice may move back and forth between Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice from year to year, until winning first place in one of those classes. Once an exhibitor and dog win Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice, they may go to the other option or move up to Preferred Novice.
- c. Participants in Preferred Novice, Novice B, Graduate Novice, and Open can show in these classes every year with the same dog, unless winning first place. Participants in Open, Graduate Open, and Utility can show in these classes every year with the same dog, regardless of winning.
- d. Dogs of first place winners in obedience classes are not permitted to be shown in the same or lower obedience levels or classes again, except they may be shown in Open, Graduate Open or Utility every year.
- e. Dogs that have placed in obedience classes may repeat the same classes provided they are not performing at a higher level. They may never show in a lower level obedience class again.

APPENDIX

Beginner Novice Obedience Exercises

Beginner Novice

AKC's Beginner Novice is the basis for these exercises. However, they have been modified for the Ohio 4-H program. If you choose to compete in AKC, please be aware that there are differences in the requirements of some of the exercises between the two programs.

Beginner Novice A	Beginner Novice B	Maximum Score
1. Heel on Leash	Heel on Leash	40 points
2. Figure Eight (on leash)	Figure Eight (on leash)	40 points
3. Sit for Exam (on leash)	Sit for Exam (on leash)	40 points
4. Sit Stay (on leash)	Sit Stay (leash attached, on ground)	40 points
5. Recall (on leash)	Recall (off leash)	40 points

Heel on Leash (the same for both A & B classes)

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise will be *“Forward”* and *“Exercise Finished.”* Rally signs will be used for this exercise and will be placed to the right of the handler's path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the team to aid in that change. The Start sign, while not required, may be used to signify the starting point for the heel on leash exercise.

Signs to be used are *“Right turn,” “Left turn,” “About turn,” “Slow,” “Normal,” “Fast”* and *“Halt/Sit.”* *“Fast”* means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed.

Turns will be used only when the handler is moving at a normal speed. Turn signs may be placed in any sequence and may be repeated. Two of each turn sign must be available for the judge's use. Both the *“Fast”* and *“Slow”* signs must be followed by a *“Normal”* sign. The *“Halt/Sit”* sign will be used once at the end of the exercise. The judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class. The judge will standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class.

The leash must be 6 feet in length. It may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position. Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of any extra commands and/or signals will be penalized.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge will ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, "Forward." The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding. The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At the "Halt/Sit" sign, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal. The judge will order, "Exercise finished" at the completion of this exercise.

A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement, by the handler to the dog, will be allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, and attaboy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.) A verbal command to heel at the beginning of the exercise is the only command allowed during the heeling exercise.

Rally signs may be used. The signs may be placed either flat on the ground or on a stand. The course should be laid so that the signs are to the right of the handler.

Figure Eight (same for both A & B classes)

The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise are: "Forward," "Halt," and "Exercise Finished."

For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand, and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two posts positioned 8 feet apart. The Figure Eight will be performed on leash; the handler may go around either post first. Stewards will no longer be used as posts. After the judge asks, "Are you ready?" and gives the order, "Forward," the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two posts twice.

There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again.

A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement, by the handler to the dog, will be allowed without penalty.

Sit For Exam (same for both A & B classes)

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog sits in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. Orders are: "Sit your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog" and "Exercise finished." This exercise is to be performed with the dog on a 6-foot leash.

On the judge's order, the handler will command the dog to sit. The handler will then stand with the dog sitting in the heel position, give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet to the end of the leash, turn and face the dog. The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch only the dog's head. On the order "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The handler may gather the

leash at any time while returning to the dog. The dog must remain sitting until the judge has said, *"Exercise finished."*

Sit Stay on Leash – 45 seconds (A class)

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position for 45 seconds. Orders for this exercise are: *"Sit your dog," "Leave your dog," "Return to your dog,"* and *"Exercise finished."*

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. Prior to starting the exercise, the judge will ask if the handler is ready. When the judge gives the order *"Sit your dog,"* the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. The judge will order *"Leave your dog,"* and the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed to the end of the leash and turn to face the dog. The dog will remain seated for 45 seconds. At the judge's command of *"Return to your dog,"* the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order *"Exercise finished."* The judge should not deduct points if the leash either touches or does not touch the ground.

Sit Stay – Handler Walk Around the Ring (B class)

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position. Orders for this exercise are: *"Sit your dog," "Leave your dog,"* and *"Exercise finished."*

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in approximately the center of a marked 20' x 20' perimeter within the ring. Prior to starting the exercise, the judge will ask if the handler is ready. The leash remains attached to the dog's collar and will be dropped/placed on the ground between the dog and the handler at the judge's command. When the judge gives the order *"Sit your dog,"* the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit, if not already sitting. The judge will order *"Leave your dog,"* and the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and then walk 10 feet straight out from in front of their dog. The handler will then turn either to the right or left as directed by the judge and walk the perimeter of the 20' x 20' marked area. Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the marked area, the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order *"Exercise finished."*

Recall on Leash (A class)

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly.

Orders are: *"Leave your dog," "Call your dog,"* and *"Exercise finished."* On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward, to the end of the 6-foot leash, and turn to face the dog.

On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, and sit in front near the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.

A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement while the dog is coming to the handler will be allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, attaboy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.)

Recall off Leash (B class)

This exercise differs from the "A" class. The leash is removed for this exercise and kept by the handler. When the handler removes the leash, they may hold it in any manner using one or both hands, or draped around the neck.

After the judge's command to leave the dog, the handler will then walk forward, across the ring, and turn to face the dog.

On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, and sit in front near the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.

After the judge orders "*Exercised finished*," the leash is reattached to the dog's collar.

A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement while the dog is coming to the handler will be allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, attaboy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.) Caution should be taken to not fidget with the leash but to keep the hands calm and steady.

Pre-Novice Obedience Exercises

All Pre-Novice exercises will be performed On Leash (leash must be 6 feet in length)

Pre-Novice Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Heel on Leash	45 points
2. Figure 8 on Leash	25 points
3. Stand for Exam on Leash	30 points
4. Recall on Leash	40 points
5. Long Sit on Leash (1 minute)	30 points
6. Long Down on Leash (1 minute)	30 points

Heel on Leash

The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the ability of the handler and dog to work as a team. Orders for this exercise are "*Forward*," "*Halt*," "*Right Turn*," "*Left Turn*," "*About Turn*," "*Slow*," "*Normal*," and "*Fast*." All "*About Turns*" will be Right About Turns. Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at normal speed. The other orders may be given in any sequence, and turns and halts may be repeated.

The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position. Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of any extra commands and/or signals will be penalized.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge will say to the handler, "*Are you ready?*" The handler should answer either "*Yes*," or "*No*." When the handler is ready the judge will give the order, "*Forward*." The handler and dog walk briskly, and in a natural manner, with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding. The area from the dog's head to shoulder should be in

line with the handler's left hip. The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. The handler may give a command OR signal to heel, NOT both.

Remaining Orders given by the Judge

Halt: When the judge says, "*Halt*," the handler stops. The dog should sit straight and promptly in the heel position. The handler should not give a command OR signal to the dog. The dog should not move until the handler again moves forward on the judge's command. After each halt, the handler is permitted to give a command OR signal to heel before again moving forward.

Right Turn: When the judge says, "*Right Turn*," the handler and dog make a ninety-degree (90°) turn to the right. This turn should be made squarely.

Left Turn: When the judge says, "*Left Turn*," the handler and dog make a ninety-degree (90°) turn to the left. This turn should be made squarely.

About Turn: When the judge says, "*About Turn*," the handler and dog make a one-hundred-eighty degree (180°) turn to the right.

Slow: When the judge says, "*Slow*," the handler and dog walk at a noticeably slower pace than normal.

Normal: The handler and dog begin the heeling pattern at a normal pace. After the judge gives the order to walk "*Slow*" or "*Fast*," they will give the order, "*Normal*." The handler and dog then return to a normal pace.

Fast: When the judge says, "*Fast*," the handler and dog must run, moving forward at a noticeably accelerated pace.

At the completion of the Heel exercise, the judge will say, "*Exercise Finished*." At this time it is appropriate for the handler to praise their dog.

Figure Eight

For this exercise, the handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two posts positioned eight (8) feet apart. Stewards will no longer be used for posts. The judge will ask, "*Are you ready?*" The handler will say, "*Yes*" or "*No*." After the handler and dog are ready, the judge will give the order, "*Forward*." The handler may choose to go in either direction. The handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two posts twice. The judge will order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end. There will be no about turn, fast, or slow during this exercise. At the completion of the Figure Eight exercise, the judge will say, "*Exercise Finished*." At this time it is appropriate for the handler to praise their dog.

Stand for Examination

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to stand and stay in position before, during, and after the examination without displaying resentment. The orders given by the judge are, "*Stand your dog, and leave when you are ready*," "*Back to your dog*," and "*Exercise Finished*."

On the judge's order, the handler will take their dog to the place indicated by the judge and have the dog sit in heel position. On the judge's order to "*Stand your dog, and leave when you are ready*," the handler will stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler's choice, taking any reasonable time if they chooses to pose the dog as in the show ring. The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position and give the

command and/or signal to stay. The handler will then leave from heel position, walk straight forward about six (6) feet, and turn and face the dog.

The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch the dog's head, body, and hindquarters. On the order *"Back to your dog,"* the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The dog must remain standing, without moving its feet, until the judge has said, *"Exercise Finished."* At this time it is appropriate for the handler to praise their dog. The dog must not show any shyness or resentment during this exercise.

Recall

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to stay where left until called by the handler, and for the dog to respond promptly to the handler's command or signal to come. The orders given by the judge are, *"Leave your dog," "Call your dog,"* and *"Finish."*

The handler will take the dog to the place designated by the judge and have the dog sit in the heel position. On the judge's order, *"Leave your dog,"* the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward to the end of the leash, turn to face the dog, standing with the hand not holding the leash hanging naturally at the side of the body. On the judge's order or signal to *"Call your dog,"* the handler will either command OR signal the dog to come, NOT both. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. The dog should not touch the handler or sit between the handler's feet.

On the judge's order to *"Finish,"* the handler will give a command OR signal to finish, NOT both. The dog must go promptly to heel position and sit straight at heel. The method by which the dog goes to heel position is optional.

Group Exercises

Long Sit (1 minute)

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to remain in the sitting position for one (1) minute. The judge's orders are *"Sit your dogs," "Leave your dogs,"* and *"Return to your dogs."*

This exercise is performed together as a group by all the competing dogs of one class provided the dogs can be spaced four (4) feet apart per dog on one side of the ring. If there are more dogs competing than can be spaced 4 feet per dog, some must be judged in another group. This means that there should be no more than 12 dogs in any one group if the ring is 50 feet long and no more than 10 dogs in any one group if the ring is 40 feet long.

Before starting the Long Sit, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. When the judge gives the order, *"Sit your dogs,"* the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit, if they are not already sitting. On further order to *"Leave your dogs,"* the handlers will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately will go to the end of the leash, turn, and face their dogs.

If a dog gets up and starts to wander or follow its handler or if a dog moves to interfere with another dog, the judge will promptly instruct the handler or one of the stewards to remove the dog from the ring and/or keep it away from other dogs.

After one minute from the time the judge has ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order to *"Return to your dogs."* The handlers must go back promptly, walking around and in back of their

own dog to the heel position. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position.

Long Down (1 minute)

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to remain in the down position for ONE (1) minute. The judge's orders are "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Return to your dogs."

This exercise is performed together as a group by all the competing dogs of one class provided the dogs can be spaced four (4) feet apart per dog on one side of the ring. If there are more dogs competing than can be spaced 4 feet per dog, some must be judged in another group. This means that there should be no more than 12 dogs in any one group of the ring is 50 feet long and no more than 10 dogs in any one group if the ring is 40 feet long. Pre-Novice A and Pre-Novice B classes can be combined for the Long Down.

If a dog gets up and starts to wander or follow its handler or if a dog moves to interfere with another dog, the judge will promptly instruct the handler or one of the stewards to remove the dog from the ring and/or keep it away from other dogs.

Before starting the Long Down, the judge will ask if the handlers are ready. On the judge's order, "Down your dogs," the handlers will down their dogs, without touching either the dogs or their collars, so that the dogs are facing the opposite side of the ring. The rest of this exercise is done in the same manner as the Long Sit, except that the judge will order the handlers to return after one minute, and the dogs must not move from the down position until after the judge has said, "Exercise finished." The dogs will not be required to sit at the end of this exercise.

Preferred Novice Obedience Exercises

Preferred Novice Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight	40 points
2. Stand for Examination	30 points
3. Heel Free	40 points
4. Recall	30 points
5. Stay – Sit or Down	30 points
6. Sit Stay – Get Your Leash	30 points

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight

(*This exercise is done **On Leash***) The Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight will be done as one exercise. The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The orders are: "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn" "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal" and "Fast." "Fast" means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. All about turns will be right about turns. Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at a normal speed. The other orders may be given in any sequence and turns and halts may be repeated. However, the judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class.

The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging or crowding. The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At each order to halt, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal and shall not move until the handler again moves forward on the judge's order. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again. The judge will say "exercise finished" after this portion of the exercise.

For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two posts, positioned eight (8) feet apart. Stewards will no longer be used for posts. The Figure Eight will be done on leash; the handler may go around either post first. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. The handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two posts twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end.

Stand for Examination

This exercise is done off leash. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment.

The orders are: "Stand your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog," and "Exercise finished."

Prior to the start of the exercises the handler will remove the leash and give it to a steward, who will place it on the judge's table or other designated place. The handler will take their dog to the place indicated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler will stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler's choice, taking any reasonable time if they choose to pose the dog as in the show ring. The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position, and may give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet, and then turn and face the dog.

The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch the dog's head, body, and hindquarters. On the order "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished."

Heel Free

This exercise will be performed as in the Heel on Leash but without either the leash or the Figure Eight. The scoring and orders will be the same.

Recall

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come.

The orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward to the other end of the ring, turn to face the dog, and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally. On the judge's

order or signal the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot. On the judge's order, the handler will give a command or signal to finish. The dog must go smartly to heel position and sit. The manner in which the dog finishes will be optional, provided it is prompt and the dog sits straight at heel.

Stay – Sit or Down (Handler Walk Around the Ring)

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide the Sit/Down position to be performed in this class. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit or down position as directed by the judge.

All dogs entered in the class will perform the same stay exercise. The dog and handler should be positioned approximately equidistant to each side of the ring as to be perpendicular to and facing one of the sides. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position.

The orders are: "Sit your dog" or "Down your dog," "Leave your dog," and "Exercise finished."

The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed straight forward to the edge of the ring. The handler will walk around the inside perimeter of the ring in a direction as indicated by the judge, with all dogs entered in the class being judged the same way. Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the ring, the handler will approach the dog from the front and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order "Exercise finished."

Sit Stay – Get Your Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position. The orders are: "Sit your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash," and "Back to your dog."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order the handler may command and/or signal the dog to sit without touching either the dog or the dog's collar. On further order to "Leave your dog to get your leash," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to the place (at least 30 feet from the dog) designated by the judge for the leash, pick up the leash, turn, and face the dog. The judge will give the order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will tell the handler "Clip your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog." The handler is required to exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Novice Obedience Exercises

Novice Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Heel on Leash and Figure 8	40 points
2. Stand for Examination	30 points
3. Heel Free	40 points
4. Recall	30 points
5. Sit Stay – Get Your Leash	30 points
6. Group Exercise – Sit & Down Stay	30 points

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight

*(This exercise is done **On Leash**)* The Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight will be done as one exercise. The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The orders are: "Forward," "Halt," "Right turn" "Left turn," "About turn," "Slow," "Normal" and "Fast." "Fast" means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. All about turns will be right about turns. Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at a normal speed. The other orders may be given in any sequence, and turns and halts may be repeated. However, the judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class.

The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging or crowding. The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At each order to halt, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal and shall not move until the handler again moves forward on the judge's order. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again. The judge will say "exercise finished" after this portion of the exercise.

For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two posts, positioned eight (8) feet apart. Stewards will no longer be used for posts. The Figure Eight will be done on leash; the handler may go around either post first. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. The handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two posts twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end.

Stand for Examination

This exercise is done off leash. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment.

The orders are: "Stand your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog," and "Exercise finished."

Prior to the start of the exercises the handler will remove the leash and give it to a steward, who will place it on the judge's table or other designated place. The handler will take their dog to the place indicated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler will stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler's choice, taking any reasonable time if they choose to pose the dog as in the show ring. The handler will then stand with the dog in the heel position, and may give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet, and then turn and face the dog.

The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch the dog's head, body, and hindquarters. On the order "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished."

Heel Free

The purpose of this exercise is to show the ability of the handler and dog to work as a team without the control of a leash. This exercise will be performed as in the Heel on Leash but without either the leash or the Figure Eight. The handler's left hand may be held against the front of the body, centered at the waist, or hang and move naturally at the handler's left side. The right hand should hang naturally at the right side of the handler's body.

Recall

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come.

The orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward to the other end of the ring, turn to face the dog, and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally. On the judge's order or signal the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot. On the judge's order, the handler will give a command or signal to finish. The dog must go smartly to heel position and sit. The manner in which the dog finishes will be optional, provided it is prompt and the dog sits straight at heel.

Sit Stay – Get Your Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position.

The orders are: "Sit your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash," and "Back to your dog."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order the handler may command and/or signal the dog to sit without touching either the dog or the dog's collar. On further order to "Leave your dog to get your leash," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to the place designated (at least 30 feet from the dog) by the judge for the leash, pick up the leash, turn, and face the dog. The judge will give the order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and behind the dog to heel position. The dog must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will tell the handler "Clip your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog." The handler is required to exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling, or tugging on the leash.

Group Exercise – Sit and Down Stay

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in a sitting or down position, whichever is required at the time.

The orders are: "Sit your dogs," "Down your dogs," "Leave your dogs," and "Back to your dogs."

This exercise must be performed with the dog on a 6-foot leash. The leash will remain clipped to the dog's collar and the handler will hold on to the leash throughout the entire exercise. The armband will remain on the handler's left arm. Prior to beginning the exercise, the judge will instruct the handlers to remove their

dog if it starts to move out of position. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dogs to sit without touching either the dog or the dog's collar. On further order, "Leave you dogs," the handlers may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to the end of the leash, without jerking or tightening the leash, turn, and face their dogs. The leash must remain loose with slack throughout the entire exercise.

After one minute from the time the judge ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order "Back to your dogs." The handlers must return directly, walking around and in back of their own dog to heel position. The dogs must not move from the sitting position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position. The dogs must remain under control between this two-part exercise.

Before starting the Down Stay portion of this exercise, the judge will ask "Are you ready?" On the judge's order, the handlers will command and/or signal their dog to down without touching either the dog or the dog's collar. On further order to "Leave your dogs," the handlers may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to the end of the leash, without jerking or tightening the leash, turn, and face their dogs. The leash must remain loose with slack throughout the entire exercise.

After one minute from the time the judge ordered the handlers to leave their dogs, the judge will give the order, "Back to your dogs." The handlers must return directly, walking around and in back of their own dog to heel position. The dogs must not move from the down position until after the judge has said "Exercise finished." This order will not be given until the handlers are back in heel position. The judge will tell the exhibitors "Maintain control of your dogs." The handlers are required to exit the ring with their dogs under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Graduate Novice Obedience Exercises

Graduate Novice Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Heel Free and Figure Eight	40 points
2. Drop on Recall	40 points
3. Dumbbell Recall	30 points
4. Dumbbell Recall over High Jump	30 points
5. Recall over Broad Jump	30 points
6. Stand Stay – Get Your Leash	30 points

Heel Free and Figure Eight Off Leash

This exercise will be executed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog will be off leash. Orders are the same as in Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

Drop on Recall

The purpose of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, is to show the dog's prompt response to the handler's command and/or signal to drop, and the dog's remaining in the down position until again called or signaled to come. The dog will be judged on the promptness of its response to the command or signal.

The judge will order, "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," then give a clear signal to drop the dog, followed by "Call your dog" and "Finish."

On the judge's order, the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn, facing their dog, and stand naturally, with both hands at the sides of the body. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop. On the judge's arm or hand signal, the handler shall give the command and/or signal to drop, and the dog must drop immediately to a complete down position. The dog must remain down until the judge gives the order or signal for the handler to signal or command the dog to come. The dog finishes the exercise as in the Novice Recall.

Dumbbell Recall

The purpose of this exercise is to show that the dog can perform a recall off leash while holding a dumbbell. This exercise will be performed like the Novice Recall but with the dog holding the dumbbell. In addition to the Novice Recall, the dog will promptly take, hold, and deliver the dumbbell when commanded.

The judge's orders are *"Give your dog the dumbbell," "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," "Take it,"* and *"Finish."*

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. When the judge orders, *"Give your dog the dumbbell,"* the handler will present the dumbbell with one command. The dog must accept it readily and hold it. When the judge orders, the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward to the other end of the ring and turn to face the dog. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop. When the dog is sitting in front of the handler, the judge will order, *"Take it,"* and the handler will give a command and take the dumbbell. The dog must willingly give the dumbbell on command to the handler. The finish will be done as in the Novice Recall.

Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump

The purpose of the exercise, in addition to those listed under the Dumbbell Recall, is that the dog return with the dumbbell over the jump.

The judge's orders are: *"Give your dog the dumbbell," "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," "Take it"* and *"Finish."*

The exercise will be performed and scored in the same manner as the Dumbbell Recall except that the dog must clear the high jump. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet (or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet) from the jump. The judge will ask, *"Are you ready?"* before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay, go around the jump to at least 8 feet beyond the other side of the high jump, and turn and face the dog naturally. On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. The dog must clear the high jump without touching it and, without any further command or signal, immediately sit in front of the handler.

Jump Heights

In Ohio 4-H, all dogs are given the option of jumping either full or three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of their height at the withers for the high jump. The minimum jump will be set at the nearest multiple of 2 inches to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers for the following breeds of dogs approved for the three-quarter jump height:

Akita	Dogue De Bordeaux	Otterhound
Basset Hound	Estrela Mountain Dog	Pekingese
Bergamasco	French Bulldog	Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Bernese Mountain Dog	Glen of Imaal Terrier	Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen

Black Russian Terrier	Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen	Portuguese Podengo
Bloodhound	Great Dane	Pug
Bolognese	Great Pyrenees	Saint Bernard
Borzoi	Greater Swiss Mountain Dog	Scottish Terrier
Bulldog	Irish Wolfhound	Sealyham Terrier
Bullmastiff	Kishu Ken	Shih Tzu
Cardigan Welsh Corgi	Kooikerhondje	Skye Terrier
Caucasian Ovcharka	Kuvaszok	Sussex Spaniel
Chinese Shar-Pei	Lagotto Romagnoli	Swedish Vallhund
Chow Chow	Leonberger	Thai Ridgeback
Clumber Spaniel	Mastiff	West Highland White Terrier
Dachshund	Neopolitan Mastiff	
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	Newfoundland	
Dogo Argentino	Norwich Terrier	

For dogs that jump three-quarters the height at the withers, the minimum jumps will be set in accordance with the following table:

Measured Height of Dog at Wither	Height to be Jumped
Less than 10"	4"
10" to less than 12 ½"	8"
12 ½" to less than 15"	10"
15" to less than 17 ½"	12"
17 ½" to less than 20"	14"
20" to less than 23"	16"
23" to less than 25 ½"	18"
25 ½" to less than 28"	20"
28" to less than 31"	22"
31" to less than 33 ½"	24"
33 ½" to less than 36"	26"
36" to less than 39"	28"

The minimum jump shall be set to the multiple of 2 inches nearest the height of the dog at the withers for all other dogs, with no dog jumping less than 8 inches or more than 36 inches. Handlers will neither be penalized nor receive extra consideration if they have their dogs jump more than the minimum required height.

The stewards, based on the handler's advice as to the dog's height, may preset the jumps. The judge will make certain the jump is at least the minimum required height for each dog and must also be aware that the jump may be set at a higher height if requested by the handler. Judges may, at their discretion, verify the height of any dog at the withers.

The high jump will be 5 feet wide and built to provide 2-inch increments from 8 inches to 36 inches. The uprights of the high jump will be 4 feet high. It is suggested that the bottom board measure 8 inches down from its top to the floor or ground. In addition, three other 8-inch boards, a 4-inch board, and 2-inch board should be used. A 6-inch board may also be used. The jump will be a flat white. The height of each board will be indicated in black 2-inch numbers.

Recall Over Broad Jump

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to stay where left until directed to jump, clear the jump on a single command or signal, and that the dog immediately return to sit in front of its handler after it has jumped. Each dog will jump twice the height it did for the high jump.

The judge's orders are "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Finish." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump, facing the the lowest hurdle. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. When the judge orders, "*Leave your dog,*" the handler may give the command and/or signal to stay, go around the hurdles to at least 8 feet beyond the last hurdle, then turn and face the dog. On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. The dog must clear the entire distance of the broad jump without touching it and, without any further command or signal, immediately sit in front of the handler and finish as in the Novice Recall.

The broad jump will consist of four white telescoping hurdles, all about 8 inches wide. The largest hurdle will measure about 5 feet long and about 6 inches at the highest point. In the ring, they will be arranged in order of size, evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump setting for each dog. Four hurdles will be used for a jump of 48 to 72 inches, three for 28 to 44 inches and two for a jump of 16 to 24 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest hurdle will be removed first. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the distance jumped by each dog is in accordance with these regulations.

Stand Stay – Get Your Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand and stay in position until the handler has returned to heel position.

The orders are: "Stand your dog," "Leave your dog to get your leash," and "Back to your dog."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge, approximately 15 feet from the ring gate. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand without touching the dog or the dog's collar. The dog must stand but need not stand in heel position. On further order to "Leave your dog to get your leash," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward directly to a place outside the ring gate designated by the judge for the leash.

The handler will pick up the leash, re-enter the ring, stop and wait for the judge's order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will tell the handler, "Attach your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog." The handler is required to exit the ring gate with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Open Obedience Exercises

All exercises will be performed Off Leash

Open Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Heel Free and Figure 8	40 points
2. Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit)	30 points
3. Drop on Recall	30 points

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 4. Retrieve on Flat | 20 points |
| 5. Retrieve over High Jump | 30 points |
| 6. Broad Jump | 20 points |
| 7. Stand Stay – Get your Leash | 30 points |

Heel Free and Figure Eight

This exercise will be performed in the same manner as the Novice Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise, except that the dog will be off leash. Orders are the same as in Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

Command Discrimination

The principal features of this exercise are the dog's correct response to the handler's commands and/or signals and that the dog stays until the handler returns to heel position.

The orders are: "Leave your dog" and "Back to your dog." The judge must use signals for directing the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change position except for the first position and that order is: Stand your dog."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order to "Stand your dog".

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order to "Stand your dog". The handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change position. On further order to "Leave your dog," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will immediately walk forward 15 feet, turn, and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the second position. The judge will then order "Leave your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will immediately turn around and walk forward an additional 15 feet, turn, and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the third position. The judge will then order "Back to your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal to stay, and then must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must stay in position without additional commands or signals until the handler has returned to heel position. The handler's hands and arms must hang naturally at the handler's side.

Drop on Recall

The purpose of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Novice Recall, is the dog's prompt response to the handler's command or signal to drop, and the dog remaining in the down position until again called or signaled to come. The dog will be judged on the promptness of its response to the command or signal.

The judge's orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," then give a clear signal to drop the dog, followed by "Call your dog" and "Finish."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler may give a command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will walk forward to the other end of the ring, then turn, face the dog, and stand naturally. On the judge's order or signal, the handler will either command or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop. On the judge's arm or hand signal, the handler shall give the command or signal to drop, and the dog must drop immediately to a complete down position. The dog must remain down until the handler gives the command or signal to come when ordered by the judge. The dog completes the exercise as in the Novice Recall.

Note: The difference between the Graduate Novice and Open Drop on Recall is that in Graduate Novice a command and/or signal can be given to drop the dog. In Open, the handler must give either a command or signal.

Retrieve on Flat

The purpose of this exercise is to show that the dog can retrieve promptly. The judge's orders are *"Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it,"* and *"Finish."*

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask, *"Are you ready?"* before giving the first order. On the judge's order, *"Throw it,"* the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay. If the handler does use a signal, that signal may not be given with the hand that is holding the dumbbell. After the dumbbell is thrown at least 20 feet, the judge will order the handler to *"Send your dog."* The retrieve should be performed at a brisk trot or gallop. The dog will go directly to the dumbbell and retrieve it, returning directly to the handler as in the Novice Recall without unnecessary mouthing or playing. On order from the judge to *"Take it,"* the handler will give either a command or signal and take the dumbbell. The finish will be performed as in the Novice Recall. The judge will require the dumbbell to be thrown again before the dog is sent if it is thrown less than 20 feet, too far to one side, or too close to the ring's edge.

Retrieve Over High Jump

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to go out over the jump, pick up the dumbbell, and promptly return with it over the jump. The judge's orders are *"Throw it," "Send your dog," "Take it,"* and *"Finish."* This exercise will be performed in the same manner as the Retrieve on Flat, except that the dog will clear the high jump both going and coming. The handler will stand at least 8 feet, or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet, from the jump, will remain in the same spot throughout the exercise and will throw the dumbbell at least 8 feet beyond the jump. (These 8-foot distances must be clearly marked.) *Refer to the Graduate Novice Recall Over High Jump for jump height information.*

Broad Jump

The purpose of this exercise is that the dog stay where left until directed to jump, clear the jump on a single command or signal, and return to its handler after it has jumped. The judge's orders are *"Leave your dog," "Send your dog,"* and *"Finish."*

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at least 8 feet from the jump facing the lowest side of the lowest hurdle. (This 8-foot distance must be clearly marked.) The judge will ask, *"Are you ready?"* On order from the judge to *"Leave your dog,"* the handler will give the command and/or signal to stay and go to a position facing the right side of the jump. The handler may stand anywhere between the lowest edge of the first hurdle and the highest edge of the last hurdle with their toes about 2 feet from the jump.

On the judge's order, the handler will give the command or signal to jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler makes a 90-degree pivot, but will remain in the same spot. The dog will clear the entire distance of the hurdle without touching them and, without further command or signal, immediately return to a sitting position in front of the handler, finishing as in the Novice Recall. *Refer to the Graduate Novice Recall Over Broad Jump for jump information.*

Stand Stay – Get Your Leash

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand and stay in position until the handler has returned to heel position. The orders are: “Stand your dog,” “Leave your dog to get your leash,” and “Back to your dog.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge, approximately 15 feet from the ring gate. The judge will ask “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand without touching the dog or the dog’s collar. The dog must stand but need not stand in heel position. On further order to “Leave your dog to get your leash,” the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward directly to a place outside the ring gate designated by the judge for the leash.

The handler will pick up the leash, re-enter the ring, stop and wait for the judge’s order “Back to your dog.” The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said “Exercise finished.” The judge will tell the handler, “Attach your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog.” The handler is required to exit the ring gate with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Graduate Open Obedience Exercises

All exercises will be performed Off Leash

Graduate Open Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Signal Exercise	40 points
2. Scent Discrimination	30 points
3. Go Out	30 points
4. Directed Jumping	30 points
5. Moving Stand & Examination	30 points
6. Directed Retrieve	40 points

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide which jump will be performed and which glove retrieved. This information will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes before the start of the class. The judge will designate the same jump and glove for each handler.

Signal Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is to show the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team while heeling, and the dog’s correct response to the commands and/or signals to stand, stay, down, sit, and come.

The judge’s orders are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash, except for the judge’s order to “*Stand your dog.*” This order will only be given when dog and handler are walking at a normal pace and will be followed by the order “*Leave your dog.*” The judge must use signals for directing the handler to signal the dog to down, sit, come (in that sequence) and to finish.

Heeling will be done as in the Heel Free, except that the handler may use signals only and must not speak to their dog at any time during this exercise. While the dog is heeling at one end of the ring, the judge will order the handler to “*Stand your dog.*” On further order to “*Leave your dog,*” the handler will give the signal and/or command the dog to stay, go at least ten (10) feet from the dog, then turn and face the dog. On the judge’s signal, the handler will give the command and/or signal to down, sit, come, and finish as in the Novice Recall.

Scent Discrimination

The principal feature of this exercise is the selection of the handler's article from among the other articles by scent alone, and the prompt delivery of the correct article to the handler. This exercise will be performed and scored the same as in the Utility Scent Discrimination except that the handler will present four articles, consisting of two (2) sets only. It is the handler's discretion as to which type of article is retrieved. The dog and handler will remain facing the articles and only one article will be retrieved. Refer to the Utility Scent Discrimination exercise explanation.

Go Out

The purpose of this exercise is for the dog to go away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring and stop as directed. The judge's orders are *"Send your dog"* and *"Return to your Dog."*

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position facing the unobstructed end of the ring in the approximate center at any distance from about 20 feet beyond the jumps up to midway between the jumps. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, *"Send your dog,"* the handler will command and/or signal the dog to go forward at a brisk trot or gallop to a point about 20 feet past the jumps in the approximate center of the ring. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will give a command to sit. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but it need not sit squarely.

The judge will then order the handler, *"Return to your dog,"* and the handler will return to the heel position by walking around and in back of their dog.

Directed Jumping

The purpose of this exercise is that the dog stays where left, jump as directed, and return to the handler as in the Novice Recall. The orders are *"Leave your dog," "Bar," "High,"* and *"Finish."*

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at the unobstructed end and in the center of the ring. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. The judge will order *"Leave your dog,"* and the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay, then walk forward to the other end of the ring, turn to face the dog and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally. The judge will order either *"Bar"* or *"High"* for the jump, and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the handler over that designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of the handler, and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. The dog will be sent over only one jump, and the same jump will be used for all dogs as designated by the judge at the start of the class.

Moving Stand and Examination

The exercise will be performed and scored the same as in the Utility Moving Stand and Examination, except that the handler may pause or hesitate when giving the command and/or signal to stand. Refer to the Utility Moving Stand and Examination exercise explanation.

Directed Retrieve

The exercise will be performed and scored the same as in the Utility Directed Retrieve exercise, except that a center glove is not used. Refer to the Utility Directed Retrieve exercise explanation.

Utility Obedience Exercises

All exercises will be performed Off Leash

Utility Exercises	Maximum Scores
1. Signal Exercise	40 points
2. Scent Discrimination - Article 1	30 points
3. Scent Discrimination - Article 2	30 points
4. Directed Retrieve	30 points
5. Moving Stand and Exam	30 points
6. Directed Jumping	40 points

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will decide which glove will be retrieved. This information will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at the ring, approximately 45 minutes before the start of the class.

Signal Exercise

The principal features of this exercise are the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team while heeling and the dog's correct response to the signals to stand, stay, down, sit and come.

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position in a place designated by the judge. Orders are the same as in the Novice Heel on Leash, except for the judge's order to *"Stand your dog."* This order will only be given when the dog and handler are walking at a normal pace and will be followed by the order to *"Leave your dog."* The judge must use signals for directing the handler to signal the dog to down, sit, come (in that sequence) and to finish.

Heeling will be done as in the Heel Free, except that handler may use signals only and must not speak to their dogs at any time during this exercise. While the dog is heeling at one end of the ring, the judge will order the handler to *"Stand your dog."* On further order to *"Leave your dog,"* the handler will signal the dog to stay, go to the other end of the ring, then turn and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give the signals to down, sit, come, and finish as in the Novice Recall.

Scent Discrimination

The principal features of these exercises are the selection of the handler's article from among the other articles by scent alone, and the prompt delivery of the correct article to the handler. In each of these two exercises the dog must select and retrieve an article that has been handled by its handler. The dog must make this selection based on scent alone.

The orders are: *"Take an article," "The taking of the article from the handler," "Send your dog" "Take it,"* and *"Finish."*

The articles will be provided by the handler and will consist of two (2) sets only. The handler will choose which two (2) sets are to be used – metal, leather, or wood. Each set of articles will be comprised of five identical objects, which may be items of everyday use. The size of the articles will be proportionate to the size of the dog. The metal set must be made entirely of rigid metal. The leather set must be made of leather. The wood set must be made of one or more solid pieces of wood. The articles may be unfinished, stained or dyed and must be designed so that only a minimum amount of fastening material is visible. The articles in each set will be legibly numbered with a different number and must be approved by the judge.

The handler will present all ten articles to the judge, who will make a written note of the numbers of the two articles they have selected. These articles will be placed on a table or chair within the ring until the handler picks each up separately when ordered by the judge. The judge or steward will handle each of the remaining eight articles while randomly arranging them on the floor or ground about 6 inches apart. The closest article should be about 20 feet from the handler and dog. The judge must make sure that the articles are visible to both dog and handler and that they are far enough apart so there will be no confusion of scent among articles. Handlers may choose to watch the articles being placed or face away. After the articles have been placed, the handler will face away from the articles with the dog sitting in heel position.

The judge will ask, *“Are you ready?”* before giving the first order. On the judge’s order, *“Take an article,”* the scoring of the exercise will begin. The handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position, then take an article and return to heel position. The handler may use either article first but must hand it to the judge immediately when ordered. The judge will make certain handlers scent each article with their hands only.

Once the handler has returned to heel position with the article, the handler may talk to but not pet their dog. As the handler is scenting the article the judge will ask, *“What method will you be using to send your dog?”* At this time, the handler may inform the judge the procedure will be the same for both articles. If not informed, the judge will ask the question again for the next article.

The judge’s taking of the article will be considered the second order. On the judge’s order, the handler will place the article on the judge’s book or worksheet. Without touching that article, the judge or steward will place it among the others. Once the judge takes the article from the handler, the handler is not permitted to talk to the dog.

On order from the judge to *“Send your dog,”* the handler has the option as to how the dog is sent. The handler may give the command or signal to heel and will turn in place, either right or left, to face the articles. The handler will come to a halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. The handler will then give the command or signal to retrieve. Or the handler may do a right about-turn, simultaneously giving the command or signal to retrieve. In this case, the dog should not assume a sitting position but must go directly to the articles. Handlers may give their scent by extending the palm of one hand in front of the dog’s nose or gently touching the dog’s nose, but the arm and hand must be returned to a natural position before they turn and face the articles. The dog should go directly to the articles at a brisk trot or gallop. It may take any reasonable time to select the correct article, but the dog must work continuously. After picking up the correct article, the dog will complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat. This procedure will be followed for both articles. If a dog retrieves the wrong first article, that article and the correct one must be removed. They will be placed on the table or chair, and the next exercise will be done with one less article.

Directed Retrieve

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay until directed to retrieve and that it completes the retrieve of the designated glove.

The orders for the exercise are: *“One,” “Two,” or “Three,” “Take it,” and “Finish.”*

In this exercise the handler will provide three (3) gloves that are predominately white. They must be open and must be approved by the judge. Handlers will stand with their backs to the unobstructed end of the ring midway between and in line with the jumps. The dog will be sitting in heel position. The judge

or steward will drop the gloves across the end of the ring while the handler and dog are facing the opposite direction. One glove is dropped about 3 feet in from each corner, and the remaining glove is dropped in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring.

The gloves will be designated "One," "Two," or "Three," reading from left to right when the handler is facing the gloves. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. When the judge designates the glove by number, the handler will turn in place to face the glove, halting with the dog sitting in heel position. The handler may not touch the dog or reposition it. The handler will give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of the left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. Either simultaneously with or immediately following giving the direction, the handler must give a verbal retrieve command. The dog must then go directly to the glove, completing the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat.

Handlers may bend their bodies and knees as far as necessary to give the direction to the dogs but must then stand up in a natural position with their arms at their sides.

Moving Stand and Examination

The principal features of the exercise are that the dog heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away; accept the examination without shyness or resentment; and return to the handler on command.

The orders are: "Forward," "Stand your dog," and "Call your dog to heel."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler may command or signal the dog to heel. After the handler has proceeded about 10 feet, the judge will order "Stand your dog." Without pausing, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand and continue forward about 10 to 12 feet. The handler will then turn either to the right or left to face the dog, which must stand and stay in position.

The judge will approach the dog from the front to examine it. The exam will consist of the judge gently using both hands in a single smooth motion beginning at the sides of the dog's neck, proceeding along the body, and ending at the dog's croup. The exam will not include the head, teeth, legs, testicles, or tail.

On the judge's order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the heel position. The dog should return to heel position in a brisk manner.

Directed Jumping

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog goes away from the handler to the opposite end of the ring, stop, jump as directed, and return as in the Novice Recall. The orders are: "Send your dog," "Bar," "High," and "Finish."

The jumps will be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the longest sides of the ring, 18 to 20 feet apart. The judge must see that the jumps are set at the required height for each dog, as described in the Retrieve over High Jump.

The handler will stand in the approximate center of the ring with the dog sitting in heel position, about 20 feet from the jumps and midway between them. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. On the judge's order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to go forward at a brisk trot or gallop to a point about 20 feet past the jumps in the approximate center of the

unobstructed end of the ring. When the dog reaches this point, the handler will give a command to sit. The dog must stop and sit with its attention on the handler, but it need not sit squarely.

The judge will order either “Bar” or “High” for the first jump, and the handler will command and/or signal the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn to face the dog as it returns. The dog will sit in front of the handler and, on order from the judge, finish as in the Novice Recall. After the dog has returned to heel position, the judge will say, “Exercise finished.” When the dog is set up for the second half of this exercise, the judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the order for the second part of the exercise. The same procedure will be followed for the second jump.

It is optional which jump the judge first indicates, but both jumps must be included. The judge must not designate the jump until the dog has reached the far end of the ring.

The height of the jumps and construction of the high jump will be the same as required in the Open classes. The bar jump will consist of a bar between 2 and 2 ½ inches square with the edges rounded to remove any sharpness. The bar will be flat black and white in alternate sections, each about 3 inches wide. The bar will have the weight of wood. It will be supported by two unconnected 4-foot upright posts about 5 feet apart and built to be set at a height of 4 inches and must be adjustable for each 2 inches of height from 8 inches to 36 inches. The jump must be built so the bar may be knocked off without affecting the uprights.

The judge should determine the 10-foot distance before beginning the class. The same sequence of jumps should be used for each dog.

Glossary of Obedience Terms (Taken from AKC Obedience and Rally Regulations)

AKC Canine Partners – an American Kennel Club program that is available to spayed/neutered dogs that are not currently eligible for AKC registration, AKC Foundation Stock Service (FSS) enrollment or an AKC Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) number

Brisk, briskly - keenly alive, alert, energetic

Command - verbal order from handler to dog

Croup – the dog’s top rump area

Crooked - a dog that is not straight in line with the direction the handler is facing

Crowding - a dog so close to handler as to interfere with handler's freedom of motion

Directly - immediately, without deviation or hesitation

Down - the dog’s body is on the ground; the dog’s weight is off the feet and legs

Drop completely - a down position that would be acceptable for a Long Down exercise

Gently - with kindness, without harshness or roughness

Guiding gently by the collar - control of the dog by holding any part of the collar with minimal pressure on the dog's neck

Lame - irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or how slight or severe

Maximum penalty - all points lost or Non-Qualifying zero. *In 4-H, a Maximum Point Deduction means that at least one-half of the total points for that exercise will be deducted if the youth/dog team fails to perform one part of that exercise.*

Minor penalty - 1/2 point to 2-1/2 points per fault or error.

Mouthing - when a dog chews or rolls the dumbbell in its mouth unnecessarily
Natural - not artificial; free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places
Order - direction from judge to handler, either verbal or nonverbal
Pause - a complete stop of forward motion by the handler
Pivot - turning in the circle occupied by the handler before they started the turn; a turn in place
Prompt Response - without hesitation, immediate, quick
Regularly Trained or Instructed – where a dog and/or handler meet on a regular basis for instruction. A regular basis is considered a set pattern of dates, such as monthly or more often
Released - In the group exercise, in extreme cases, a dog that must be repositioned by its handler if it is out of position enough to interfere with an adjacent dog may be released.
Resentment - resistance, unwillingness
Signal - nonverbal direction from the handler to dog, as described in Chapter 2, Section 20
Smartly - quickly, vigorously
Substantial penalty - 3 points or more per fault or error
Training - as related to where a student-handler/teacher-judge relationship is established, with or without compensation
Turn in place - turning in the circle that was occupied by the handler before they started to turn
Withers - highest point of the dog's shoulder

Contact Information

Websites: www.go.osu.edu/dog www.go.osu.edu/osfdogs

Ohio State Fair Dog Show Department Contacts:

Renee Clark, Department Director – clark.471@osu.edu

Shelly Harris, Assistant Director – m63harris@yahoo.com

Diane Jones, Registration/Scoring Superintendent – dianejonesrally@gmail.com

Susan Breech, Chief Ring Steward and Showmanship Superintendent – susanbreech@gmail.com

Barbie Cline, Assistant Ring Steward – tricolorcollies@aol.com

Kristen VanNess, Obedience and Rally Superintendent – afmdog@gmail.com

Renee Clark, Agility and You & Your Dog Superintendent – clark.471@osu.edu

Sonja Hyer, Skillathon Superintendent – onlyrecall@aol.com

Pattie Stover, OSF Championship Titles – pstove@woh.rr.com

Lori Zakel Knowles, Announcer – Lori.Zakel33@gmail.com